

16,000 farmers demand emergency federal aid

BY JOHN GAIGE

AMES, Iowa — "The National Crisis Action Rally," a broadly sponsored farm protest rally, attracted 16,000 farmers and their supporters here February 27. They heard four hours of speeches describing the depth of the farm crisis and urging the federal government to intervene on behalf of family farmers immediately.

People packed the Hilton Coliseum, which was filled with a variety of banners and posters including: "Reagan policy: let them eat cake; No profit, don't plant; Save the farmer, save your job." A number of posters addressed the priorities of the federal budget: "Farms, not arms; Grain silos, not missile silos; No more weapons."

Family farmers have been hit hard by the capitalist crisis. Thousands have not made a living income in four years because of high costs of production and low farm prices. Many have paid out thousands of dollars in interest on loans but have continued to sink further into debt. Many have seen their collateral (land and machinery) for loans dramatically drop in value.

Able and willing to produce, many family farmers have been denied operating loans this spring and face bankruptcy. As a result, farm organizations have stepped up efforts to mobilize against forced foreclosures, and to protest U.S. government policies forcing them into liquidation.

The Ames rally included a spectrum of views that took up the farm crisis. The central idea of the rally was to send a message to Washington on the need for emergency action to deal with the problems facing farmers. Some speakers addressed the need for an alliance with city workers; a few spoke about farmers linking up with labor, Blacks, and women. Only a few speakers discussed building a mass movement to fight the farm crisis, although the speakers platform included veteran leaders who have mobilized farmers to stop forced farm sales.



Nebraska farmers at March 4 rally in Washington. Thousands of family farmers face crisis this spring because government refuses to guarantee loans for planting.

Dixon Terry, representing the Iowa Farm Unity Coalition, stated the three main demands of the rally: "Immediate halt of forced farm foreclosures . . . debt restructuring . . . and a long-term farm program . . ." that includes fair prices for their commodities.

Capturing the hatred among family farmers for the Reagan administration's reactionary farm policy, Terry stated, "The so-called free-market philosophy of Washington . . . with rock-bottom prices . . . is a free-market fiasco."

Darrel Ringer, a leader of the Kansas American Agriculture Movement (AAM),

is a displaced producer of wheat, milo, and registered Hereford cattle. He's been fighting bankruptcy for over two years.

"This rally represents a historic turning point," Ringer said. "Rural America is ready to fight back. The organizational unity represented here is unprecedented."

"We don't need to lose one more farm," Ringer said. "I'm tired of hearing politicians . . . say some farms have got to go . . . I don't accept that."

Ringer argued that a fightback against foreclosures could be won, along with other farm demands, if "the hands of work-

Continued on Page 13

All out for April 20 antiwar march!

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The April Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice coalition held a national news conference here on March 6. The press conference highlighted the April Actions' demand for an end to U.S. intervention in Central America.

The featured speaker was Jack Elder, a leader of the sanctuary movement who was

BRITISH COAL MINERS STRIKE ENDS — After nearly one year on strike, delegates of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in Britain voted by a narrow margin March 3 to end their walkout. The strike began March 12, 1984, in protest of government plans to close down mines and throw thousands of NUM members out of work. The NUM is returning to work without an agreement with Britain's National Coal Board on this issue. The British government is also refusing to grant a blanket amnesty to hundreds of miners fired during the strike.

The long strike battle became an international issue, winning important solidarity from unionists in other countries, as well as mobilizing women, Blacks, and rank-and-file unionists in Britain to the miners' side.

According to press reports, the majority of NUM members have gone back to work while thousands of miners remain on strike, protesting the denial of amnesty to fired strikers. Future issues of the Militant will carry in-depth news coverage and analysis of this important labor battle.

convicted by the U.S. government of transporting Salvadoran refugees into Texas.

Danu Smith, the national coordinator of the April Actions coalition, opened the news conference. "In this very room, many refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Washington, D.C., sleep side by side. The links between the homelessness of this country and the refugees of Central America are intertwined," Smith said.

"The Reagan administration's domestic and foreign policies have actually helped forge this coalition, bringing people together firmly united against intervention in Central America; against U.S. support to the racist apartheid regime; against the trillion dollar defense build-up; and against

Continued on Page 4

Pan Am workers strike to defend union

BY LOUIS LONG

MIAMI — Trying to protect themselves against a law-breaking, union-busting management, Pan American Airlines workers went out on strike midnight, February 27. The strike was called by the Transport Workers Union (TWU), which represents 5,000 of Pan Am's 27,000 em-

ployees. Other Pan Am workers in the United States are also honoring the picket lines. They include the Teamsters union, which organizes reservation clerks; Flight Engineers union; Independent Union of Flight Attendants; and Air Line Pilots Association.

The Pan Am strike is shaping up as the third major confrontation involving union workers in the air transportation industry in the last four years. The first two — the strike by government employees in the air traffic controllers union in 1981 and the 1983 strike by the International Association of Machinists, the TWU, and pilots against Continental Airlines — resulted in crushing defeats for those unions.

A major national and international solidarity effort by the union movement is necessary to back the Pan Am workers.

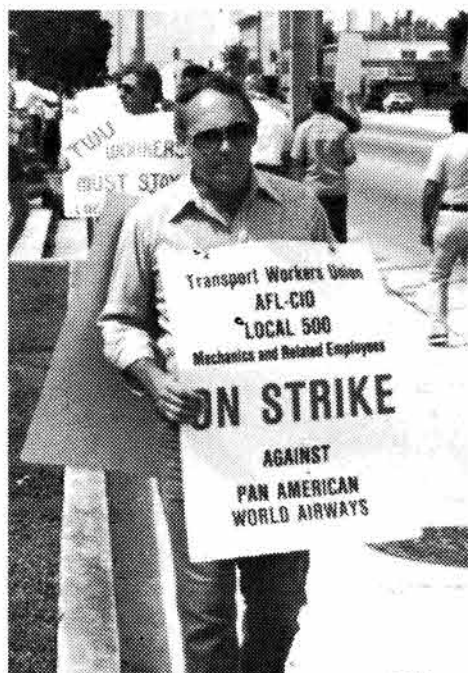
While most of Pan Am is shut down, there is little disruption of air travel. Overcapacity on other airlines is making up for the shutdown. Most people with Pan Am tickets are getting other flights. There is speculation among airline workers that management at companies like Eastern and Delta may have secret deals to give some of the extra revenue from Pan Am passengers back to Pan Am to help them weather the strike. Management at the other airlines is certainly conscious of the stakes in this strike. But airline workers are starting to show that they are aware of the stakes also, and they are ready to do something about it.

In Miami, on the second day of the Pan

Am strike, hundreds of Eastern Airlines workers were called out on their lunch break by their union, Machinists Local 702, to join Pan Am pickets. The large picket line along busy Northwest 36th Street got a very good response from passing drivers.

This act of solidarity was an important step for Eastern workers. Their contract expired December 31 and there are rumors of another concessions contract being

Continued on Page 13



Pan Am picket in Miami, joined by Eastern Airlines workers who face similar pay cuts.

'Militant,' 'Perspectiva Mundial' set 30,000 sales-drive goal

BY MALIK MIAH AND MARTIN KOPPEL

Miah is editor of the Militant and Koppel is editor of its Spanish-language sister publication, Perspectiva Mundial.

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are launching a drive to win new readers for the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial.

The big opening day is Saturday, March 16, and plans are needed to ensure that the 10-week drive starts off in high gear.

The goal is to sell 30,000 individual copies of the two publications, plus 2,150

introductory subscriptions to the Militant, and 350 to Perspectiva Mundial.

Socialists will accelerate their present sales to coworkers, at plant gates, at union and political meetings, and in Black, Latino and other working-class communities. Important new areas for sales opportunities are opening as well.

The circulation campaign will prove an important contribution toward building the national antiwar demonstrations April 20.

In addition to our first-hand reporting from Nicaragua, the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial have from the outset exposed the campaign of lies against Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Salvadoran liberation struggle.

Continued on Page 3

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY CHRISTINE KARCHER

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Supporters of the *Militant* have conducted increasingly regular sales at textile mills organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). Workers at five different mills in a 30-mile radius of Greensboro see the *Militant* on a regular basis.

At some plants workers have come to expect *Militant* sales teams to be there every week, even if they don't buy the paper each time. And as the salespeople have gotten to know workers on their sales, we've begun to learn about the discussions going on in the mill.

The salespeople, many of whom are textile workers themselves, have gotten a better picture of the bosses' drive to reorganize

the textile industry. The larger mills — like Burlington, Cone, and Fieldcrest — are investing hundreds of millions of dollars in new equipment. Many smaller mills are being driven out of business. Since 1980 the bosses have eliminated over 40,000 textile jobs in North Carolina. And they are continuing their drive to raise profits at workers' expense.

At Highland Yarn Mills in High Point where we sell regularly, workers got only three days of work a week for several months, and for several weeks got no work at all.

At Fieldcrest, which employs 3,000 workers at six Eden mills, *Militant* sales teams sell at the two biggest mills almost every week. One of them, the bedspread mill, is being shut down, with 500

workers facing layoffs. Sales teams have had the best discussions with workers coming in to see if they are scheduled to work the following week.

At other mills where we sell, workers never know whether they'll be getting five, six, or seven days of work or be working eight- or 12-hour days. This uncertainty is the source of discussions in the mills and with *Militant* salespeople.

The textile bosses wave the U.S. flag and blame workers from other countries for U.S. textile workers' problems. The *Militant* gives a different answer — the companies' worldwide drive for profits, which hurts textile workers in all countries.

Best sales in terms of numbers are at two plants owned by Cone

Mills, one of the textile giants. At Cone's Granite Finishing plant in Haw River we sell six or seven papers each week. A layer of workers there get the paper regularly — if not every week, every two, three, or four weeks.

At Cone's Edna plant in Reidsville we average three to four papers a week. In January, when we started doing this sale again after a two-month absence, several union members wanted to know where we'd been, and some have again become regular readers.

In "right to work" North Carolina, many workers in the ACTWU-organized mills don't belong to the union. *Militant* salespeople have gotten a particularly good response from Black workers, who are the backbone of the union.

Solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa is widespread among these workers. Several have expressed interest in the *Militant's* coverage of the April 20 march on Washington against the U.S. war in Central America, U.S. government support for the racist South African regime, and for jobs.

The *Militant* Labor Forum in Greensboro produces leaflets for its biweekly programs with these workers in mind. The issues that will be discussed at these forums and the socialist view on these questions are explained on the leaflets. Workers who take a leaflet but don't buy the *Militant* that week or attend the forum still get an idea of what the Socialist Workers Party proposes for working people.

'Militant' gets friendly response from farmers

BY JOHN GAIGE

AMES, Iowa — "I beg to wonder what we're defending, we're certainly not defending my farm," an Iowa farmer observed about the purpose of the massive U.S. "defense" budget. He made this comment while buying a copy of the *Militant* from Diane Shur, a member of United Auto Workers Local 31 in Kansas City, Kansas.

As farmers streamed into the Hilton Coliseum for the National Crisis Action Rally here on February 27, a team of 12 socialist workers circulated the *Militant* and set up a literature table at the outside entrance.

Socialist sales team members talked with farmers about the farm crisis, the U.S. war in Central America, and the potential power of a fighting workers and farmers alliance.

Jim Altenberg, a member of the International Association of Machinists from Minnesota, sold 25 papers. He introduced the *Militant* by saying, "This is a paper for workers and farmers. It talks about Nicaragua, where the government gives land to the farmers and defends it against the U.S.-backed war there."

"Socialism, isn't that where they take away the land?" a farmer asked as Joe Swanson, a United Transportation Union member from Missouri introduced him to the *Militant*. "No," Swanson responded. "Look, here it explains that in Nicaragua farmers get land," Swanson said as he opened up the paper. The conversation ended up with another copy sold.

"I've been to Nicaragua before.... Went a year ago," a Nebraska farmer told Lisa Ahlberg, a United Steelworkers member from Minnesota, while buying a copy of the *Young Socialist*. He told Ahlberg he was active in a Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, group that opposes government spending on the MX, saying the money should go toward family farm support.

Sales team members sold 178 *Militants*, 33 *Young Socialists*, and a number of pamphlets, books and buttons.

Socialists were not the only ones who got a friendly response from farmers concerning opposition to the U.S. war in Central America.

One team member reported, "An Iowa State University committee expressing solidarity with Central American revolutions did very well distributing literature. They set an example for campus groups on how to reach out to working people." Their poster said, "Aid farms, not 'contras,'" referring to the CIA-funded mercenaries that are waging war against Nicaragua.

Another team member was told by Iowa State students that enthusiasm and support was building on the Ames campus for the April 20 national protests against U.S. war in Central America.

Team members reported that part of the day's discussions illustrated the ideological debate going on among farmers and workers about the real causes and solutions to the capitalist crisis they face.

One team member said that while he was having a discussion with an Iowa farmer on the need for a union-based labor party he suddenly found himself interrupted by three other farmers. "We don't want another party... we have to get into the Democratic Party.... Our problem is the Trilateral Commission," they said in a hostile way, echoing the line of the ultra-right-wing group organized by Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche supporters peddled their antilabor literature and their paper, *New Solidarity*. The LaRoucheites claim that the governments of Europe and the Soviet Union are the cause of the problems facing working farmers in the United States.

Anyone who didn't respond favorably to this appeal got a quick red-baiting: "What's

wrong, are you for the Soviet Union?"

Many farmers have learned about the LaRoucheites from hard experience. *Militant* salesperson Swanson reported two farmers walked past the LaRoucheites, threw up their hands and said, "Nothing to do with the LaRouches." The LaRoucheites replied, "You like the Soviet Union better?" The farmer retorted, "Yeah, a hell of a lot better than the LaRouches."

Sales team members spoke with a number of other unionists at the rally. Three Iowa members of the United Auto Workers proudly recounted the role of their local in backing an effort to stop a farm auction in Chariton, Iowa, on January 30. They advised a team member on how to develop interest in her UAW local, "Invite a farmer to your local meeting."

Another team member asked a Kentucky nurse and former farmer if the Kentucky union movement was beginning to have discussions with farmers. She was not

sure. Thinking out loud, she said, "I think most farmers are antiunion.... No, probably most have never thought about it." Later, as she walked away, she added, "We'll win when we get the Teamsters, independent truckers, and farmers together." Marty Pettit, member of UAW Local 93 in Kansas City, Missouri, noted the call by rally speakers for higher federal loan rates to farmers for basic farm commodities. But, she thought, the speakers left open what part of the budget should supply such federal funds. She wondered what most farmers thought. Farmers sitting nearby answered, "It doesn't make sense to trade farms for arms."

Team members were inspired by the fighting spirit of these family farmers. They sold all the socialist newspapers they had on hand. One farmer told a team member who was helping to hand out a farm newspaper, "Farmers and workers do pretty good together."

U.S. cited in death of Albizu

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The vice president of the Puerto Rican Senate, Sergio Peña Clos, has admitted the possibility that the death of independence fighter Pedro Albizu Campos was caused by U.S. prison officials.

Peña Clos, a leader of the Popular Democratic Party, was commenting on an investigation by researcher Pedro Aponte Vázquez that offers proof that Albizu's death was caused by radiation administered by federal prison officials in the last year of his life.

Pedro Albizu Campos was the central leader of the Nationalist Party and a key figure in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence for over three decades. The Nationalist Party was the most prominent

organization in the mass independence movement in the 1930s and '40s.

Albizu was jailed several times by the U.S. government for his proindependence and antiwar activities. He was imprisoned for the last time for his role in the 1950 proindependence uprising in Puerto Rico.

During this last prison term, Albizu accused prison authorities of administering radiation to him as a form of torture. He died in 1965, shortly after a public campaign on the island won his release from federal prison.

Aponte, who has written a book on this subject, has asked the new secretary of justice, Héctor Rivera Cruz, to make public all the documents related to Albizu Campos.

The Militant tells the truth — Subscribe today!

That way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from El Salvador and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the United States. Read our proposals on how to stop the bipartisan U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and the employer offensive here. Read our ideas on what it will take to replace this system of exploitation, racism, and sexism with a system that's in the interest of working people.

At the plant gates, picket lines, and unemployment lines, the *Militant* is there, reporting the

news, participating in the struggle. To subscribe today, fill out the attached coupon.

Enclosed is: ☐ \$3 for 12 weeks ☐ \$15 for 6 months
☐ \$24 for 1 year ☐ A contribution

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Union/Organization

Send to Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014



The Militant

Closing news date: March 6, 1985

Editor: MALIK MIAH

Managing editor:

MARGARET JAYKO

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Andrea González, Pat Grogan, Arthur Hughes, Cindy Jaquith, Tom Leonard, Karen Newton, Mohammed Oliver, Harry Ring.

Published weekly except two weeks in August, the last week of December, and the first week of January by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for air-mail rates to all other countries.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.



Göte Kildén

Swedish socialist, unionist will tour United States

BY ANDREA MORELL

Swedish trade unionist Göte Kildén will tour the United States and parts of Canada April 9-26. Kildén, who works at the Volvo auto and truck plant in Gothenberg, Sweden's second largest city, is chairman of the Metalworkers union section committee at the truck factory. With more than 12,000 workers, Volvo/Gothenberg is the largest industrial plant in Scandinavia.

Kildén, 39, is a leader of the Union Opposition at Volvo, which is a broad current of militant unionists aiming to transform the union into a consistent defender of the interests of the workers on and off the job.

Kildén is also national leader of the Socialist Party, Swedish section of the Fourth International and a sister party of

the U.S. Socialist Workers Party. Kildén is touring the United States at the invitation of the SWP.

He plans to have political discussions here with as broad a range of working people as possible. He will meet with trade unionists, farm protesters, antiwar activists, Black and women's rights fighters, and socialists across the country. He will learn firsthand what U.S. working people think about the employers' drive to lower their standard of living and about Washington's war in Central America.

Kildén's visit is an opportunity for fighters for social change in this country to exchange views and experiences with a class-struggle leader from the Swedish labor movement and an internationalist working-class fighter.

Swedish workers are confronting the same kind of employer-government attacks on their rights and living standards that working people face in this country, including speed-up, unemployment, inflation, and social-service cutbacks.

The response of the labor officialdom there has been to retreat and to sacrifice workers' needs to the bosses' demands. Since 1976, for example, the standard of living of the average Volvo worker has fallen by 12 percent. This has been done with the active complicity of the Social Democracy, both in government and through its positions of top leadership in the labor movement. This includes the Metalworkers union, which organizes not only Volvo but also most workers in basic industry throughout Sweden. The Social Democracy is a mass-based workers party with a procapitalist program.

Kildén has been among those in the forefront of fighting for union democracy and working-class independence from capitalist politics. He is active in pressing for union solidarity with the workers and farmers of Nicaragua and El Salvador, and opposition to Washington's war against them. Volvo workers have conducted campaigns to send writing materials and electrical equipment to Nicaragua and they

maintain ongoing Nicaragua support committees.

As an auto worker, Kildén will make a high priority the stops in auto centers such as Detroit and Toledo. He will also visit other areas where United Auto Workers locals have been battling the employers over local working conditions since the signing of the national contract in September.

Arriving in this country when there is a virtual explosion of protest by working farmers against the assault being unleashed against them by the Republican administration and the Democratic-dominated Congress, Kildén will travel to Minnesota, Missouri, and other hard-hit farming areas. There he will hold discussions with farmers and solidarize with their struggle. In Sweden, where the capitalist crisis is also beginning to be felt in the countryside and farm protests are developing, the U.S. farm actions have been featured in the media.

Kildén will be touring major U.S. cities in the weeks leading up to the April 20 demonstrations against Washington's war in Central America and gigantic U.S. nuclear arsenal. He will bring solidarity from Swedish workers to U.S. antiwar fighters and encourage unionists and others to participate in the mobilizations. Kildén plans to march in Washington, D.C., on April 20.

A major part of Kildén's tour here will be public speaking engagements on the situation facing Swedish working people and a socialist perspective on fighting back. Kildén has announced he will be a candidate for the Swedish parliament in the fall elections on the Socialist Party ticket. The SP is fielding scores of candidates in 1985 for national and local offices.

While here, Kildén will join SWP candidates on election campaign platforms, including in New York City where the party is running Andrea González for mayor.

The *Militant* will carry information on Kildén's itinerary as it shapes up, as well as coverage of the tour itself.

'Militant' and 'PM' set 30,000 sales-drive goal

Continued from front page

gle — lies that have been the smoke screen for Washington's war against them. April 20 activists will find our press a valuable weapon.

There are other important new opportunities for expanding our readership. Increasing numbers of people are becoming involved in solidarity with the South African anti-apartheid struggle and in the Central American sanctuary movement. Growing numbers of protesting farmers are on the march. Invariably, people involved in progressive struggles become far more open to broader political ideas, to socialist ideas.

Our circulation campaign will be carried out in two stages, ending May 16.

The first, which will culminate at the national antiwar demonstrations April 20, will focus on achieving the greater part of the goal of 30,000 individual copies.

The second stage, with the anti-intervention demonstrations the scene of the takeoff, will be to meet the subscription goals. With a well-organized, energetic effort, April 20 will provide an excellent opportunity to gain many new subscribers.

While subscriptions will be the priority from April 20 to May 16, sales of individual copies will continue.

Between now and April 20, we should be able to sell many single copies. A strong selling point for the *Militant* is that no other publication offers as extensive coverage of April 20 building activities nationwide.

At the same time, our two publications offer a necessary broader political perspective. We're unique today in presenting a consistent socialist perspective. This is vital in shaping an effective strategy for the most immediate steps in the fight against U.S. imperialist aggression and the U.S. rulers' war against workers and farmers at home.

An added important factor is that the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are the

campaign voices for the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in elections in New York and around the country. These are literally the only candidates in the field who stand in unyielding opposition to the war drive and for solidarity with the Central American revolution.

The many activists involved in building April 20 are surely prospective readers of our press.

The same holds true for those involved in the growing Central American sanctuary movement.

What's decisive is for us to be where the activists gather. Not only to pitch in on the work, but to sell our press as well. At every meeting, every working session, we should be on the spot offering the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. They will be welcomed by many.

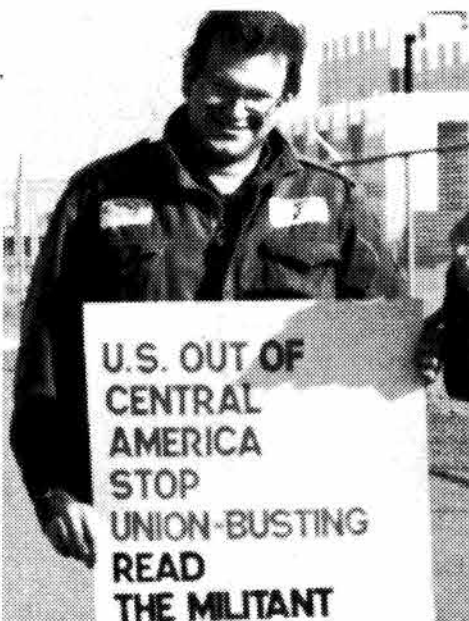
We should also keep in mind the impressive number of unionists, young students, and others participating in the demonstrations against South African apartheid and U.S. complicity with it. We should be selling at every Free South Africa picket, at every meeting on the issue.

And, certainly we should not miss the opportunity to reach striking workers — like those at Pan Am — with our coverage of their fight.

The same holds true for the growing ranks of embattled farmers determined not to be driven off the land. Here, too, we offer valuable reporting and analysis.

To get a good idea of how important it is to bring our publications to farm movement activists, read the exciting report on page 2 about the response to the *Militant* at the big Ames, Iowa, protest. It's a perfect example of how involvement in struggle broadens people's political horizons — and makes them prime candidates for becoming regular readers of our press.

If we prepare well, politically and organizationally, we can be assured that our circulation drive will be as successful as it is important.



Militant/Lee Martindale



Militant/Lou Howort

On March 16, YSA and SWP members and supporters will begin 10-week sales drive.

AVAILABLE SOON!

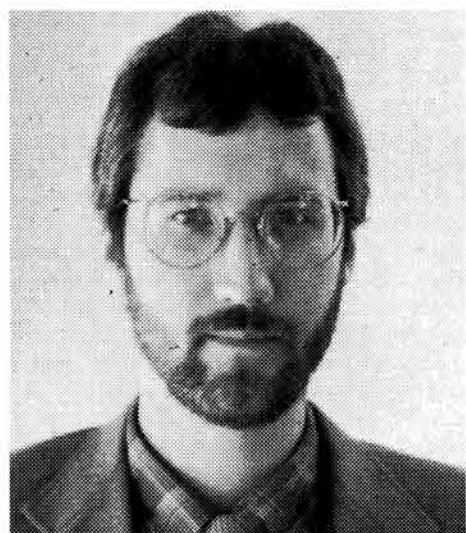
NICARAGUA THE SANDINISTA PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION



SPEECHES BY SANDINISTA LEADERS

This new collection contains more than forty speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution given between March 1982 and December 1984. Included are speeches and interviews by leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and the Nicaraguan government, such as Pres. Daniel Ortega, Vice-pres. Sergio Ramírez, Tomás Borge, Jaime Wheelock, and Victor Tirado; and important documents, such as the FSLN's 1984 "Plan of Struggle." Several items appear here for the first time in English translation, including an interview with William Ramírez and a letter by Tomás Borge on the problems of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. 400 pages, price to be announced. Available May 1985 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Dallas socialist condemns racist killings



John Daniel, a steelworker, is SWP candidate for mayor of Dallas.

BY LEE OLESON

DALLAS — There is a candidate for mayor of Dallas who is talking about more than zoning, sewage treatment, and traffic congestion.

John Daniel, a 30-year-old steelworker and member of the Social Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, began his campaign by condemning the racism of the Dallas police and city council and demanding an end to the U.S. war in Central America.

After announcing his campaign at a press conference at City Hall, Daniel went before the Dallas City Council and called for divestment of city pension funds from South Africa and investment of those funds in Nicaragua instead.

Such investment in Nicaragua would be a direct challenge to the U.S.-supported war on Nicaragua, Daniel told the council, and "would lift the spirits of working

people all over the world."

Daniel also denounced continued racist statements made by city council member Jim Hart.

Last summer Hart was denounced by Black and Latino leaders after he called for public lynchings on the steps of City Hall.

This winter, Hart was condemned again by Blacks and Latinos after he circulated a letter accusing undocumented workers of being "immoral" and "dirty."

In early February the Council of Hispanic Organizations, an umbrella group of all Latino organizations in Dallas, demanded that Hart apologize for his latest racist statements.

When city council member Diane Ragsdale, a Black, called Hart a "racist redneck," she was censured and expelled from the council meeting by Mayor Starke Taylor.

In his February 20 speech to the council,

Daniel said, "Last summer and again this winter Hart made statements against Blacks and Latinos. These were racist statements."

Mayor Taylor, a real-estate developer who spent \$970,000 to get elected as mayor in 1983, interrupted Daniel and warned him that he was "getting out of line."

Daniel continued. He condemned the council for supporting Dallas cops who killed 16 Blacks and Latinos in 1984. He informed the council that its refusal to divest funds from South Africa and to condemn the racist Hart were two reasons he was announcing his own candidacy for mayor of Dallas.

Daniel's statement also pointed out that Dallas cops had helped in the anti-union drive at Vought, a large aerospace plant that since last March has refused to renew its contract with the United Auto Workers union.

Last year 64 union militants were fired by Vought, and then Dallas cops helped arrest 16 of these fired unionists as they solicited coworkers for funds. The unionists were charged with "trespassing" on Vought property.

In a well-attended press conference held minutes before his speech to the city council, Daniel announced that opposition to "the U.S. government's escalating war against the workers and farmers of Central America" would be a central focus of his campaign.

"I support the Nicaraguan government," Daniel told the press conference.

"Defense of the Nicaraguan revolution is in the interests of all working people in the United States — Blacks, Latinos, farmers, women, trade unionists. . . . The U.S. government's war against Nicaragua and its support to the repressive Duarte regime in El Salvador affect every working person in Dallas."

On February 22, Dallas city officials certified Daniel for ballot status in the election.

In mobilizing on two successive Saturdays to get 1,100 signatures to put Daniel on the ballot, Daniel and his supporters condemned the conviction of Victor Franklin. Franklin, a Black teenager, was charged with perjury for his eyewitness testimony about the killing of a Black man by a white Dallas cop in 1983. Franklin was sentenced to three years' probation in the case on February 7. Lonnie Leyuas and Brenda Frost, two other Black teenagers charged with perjury in the case, have yet to be tried.

Grand jury indicts cops on 'negligence' for beating Black artist to death

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

NEW YORK — On February 21, a grand jury handed down indictments against six New York City transit cops involved in the September 1983 killing of Michael Stewart, a 25-year-old Black graffiti artist. Three of the cops were charged with criminally negligent homicide. All six were charged with perjury.

The six were part of a pack of 11 transit cops who beat Stewart into a coma from which he never emerged. The killing sparked protests from Stewart's family and the Black community. They demanded that the killer cops be brought to justice, and exposed how the coroner's office, district attorney, and the entire administration of Mayor Edward Koch was trying to cover up the murder.

These protests forced a grand jury last year to indict three of the cops for manslaughter. A judge later dismissed the charges, claiming misconduct on the part of one of the grand jurors.

The second grand jury's indictments come in the wake of continued protests against racist cop violence, which have forced other killer cops to be slapped with charges. On January 31, a Bronx grand jury indicted New York City cop Stephen Sullivan for manslaughter for shotgunning to death a 66-year-old Black woman — Eleanor Bumpurs — while trying to evict her last October.

On February 14, New York City cop Joseph Vacchio was indicted for manslaughter for shooting Darryl Dodson to death on January 3. Dodson, a 23-year-old Black youth, was unarmed. Dodson was cornered on a Brooklyn street by cops, who claimed he fit the description of a man who had earlier threatened someone. Vacchio maintains that his gun accidentally fired.

In the case of Michael Stewart, the cops claim that he died of a heart attack. This lie was backed by New York City's Chief Medical Examiner Elliot Gross. Two transit cops were in the operating room while Gross performed the autopsy on Stewart's body. Following the examination, Gross met privately with at least one of the two cops. Then Gross held a news conference in which he announced that Stewart had died of a heart attack.

After protests from the Stewart family, other Blacks, and supporters of democratic rights, Gross backed off. He "changed his mind" and said that Stewart had died of a spinal cord injury.

The cops, however, are sticking to this discredited version of Stewart's death. Barry Agulnick, one of the cops' lawyers and the attorney for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said Stewart "had drunk enough to make you a madman, to make you irrational. Michael Stewart is responsible for his own death."

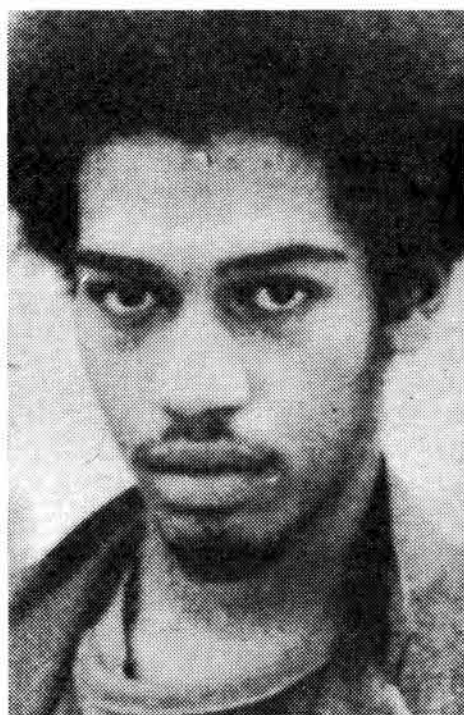
Louis Clayton Jones, a lawyer for the Stewart family, correctly explained that "Michael Stewart was murdered." Jones blasted the negligent homicide indictment as a "charade" and said that "nobody has been charged with his murder."

Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said that with the Stewart killing "you see we have a classic cover-up situation."

"Now that's what I call the pot calling the kettle black," said Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City. "It's Morgenthau who, as prosecutor, steered the grand jury toward handing down the mild charges against the cops who killed Michael Stewart. Morgenthau came to Gross's defense following the exposé in the *New York Times*. He's got a lot of nerve talking about a cover-up."

González explained that "the entire city administration — Koch, Morgenthau, Gross, the whole gang — is trying to cover up the crimes of the city's cops. Michael Stewart's death wasn't the result of negligence — criminal or otherwise. The brother was beaten to death because he was young and Black."

"I demand that all the cops involved in the incident be indicted for murder," said González. "I hope many others will join me in making this demand so that we can force such an indictment and, I hope, conviction of these killer cops."



Michael Stewart, a 25-year-old graffiti artist, was beaten to death in 1983 by transit cops. Protest forced the grand jury to indict the cops responsible for his death.

Activists urge all out for April 20 march

Continued from front page

the cruel and inhuman domestic policies that have caused despair and frustration for millions of Americans," he continued.

Jack Elder told the news conference, "The conviction of Stacey Lynn Merkt and myself . . . is in fact an indictment of our government's foreign policy. The government, through its actions, indictments, harassment, surveillance, is attempting to tell us that we cannot affect the military aid going into El Salvador, nor are we to attend to the needs of the victims of that foreign policy."

"I would also add my voice in support for the April Actions," said Elder, "so that together we may raise our voices in protest and demand the resources of this country be used for constructive purposes, and not for destruction and oppression."

Elder was joined by Rev. Phillip



Jack Elder, carrying his son.

Wheaton, the director of EPICA (Ecumenical Project for InterAmerican Communication and Action) and Luis Ramírez from Casa El Salvador.

Also speaking was Rev. Rodger H. Reed, pastor of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church and a longtime leader of the Black community in Washington, D.C. Reed demanded, "Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America and let the people of Central America be heard. Withdraw the

U.S. corporate dollar from South Africa.

"A free Black Africa is perhaps the next first step to a free Black America," Rev. Reed continued. "We therefore issue a call to all Christians, to all Americans, and especially to the Black community to give support by body, by strength, by financial giving, and by all the things that we know we must do to bring about support for the four days in April movement — April 19-22 of this year."

Irish freedom fighter to tour U.S.

BY MELISSA MORIARTY

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — U.S. supporters of the Irish Freedom struggle will have a rare opportunity to meet an Irish revolutionary this April. Seamus Burns, a leader of the Na Fianna Eirrean, the Irish Republican Youth Movement, will tour here this spring.

Burns was a cofounder of the Dublin H-Block/Armagh Committee, which was organized to protest the treatment of political prisoners in the jails in the British-occupied north of Ireland. He was one of the organizers of the first Youth Unemployment March in Dublin. And he is a former editor of *The Young Republican*.

Burns joined Na Fianna at the age of 11. Na Fianna Eirrean was founded in 1909 to train the youth of Ireland for their part in the national liberation struggle.

Na Fianna is also a scouting organization and encourages Irish customs, sports, and

culture.

Burns is scheduled to appear on April 6-7 in San Francisco at events commemorating the 1916 Easter Rebellion by Irish nationalist fighters.

He will also visit: Southern California, April 1-5; Chicago, April 9-12; Great Lakes/Midwest, April 13-15; the South, April 16-20; Washington, D.C., April 21; and the East Coast, April 22-28.

The tour is being organized by Na Fianna Eirrean-American Headquarters. They can be contacted at 44 Monterey Blvd., #96, San Francisco, California 94131, for more information.

Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$2.50 for 6 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.

Nicaraguan gov't proposes new peace initiatives

BY HARRY RING

A major new peace initiative by Nicaragua has succeeded in throwing Washington off balance.

On March 2, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was forced to meet with Nicaraguan Pres. Daniel Ortega in Montevideo, Uruguay. The two were there for the inauguration of Uruguay's new president, Julio Mario Sanguinetti.

For several months, Washington has refused to hold any talks with the Nicaraguans and has pressured other governments to follow suit. This has been part of an escalating propaganda campaign by Washington against the Sandinistas, falsely branding them the aggressors in Central America and charging that Nicaragua is receiving Cuban and Soviet military aid in order to attack neighboring countries. These lies are used to justify the U.S.-funded mercenary war against Nicaragua, whose goal is the overthrow of the revolutionary government there.

In an effort to expose Washington as the real source of aggression in the region and to pressure Washington to reopen negotiations, Daniel Ortega announced a series of new initiatives February 28. He said Nicaragua was declaring "an indefinite moratorium" on the acquisition of new arms systems and that 100 Cuban military instructors in Nicaragua would return home. The first 50, Ortega said, would leave in May.

Ortega also made a public invitation for a U.S. congressional delegation to visit Nicaragua, so it could see firsthand the defensive nature of Nicaragua's weaponry.

After meeting with Ortega, Shultz told reporters he was not enthused by Nicaragua's proposals and had repeated U.S. demands that Nicaragua reduce its armed forces to the level Washington deems nec-

essary for defense; totally remove all Soviet and Cuban military presence; stop "exporting subversion"; and move toward Washington's version of "democracy." In sum, as Reagan so delicately put it, that Nicaragua "say uncle."

At the same time, Shultz said that "the center of negotiations must be the Contadora process," referring to talks initiated by the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.

The Contadora talks were torpedoed by Washington last fall, when Nicaragua agreed to sign an agreement drawn up by the four Contadora governments. Under the agreement there would have been mutual reductions in arms and military advisers from other countries.

Washington pressured various Central American governments to walk out of the negotiations as well.

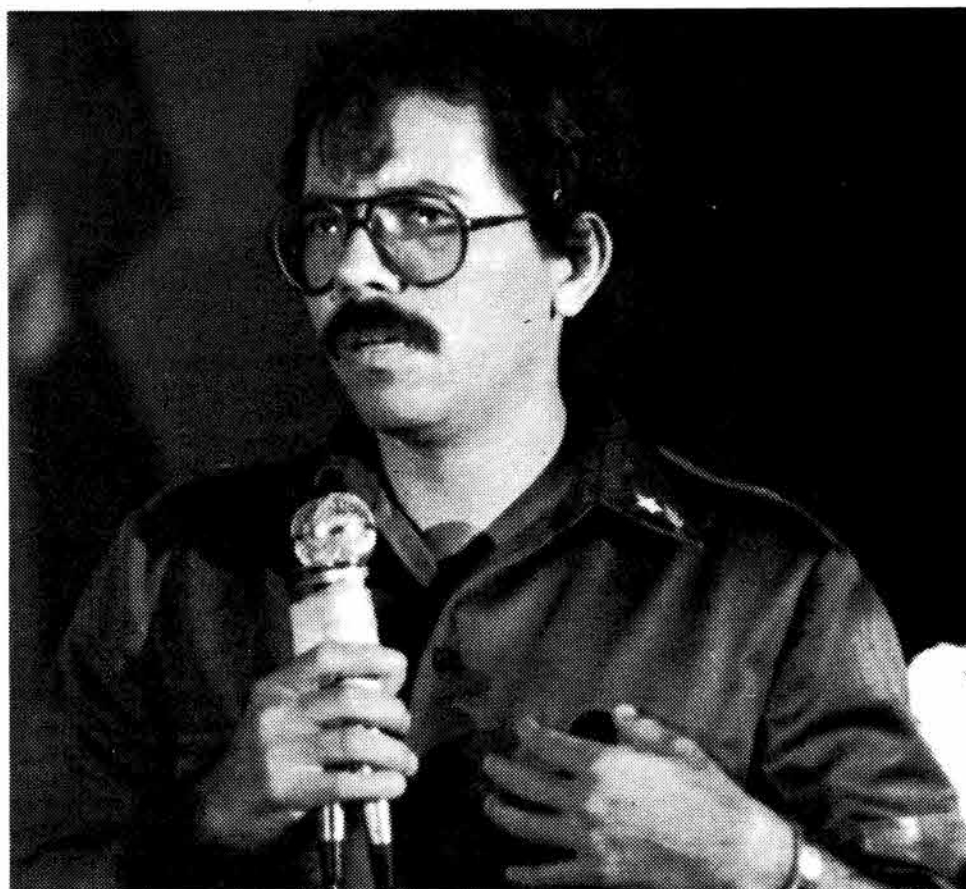
Immediately after Shultz indicated the Contadora talks should be resumed, the foreign minister for Guatemala's regime chimed in that he, too, thought it would be a good idea.

And the Costa Rican government, which had used a manufactured diplomatic incident to walk out of the Contadora talks, said it was ready to return as soon as the diplomatic issue was resolved.

Costa Rica had charged the Nicaraguan government with violating the rights of a youth who claimed asylum in the Costa Rican embassy in Managua in order to avoid Nicaragua's draft.

In Montevideo, Ortega announced the youth would be flown to Colombia and go from there to a country of his choice, thus ending Costa Rica's pretext for boycotting the Contadora talks.

At the meeting with Shultz, Ortega also pressed for resumption of direct U.S.-Nicaraguan discussions. Nine meetings had



Militant/José G. Pérez

Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega

been held between the two governments in Manzanillo, Mexico, but this past January Washington walked out.

The new Nicaraguan initiatives and the Shultz-Ortega meeting point up the problems Washington faces in its drive to crush the Nicaraguan revolution.

This was dramatized by the huge popular turnout to greet Ortega in Montevideo and the release, a few days earlier, of the findings of a CBS opinion poll that 70 percent of the U.S. people oppose Washington's efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. In his February 28 announcement of Nicaragua's peace initiative, Ortega explained that it is Washington that rejects a peaceful settlement in Central America.

Ortega firmly rejected Washington's demagogic claim that Nicaragua was "exporting" revolution. He explained, "revolutions ... cannot and should not be exported." At the same time, he added that the Nicaraguan government "will always

continue its political and moral solidarity with the just struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America that are struggling against backwardness, and for their sovereignty, freedom, and national independence."

He also declared that Nicaragua's "friendship and growing cooperation with the socialist countries and in particular the Soviet Union and Cuba" were consistent with Nicaragua's "independence, sovereignty and self-determination."

The full text of Ortega's statement appears in the March 18 issue of *Intercontinental Press*.

On March 1, Nicaragua's vice president, Sergio Ramírez, said that the Nicaraguan government was prepared to offer further concessions. Ramírez stressed, however, that any such proposals would be conditional on a "serious response" to the initiative announced by Ortega. Such a response, Ramírez added, would have to be "a fundamental step such as the disarming of the counterrevolutionaries."

He also made plain that if the situation did not improve, the offer made by Ortega could be withdrawn.

"It would be absurd," Ramírez said, "for us to continue making unilateral concessions if military aggression increases again."

He also flatly rejected any idea that the Nicaraguan government would negotiate with the mercenary forces, either the supposed left or right wings.

"To us there has never been two or three counterrevolutions," the Nicaraguan vice president declared. "There is only one, and it is directed by the CIA."

200,000 greet Sandinista in Uruguay

As many as 200,000 people turned out in the streets of Montevideo, Uruguay, February 28 to greet visiting Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega and salute the Nicaraguan revolution.

According to the Nicaraguan daily *Barricada*, which had a correspondent on the scene, the crowd was predominantly made up of youth, working people, and members of several political parties.

Waving banners, posters, and thousands of placards declaring, "Welcome Commander Daniel, we are all with Nicaragua," demonstrators lined the entire length of the boulevard linking the capital and the airport.

Thousands carried posters of Augusto César Sandino, who led the struggle in Nicaragua against the U.S. Marines several decades ago. One Uruguayan worker said with a smile to *Barricada* correspondent Gabriela Selser, "Look, there are more Sandinos here today than traffic lights."

Ortega was one of eight heads of state who had come to Montevideo for the inauguration of Julio María Sanguinetti, the country's first elected president since the Uruguayan military seized power 12 years ago.

Also present for the ceremony, representing the U.S. government, was Secretary of State George Shultz. A meeting between Ortega and Shultz, at which Nicaragua formally presented its new proposals for negotiations, took place March 2. (See story on this page.) The turnout to greet Ortega, *Barricada* reported, was one of the largest political demonstrations in Uruguay in recent memory. The demonstrators, numbering about one-seventh of the capital's total population, so completely filled the streets that it took an hour for Ortega's car to travel six miles to the center of the city.

Thousands more filled the plaza in front of the hotel where both Ortega and Shultz were housed. They chanted slogans of support for Nicaragua and El Salvador and condemned U.S. government intervention in Central America. "Yankee murderers," they shouted, "you'll find your graves in the land of Sandino."

In response to persistent requests from the crowd that Ortega speak, a podium was

hastily erected on the steps of the hotel. Ortega thanked the demonstrators "in the name of the Sandinista fighters who confront the United States, in the name of the humble and heroic people of Nicaragua."

Shultz got a different reception. Several thousand protesters waited at the hotel for him to show up. Heavily protected by U.S. security agents, Shultz had to plow through a crowd waving Sandinista flags and chanting, "Get out, murderer!"

Nicaraguan mother's letter to U.S. mothers

The following letter from a Nicaraguan mother to U.S. mothers was reprinted in the February 8 issue of the daily *Barricada*, the newspaper of Nicaragua's Sandinista National Liberation Front. It was signed by Esperanza Cabrera Cruz from Matagalpa and was titled, "Our children die because they love life."

I am a Nicaraguan mother, and I live in a country of scarcely three million inhabitants. For most of my 57 years of life, exploitation, poverty, anxiety, uncertainty, and humiliation were the constant companions of my family and my people.

More than 50,000 Nicaraguans shed their blood to forever contain this interminable whirlpool of suffering and anguish. The future that lay dormant in each one of us was awakened with fury and joy, and things my eyes never saw in my youth they have come to see in only five years of revolution.

My children, as part of the 80,000 young people armed with pencils and notebooks, helped transform all of Nicaragua into a marvelous school. From that moment my children were no longer mine alone; they

had become children of the entire country. The coffee and cotton harvests, the campaigns to implement preventative health-care measures, voluntary work, and participation in the cultural brigades — all these things became part of their daily lives. But the tranquility didn't last long.

The weapons that had been used to defeat the dictatorship had to be returned to the hands of our young people, replacing books and harvest baskets. Our children were no longer able to take part in a literacy crusade. War began to grow like a dark cloud. Those who had throughout history scorned our dignity continued to bring grief to our homes and increase the sorrow of Nicaraguan mothers.

Our children died, are dying, and will continue to die because of their love for life.

Marlon Zelaya did not die intoxicated by drugs; he died as true men die, fighting in Río San Juan.

Denis Gutiérrez did not commit suicide for lack of a reason to live; he died in Río Blanco, torn apart by a U.S.-made bomb.

Martina Alemán did not die raped by some gang in a dark alley, she was murdered by the Somozaist guards.

Daniel Teller did not die bombing peas-

ant hamlets with napalm; he was machine-gunned as he was going to a meeting with peasants from Wiwilí.

My son Ernesto, who was killed in combat at 26 years of age, like so many thousands of youth, could not walk the halls of a university because he dedicated nine years of his life to the happiness of fighting for the happiness of others, of fighting for a world that is more honest and more just — because for Ernesto the world was not limited to his home and his neighbors.

The places he walked he did not walk as a spectator. Estelí, Matagalpa, Waslala, and Río Blanco are the route where small and big deeds justify not only the justice of his struggle, but also that of his entire people.

The suffering and deaths our people face daily make us stronger in our resolve to fight for our future. In the name of the sacrifices that have been made by our children, of the blood that has been shed by our people, we urge the people of the United States to help prevent another Vietnam War in Central America.

For peace, everyone against the aggression.

Famine: result of imperialist rule

BY LEE MARTINDALE

At least 300,000 Ethiopians have died of starvation in the famine that is devastating huge parts of Africa. Millions more in sub-Saharan and central Africa face the same fate.

People stream out of the worst-hit areas, walking for days to reach feeding stations and refugee camps, many dying on the way.

Weakened by hunger, others fall victim to the diseases that accompany starvation: influenza, measles, smallpox, diarrhea, and typhus.

This massive tragedy is just the tip of the iceberg of world hunger. Over 500 million people in the underdeveloped world face hunger as a constant, daily fact of life. Forty million people, half of them children, die every year from starvation and malnutrition.

Social disaster

It's poverty that turns a drought into a famine. In rich countries like the United States droughts, floods, and freezes regularly affect crops without producing massive starvation. But in Africa, the poverty and inequality produced by centuries of colonial domination and imperialist exploitation mean that when crops fail, working people die. The African famine is a social, not a natural disaster.

The Reagan administration ignored this tragedy and even blocked famine relief until the death toll was already in the hundreds of thousands. Public outrage when the facts of the famine came out has forced the U.S. government to offer a limited amount of food.

But Washington is using this aid as a political weapon to force African nations into even more extreme dependence on imperialism, and to punish countries like Ethiopia trying to escape from imperialist domination.

This policy faithfully reflects the interests of the owners of the giant corporations that run the U.S. government, and who profit from hunger and imperialist oppression in the Third World.

The U.S. government and the big-business media have rushed to blame the famine on the incompetence and corruption of African governments. This reveals their racist, colonial mentality.

It's also a giant cover-up.

There are corrupt African regimes that ignore the needs of working people. These regimes stay in power because they have U.S. and other imperialist backing and arms. They're supported by the U.S. government because they accept the imperialist system that keeps Africa in poverty.

The fact is that Africa's poverty and underdevelopment are due, not to incompetence, but to over 400 years of plunder by European and North American merchants

and capitalists. This plunder continues today.

Legacy of colonialism

Before the Europeans intervened, African societies had developed agricultural production and handicrafts, and had begun to trade with one another, sharing techniques and skills.

While primitive, the farming techniques used were adapted to the natural conditions. Crop rotation, manuring, and the use of mixed crops protected the fragile soil and enhanced its fertility.

But the European ruling classes saw in Africa a source of low-cost labor for their plantations in the Americas. The slave trade tore young, healthy laborers away from the land. Whole areas were depopulated. The cheap manufactured goods exchanged for slaves undermined local handicraft production. Africa's whole economic structure was disrupted and its development thwarted.

In the late 19th century, the imperialist rulers in Europe and the United States, who competed on a world scale for markets, sources of raw materials, and profitable outlets for investment, completed the division amongst themselves of the African continent.

Colonial settlers and trading companies seized millions of acres of the best land for cotton, rubber, palm oil, coffee, tea, sugar, and other plantations. These were goods needed by European industry and home markets.

Production of cash crops

Many African peasants were also roped into cash-crop production — sometimes by armed force, sometimes by the imposition of taxes that they had to get cash to pay, and sometimes by the lure of European manufactures available only for money.

Africa's economies became increasingly dependent on the imperialist powers and were buffeted about by the ups and downs of the world capitalist market. This was especially true for those countries where only one or two cash crops accounted for most of their export earnings.

The European and North American trading monopolies dictated the terms of trade, paying Africans a tiny fraction of what their crops would bring on the world market and jacking up the prices of manufactured goods.

Within the capitalist world market dominated by the imperialists, large parts of the African continent were given over to the production of raw materials. Since European manufactured goods were traded for these raw materials, little European investment or technology went into industrial development of Africa, and African industries couldn't compete with the more advanced European capitalists.

Most African peasants today are still en-



Famine victims gather in camp in Korem, Ethiopia.

gaged in subsistence — or below-subsistence — agriculture using the most primitive tools and techniques. Only 1.9 percent of the arable land is irrigated. Only 2 percent of all agricultural labor uses tractors or machines. The overwhelming majority of food production is done by back-breaking human labor using hand tools, often without even the help of animals.

Meanwhile, as cash-crop production attracted the most productive land and was consciously developed, food production was further stagnated.

In these conditions, food production has not kept up with the steady rise in population. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region of the world where per capita food production has fallen over the past two decades.

The formally independent African nations that inherited this legacy of looting must now deal with its modern form: the imperialist world market system. In order to feed their populations and develop their own agriculture, African nations must continue to export cash crops and minerals in order to earn the money to buy food, fuel, fertilizer, and machinery.

Profit famine

Dependence on this world market makes African countries vulnerable to famines caused, not by natural disasters or weather conditions, but by a profit system where the imperialists make money off of hunger.

Twenty-six African countries earn more than half of their foreign exchange on a single crop or mineral. Seventy-five percent of Senegal's export earnings come from peanuts. Chad recently harvested a bumper crop of cotton, but is one of the countries where people are dying of starvation.

The prices of these goods have fallen on the international market, while the prices of the manufactured goods and food African countries must import have risen astronomically throughout the decade of the 1970s.

These price fluctuations, and the worsening terms of trade that face the African countries, are not accidental. Huge monopoly corporations, many of them based in the United States, control the markets for these crops and manipulate the prices to their own advantage.

For example, Ghana's main export is cocoa. The sale and processing of cocoa is controlled by a few giant firms. In the years 1970-71 alone, Ghana lost \$50 million due to price manipulation by those firms.

The Unilever corporation, which is known here as Lever Brothers, controls 80 percent of the international market in palm oil, another African export.

Nestlé and General Foods together control 30-40 per cent of world coffee trade.

And on the other end, six giant grain-trading companies control 85 percent of all U.S. grain trade and exports. These six companies have the power to decide, by fixing prices and prioritizing shipments, whether starving Africans will get the food they need or not. And their decisions are made completely on the basis of what is profitable.

The creeping desert

Much attention has been focused on the "advance of the desert" in Africa and elsewhere — the destruction of land in dry zones, by cutting down trees and overgrazing and over-cultivating the soil, so that it becomes unable to support life.

This process, called "desertification," poses a serious threat to the earth's environment. According to a report prepared for the Nonaligned Movement by Cuban researchers, 6 million hectares of land a year are lost to the desert.

Desertification is not, however, an inevitable or irreversible process. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s in the United States, when vast stretches of topsoil in the Midwest and West turned to dust and blew away, was an example of desertification. A Federal program called the Civilian Conservation Corps mobilized unemployed workers to plant trees in stretches hundreds of miles long to conserve moisture in the soil and break the prairie winds. The Kara Kum desert in the Soviet Union has also been reclaimed.

But the kinds of conservation, irrigation, crop rotation, and tree-planting programs that can halt and reverse the advance of the desert can't be carried out as long as poverty forces peasants and herdsmen to squeeze the maximum out of their land and herds just in order to survive.

The source of this poverty is imperialist domination. It's not the "creeping desert," but exploitation by the capitalist rulers in the United States and Europe that is the root of the African famine. And it's in struggling against this imperialist oppression — a struggle that should be championed by U.S. workers and farmers — that the African toilers can end their misery.

'IP' on Peru's 'Shining Path' guerrillas

For several years the Peruvian regime has used the existence of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla movement as an excuse for brutal repression against the impoverished Indian peasants of the Andes mountains.

But despite widespread publicity, the politics of the group are rarely explained.

In the current issue of *Intercontinental Press*, Mike Taber examines the ideology of this organization and exposes its fundamental hostility to the struggles of Peruvian working people. Sendero Luminoso neither participates in mass organizations, nor seeks support in the trade unions. And it has a hostile and sectarian attitude toward the existing mass peasant organizations.

"One revealing feature of Sendero Luminoso," says Taber, "is that it does not view its struggle in Peru as a part of the struggle of workers and peasants throughout the world."

The article concludes that revolu-

tionary workers must focus on combatting the wave of repression being carried out by the Peruvian government with Washington's blessings.

This issue of *IP*, dated March 18, also includes an article and documents from a recent congress of the Workers Party of Brazil.

Intercontinental Press is a biweekly that carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics — from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America — than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

Enclosed is ☐ \$7.50 for 3 months. ☐ \$15 for 6 months. ☐ \$30 for 1 year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to *Intercontinental Press*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

impreco

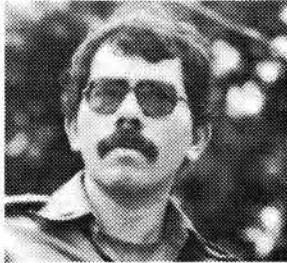
Mideast
Hussein-Arafat
Accord Provokes
New Debates

New Caledonia
Interviews With
Independence
Movement Leader

Peru
Regime Targets
Indian Peasants
In Drive Against
Sendero Luminoso

Brazil
Workers Party
Reaffirms Class
Independence

Nicaragua Offers Peace Plan
• Cuts Advisers, Freezes Weapons
• Reagan Pushes Aid for Contras
• Full Text of Ortega's Proposal



Speech by Fidel Castro
"We Have No Interest
in Seeing Bloodshed of
U.S. and Cuban People"



Machinists march against U.S. war in El Salvador. Socialists are building anti-war action through their unions and among their coworkers.

How socialist workers build April 20 march on job, in unions, through coalitions

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The April 20 national demonstrations for peace, jobs, and justice in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities occur as the U.S. government is escalating its attacks on Nicaragua. At the same time, the government and the employers have stepped up their attacks on the working class, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, and women here in the United States.

The demands of April 20 are: an end to U.S. intervention in Central America; opposition to U.S. support for apartheid in South Africa; jobs not military spending; and stop and reverse the arms race.

The Washington April 20 protest has been endorsed by more than 100 organizations. It gives the labor movement a vital opportunity to defend itself against the ruling-class attacks on working people's rights and living standards. Mobilizing working people through their unions to march with their allies against the government's antilabor and racist attacks here and abroad can help to strengthen these organizations in their fightback against these attacks.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance have made as their central task the building of this action through their unions and among their coworkers.

These socialist workers focus their political activity in the United Mine Workers; United Steelworkers; International Association of Machinists; United Auto Workers; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; International Union of Electronic Workers; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and the United Transportation Union.

They, along with other unionists, are actively building April 20 on the job, in the unions, and in the local coalitions that have developed throughout the country.

One important way that socialist workers have helped to build this action is through discussions with other workers on the job.

Kipp Dawson, a coal miner from Pennsylvania and member of the miners union, explained that "there had been a core of Black miners" in her mine "who had taken initiative in the union around the August 27, 1983, civil rights demonstration in Washington, D. C. These miners responded to the call for the April 20 action in the same way. It was logical to them to look at the unions as the organizations through which to organize to build the action," said Dawson.

Phil Norris, a member of the International Chemical Workers in Jeffersonville, Indiana, reported a similar experience. "The workers in my plant who had led the effort to get our local to endorse the August 27 civil rights march in 1983 formed the core of workers who got together, with the agreement of the local president, to build April 20 in our union. Our local has just endorsed the action. The Southern Indiana Central Labor Council also endorsed it."

Impact of mine disaster

Dawson also explained that, "Since the Wilberg mine disaster in Utah, where 19 miners were killed as a result of company greed, coworkers are anxious to see the union respond nationally to the disaster. At

every local union meeting, our local president has raised the need to march on Washington to respond to what's happening to us. This helps my coworkers see April 20 as something the UMW can be part of.

"Some opponents of the U.S. war in Central America in the mines," Dawson explained, "want to do something, but they don't necessarily see the UMW as the vehicle to act through. Part of the job of socialist workers is to explain that the unions will be strengthened by standing with people who oppose the U.S. government's war against our side — whether it be in Nicaragua, South Africa, or Orangeville, Utah.

"One of the things that has helped socialist miners bring actions like April 20 and other international questions into the mines and the union is the existence of the Coal Employment Project." The CEP helps women get and keep jobs in the coal mines. "CEP activists have made trips to the Soviet Union, China, Wales — all over the world," Dawson said.

"Part of winning workers to support the April 20 action is explaining the Nicaraguan revolution. We discuss the difference between the workers and farmers government in Nicaragua and the capitalist government in the United States. Lots of my coworkers are also farmers," Dawson said. We contrast the farm crisis here to the advances farmers have made in Nicaragua since the revolution."

"While many of my coworkers oppose another Vietnam-type war, the issues for some are still not clear enough to take a strong stance. Some people buy the government's line on the war in Central America," Dawson explained. "There are some heated debates in the mine but the prowar people don't predominate.

"All these discussions help lay the basis for getting the union involved in the demonstration," concluded Dawson.

Castro interviews

L. Paltrineri, a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers, explained that before the New Jersey April 20 coalition was formed, building the demonstration on her job was a little more difficult. But help came from an unexpected source — Cuban president Fidel Castro.

"Castro's three-part interview on Channel 13 in February really helped the discussion on the job about the war and April 20. The half dozen people who I talked to that saw the interviews were impressed by Castro," she said. They thought he was sincere and they liked him. But they had a lot of questions because of all the government's anti-Cuba propaganda. From answering the questions about Cuba and why the U.S. government attacks it we got right into Nicaragua and why the U.S. government wants to destroy that revolution," Paltrineri explained.

Opposition to apartheid

"Demanding an end to U.S. government and corporate support for apartheid in South Africa is an attractive action for a lot of my coworkers," Ellie Garcia, a member of the United Steelworkers from Anoka, Minnesota, told the *Militant*. Her local passed a resolution this December opposing Washington's support to apartheid and calling for solidarity with Black South Af-

rican workers.

"After the union meeting passed this resolution," Garcia explained, "the executive board agreed to post leaflets for a meeting on South Africa sponsored by the auto workers local in our area. Coworkers have been asking about this meeting because they want to go. This can help to get the union interested in the April 20 march."

Ted Leonard, a Baltimore machinist, explained that the anti-apartheid protests that have taken place have helped to build April 20 in his shop. "Until recently, most of the discussion on the march has centered on South Africa," Leonard said. "The daily pickets at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C., are a big deal here. Lots of people from our city have participated in these pickets. So people in my plant were looking at April 20 as a continuation of these pickets, but on a bigger scale. But Reagan's recent call for the overthrow of the Nicaraguan government has really begun to get people thinking more about Central America and the war there," Leonard said.

"Having a local coalition functioning has been a big help in bringing the union into April 20," Mark Emanation, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Louisville, reported. "Since the coalition involves local figures in the labor and civil rights movement, it gave the action real legitimacy in a lot of people's minds. When the coalition announced its first meeting, those of us who were active in April 20 invited coworkers and union officials to come. Even though they did not come to the first meeting, it gave us an opportunity to report back about the coalition and what it is planning. My local president has agreed to have a report at our March meeting on why unionists should support April 20."

Raúl González, a garment worker in San Francisco, reports that the local coalition there contacted Mattie Jackson, the Northwest regional director of his union, the ILGWU, and won her support for the April 20 action.

"After Jackson spoke at our union meeting about April 20, there were discussions about it at work. Most people thought it was great that the union was involved. One woman from Nicaragua, however, said that she didn't think it was a good idea since she supported the U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. But she didn't change people's opinions about the action," González said.

The coalition in Kansas City is just getting started but Jeff Powers, a member of United Auto Workers Local 93, said it's already been a big help. "The coalition includes people from the Central America solidarity committee, antinuclear activists, representatives from the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and members of the National Black Independent Political Party," Powers said. "All these groups have helped to approach the unions. The meetings with the president of my local, for example, included members of the National Black Independent Political Party. These activists are also UAW members and really helped lead this meeting. Now we are beginning to prepare for the local meetings of each of the shifts and for the executive board meetings. It takes patience to go through this process but it's well worth it," Powers

said.

In the course of building April 20 in their unions, antiwar workers have found that some officials don't support the march. But by patiently continuing to talk to coworkers and other officials, they frequently find some who do want to involve the union in the demonstration.

Portland: unions take the lead

"Union leaders in the Portland, Oregon, area, including two officials who had visited Nicaragua as part of a trade union tour last year, took the lead in building April 20," Becky Ellis, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, explained.

"The first thing that happened was that the Joint Board of ACTWU endorsed the April 20 action and decided to go to Seattle to attend the rally to be held there on that date.

"Some unionists also sent a letter to the unions in Portland asking them to get behind the action. They, along with solidarity groups, are organizing the April 20 coalition here," Ellis said.

"With the union leaders fully behind the march, everybody in my plant is aware that our union is going to April 20. Everybody sort of thinks it is a good idea and a few people are thinking about going. One woman is researching bus companies to get us a good price for a bus. One or two of my coworkers will be attending the coalition meetings," Ellis said.

Vivian Sahner, an oil worker in Los Angeles, and other members of the oil workers union, have been active in the local April 20 coalition since it started.

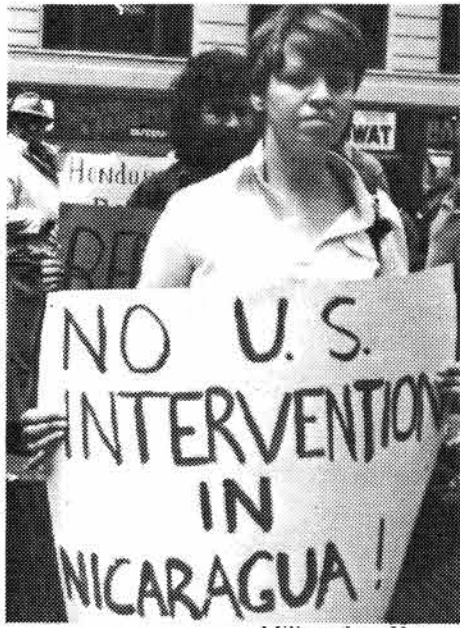
The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers district director for Southern California, Jack Foley, came to one of the coalition meetings. "He decided to endorse the action," Sahner said. "He is also encouraging the locals in the district to support the action. This gives the opponents of the U.S. war in our union an opportunity to work with him to build the action in the union here," she said.

"One local — 1-549 — has already endorsed April 20. The Human Rights Committee of another local in the district organized a meeting on South Africa and announced April 20 at that meeting."

"But education work is needed," Sahner said. "On the job a couple of people support the war. They pick up the idea that war is good for the economy. Some people say things like 'the poor people in Central America, they're in a bind. It's either us down there or the communists.' So education on the advances of the Nicaraguan people since the revolution is crucial.

"You can't just get the union officials or even the whole local's endorsement for an action, get out a leaflet, and then expect everybody to come to it. There is too much confusion in people's minds from all the prowar propaganda in the capitalist press for them to participate in an antiwar action automatically. All unionists who support actions like April 20 can play an important role in changing this through education — getting out material and getting a discussion going. One example of the type of thing that can be done to help this is the January-February issue of the *OCAW Reporter* that highlights the fight against apartheid in South Africa," Sahner said.

Nat'l meeting forges ahead on April Actions



Militant/Lou Howort

Emergency meeting voted to move forward in mobilizing broad support for April antiwar actions. Five national unions have now endorsed.

BY PETER THIERJUNG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 100 people representing national organizations and local coalitions met here on February 28 and voted unanimously to reaffirm and move forward in building the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice in Washington, D.C.

Similar actions are being organized in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, and other parts of the country.

The actions planned for Washington, D.C., include educational, cultural, and religious activities on April 19; lobbying of Congress and nonviolent civil disobedience on April 22; and a national march and rally on April 20.

Some of the national organizations represented at this emergency meeting of the April Actions national steering committee were Mobilization for Survival, the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES), U.S. Peace Council, United States Student Association, American Committee on Africa, Nicaraguan Network, War Resisters League, NISGUA

(Guatemala Network), Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, Gray Panthers, Young Socialist Alliance, Artists Call, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Union of Democratic Filipinos, and Clergy and Laity Concerned. Jack Odell of the Rainbow Coalition chaired the meeting.

Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Minneapolis, and Baltimore were some of the cities that sent representatives and delegations to the meeting.

Meeting the challenge

The emergency steering committee meeting was called in response to organizational problems and questions that had arisen in the course of building the April Actions, in particular the April 20 march and rally. Financial contributions and outreach to other organizations for support were said to be behind schedule.

The fact that the meeting was convened in the context of the Reagan administration's open call for the overthrow of Nicaragua's government, and a crackdown by the racist South African regime against Blacks and other opponents of apartheid, spurred meeting participants on in their resolve to move ahead as planned with the April Actions.

Several steps were taken at the meeting to meet the challenges before the coalition in building the April Actions. The financial committee was reconstituted and more than \$18,000 was pledged by national organizations and local coalitions.

The outreach committee was given a boost through the enlistment of additional activists. It was voted to focus much of the resources of the national coalition on mobilization efforts in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, areas central to the April Actions.

The steering committee also decided to incorporate local coalitions in the national steering committee with a vote. This step proved to be a beneficial one in light of the reports that were presented by local coalition representatives on progress in building the April Actions.

Cecelia Kirkman reported that 56 organizations in the Boston area are sponsors of the April Actions, including some initial support among local unionists. It was also reported that a number of local union officials in Boston had signed a letter to solicit support and participation from other local unions for the April Actions.

The Atlanta coalition has received support from Black farmers in the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Atlanta representative Eric Carter reported that there was important Black participation in building the April Actions which would be strengthened by local building events scheduled around March 13. March 13 is the sixth anniversary of the victory of the Grenada revolution led by Maurice Bishop.

Michele Tingling-Clemmons from the Washington, D.C., coalition reported that more than 100 people attended the first D.C. coalition meeting on February 27. Many in attendance at that meeting were Black. At the meeting a representative of the D.C. school board announced that the board had passed a resolution in support of the April Actions, urging students, teachers, and others to turn out for them.

Gail Skidmore, a member of the Chicago coalition, reported that the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) was planning a tour in the Chicago area of David Dyson, a leader of the National Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. ACTWU is also planning a tour of a South African trade unionist. The Chicago coalition has been invited to publicize the April Actions at events during the tour.

Josh Nessen, the representative of the American Committee on Africa, pointed to the potential to involve Blacks in the actions because of the demands against racism and apartheid that are part of the call for the April Actions. This was confirmed in some of the local coalition reports which pointed to Free South Africa Movement activists becoming involved in the April Actions.

Five national unions endorse actions

The national labor outreach coordinator for the April Actions, Gene Carroll, re-

ported that five national unions have endorsed the April Actions. They are the United Food and Commercial Workers, International Association of Machinists, United Farm Workers, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers, and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Workers Union.

Carroll made the point of urging local coalitions to solicit local union support and encourage local unions to communicate their support to their international leaderships. This would help win further international union support, Carroll said. Local union endorsements and resolutions should also be sent to Gene Carroll, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, 303 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.

A Vietnam veteran representing Never Again! Vietnam Veteran's Peace Action Network, called on local coalitions to approach Vietnam veterans' groups for support. He said that many Vietnam veterans would be eager to get involved in the actions. He reported that Bobby Muller, president of Vietnam Veterans of America, would soon be returning from a trip to Central America and would be touring the United States with an eyewitness account.

Many of those present at the national steering committee felt that potential support was just beginning to be tapped. Some referred to the *Washington Post/ABC News* poll which found that 70 percent of all people in the United States oppose any U.S. government involvement in attempts to overthrow the government of Nicaragua.

Others at the meeting expressed the view that the sentiment among U.S. working people today offers great opportunities for building an ongoing movement for peace and justice with Black, Latino, and labor involvement and leadership.

The April Actions have already provided a basis for unity among diverse groups and individuals around opposition to the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and U.S. support for the racist apartheid regime of South Africa. The desire to build on this unity and to move ahead with the April Actions was reinforced by the decisions of the emergency national steering committee meeting.

Financial contributions for the April Actions are urgently needed and should be sent to April Actions, c/o Kay Shaw, P.O. Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598. Contributions are tax deductible and checks should be made out to the "Survival Education Fund."

The next meeting of the April Actions national steering committee is scheduled for March 9, 2:30 p.m., at Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Ave. NW (corner of Vermont and N Street). This is also the location of the April Actions' offices. Telephone (202) 667-9485, 9486, or 9487.

Detroit: 500 attend Nicaragua hearings

BY HELEN MEYERS

DETROIT — More than 500 people, about half Blacks, attended hearings here January 26 on U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. The hearings, sponsored by two Black U.S. congressmen — George Crockett and John Conyers — heard from 12 Michigan residents who had visited Nicaragua. Francisco Campbell, an official of the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, also addressed the gathering.

Conyers set the theme of the hearings in his opening remarks: "We must not let that illegal and immoral U.S. invasion of Grenada be repeated in Nicaragua."

Rev. Ronald Spann, rector of Detroit's east side Church of the Messiah, recently visited Nicaragua as part of the Witness for Peace protest against U.S. government policy. He called Nicaragua "today's Rosa Parks who has finally said she's tired of moving to the back of the international bus. That is why Nicaragua is a threat to the United States."

William Collins, a 59-year-old engineer with Ford Motor Co., said of his visit: "The Nicaraguan government was supported by most of the people I talked to. The U.S. policy was opposed by all except two; a taxicab driver and an American who had been living there for 14 years and still could not speak Spanish."

Kathleen Grant, a physician who worked in a small village in Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region, contrasted the health care in Nicaragua with the health care in Detroit.

"In the city of Detroit, in the richest country in the world, the infant mortality rate is rising," Grant said. In Muelle de los Bueyes, a remote village in a poor country, the infant mortality rate is falling.

"In Detroit we find that many of our pregnant women can't read and, therefore, can't use the prenatal information given them. In Muelle de los Bueyes the literacy

rate is 80 percent, and prenatal care is the highest health priority of the national government."

In a statement circulated at the hearing, nine Michigan judges condemned Washington's mining of Nicaragua's harbors and U.S. financing of the counterrevolutionary armies as a "violation of U.S. and international law."

Mexico: rightists clash with government

BY ROBERT KOPEC

During the last two months a series of violent disturbances have shaken the northern Mexican state of Coahuila — especially the city of Piedras Negras, which is on the border with Texas.

The demonstrations were organized by the rightist Party of National Action (PAN), which is accusing Mexico's governing Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI) of having resorted to fraud in several local elections last December.

In Piedras Negras, a crowd of thousands of people protested during the inauguration of the PRI candidate for mayor, Carlos Juaristi Septién, claiming that the PAN candidate, Eleazar Cobos, actually won the election. The PAN demonstrators set fire to the municipal building and fought for several hours with police. Two people died and dozens were wounded in confrontations with "antiriot squads" of the PRI.

Mexican president Miguel de la Madrid responded by sending the army into the town.

On February 18 some 400 supporters of PAN in Piedras Negras fled to the United States after a shoot-out with Mexican police. PAN leader Cobos said that he might ask the U.S. government for political asylum, claiming that he had been the

object of death threats. He said he had requested and received special police protection from the Texas border town of Eagle Pass.

The capitalist PAN was founded in 1939 in opposition to the policy of nationalization and other progressive social measures of then-president Lázaro Cárdenas and his Party of the Mexican Revolution, the former name of the PRI. For a long time the PAN played only a decorative role in Mexican politics, serving as the "loyal opposition," and providing a democratic face to the political system the PRI has dominated for 55 years.

As a result of the economic crisis that hit Mexico in the early '80s and the anti-working class and antipeasant policies of the PRI, the PAN has gained a certain amount of electoral strength. It presents itself as a pole of attraction for antigovernment sentiment, especially in northern Mexico.

The PAN identifies fully with the reactionary, imperialist foreign policy carried out by the U.S. government throughout Central America and the Caribbean. The PAN calls for the Mexican government to break relations with revolutionary Cuba. And the PAN applauded Washington's invasion of Grenada in 1983.

The PRI has carried out attacks on Mexican workers and peasants. On the international level, however, it has maintained a relatively independent stance from U.S. imperialist policies. It has been the only Latin American government to maintain uninterrupted, full diplomatic relations with the government of revolutionary Cuba since 1959, in spite of pressures from Washington. The Mexican government is part of the Contadora Group, which is discussing a "negotiated" solution to the conflicts in Central America. And the PRI has been critical of Washington's military intervention in the region and maintains good relations with the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Charges of voting fraud against the PRI are not new and are not the exclusive province of rightists. In fact, fraud has always been an integral part of the electoral process controlled by the capitalist PRI. Following the presidential elections in 1982, the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico as well as the Revolutionary Workers Party both accused the PRI government of having unlawfully disqualified votes. Also in the elections last December, the left denounced open cases of fraud by the PRI government.

—From *Perspectiva Mundial*

Subscribe to the Young Socialist
Bimonthly revolutionary youth paper covers the fight against Washington's wars and racism.
\$1 for half-year \$3 for one year
14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 10014

GM's Saturn Corp: union-busting plan

BY HARRY LERNER

DETROIT — In January of this year, General Motors Corp. announced that it would launch a new multi-billion dollar auto company named Saturn Corp. The auto bosses at GM are touting Saturn Corp. as a "revolutionary" concept in production techniques and labor relations. It could begin producing cars as soon as 1989.

The stated purpose of Saturn is to allow GM to compete in the small-car market with the Japanese auto industry by cutting the average per-car cost below the \$2,600 of the Japanese auto companies.

GM is now in the process of choosing a location for the Saturn assembly plant, which will employ 6,000 workers and management personnel and produce a total of 2,000 cars a day on two assembly lines.

State and local governments in Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and elsewhere are offering plans to make the working people in their areas underwrite the cost of GM's venture.

Michigan's Democratic governor, James Blanchard, has offered GM 11 or 12 entitlements including quick approval of water and air pollution permits that will cause further deterioration of the state's environmental quality.

Michigan's incentive package would reportedly save GM between \$30 and \$40 million, in addition to local property tax abatements that will hand over to the auto giant another \$80 million. "We can get into almost everything but wage rates, and we can be helpful there," said Governor Blanchard.

Not to be outdone, Kansas City officials offered GM \$260 million in economic incentives.

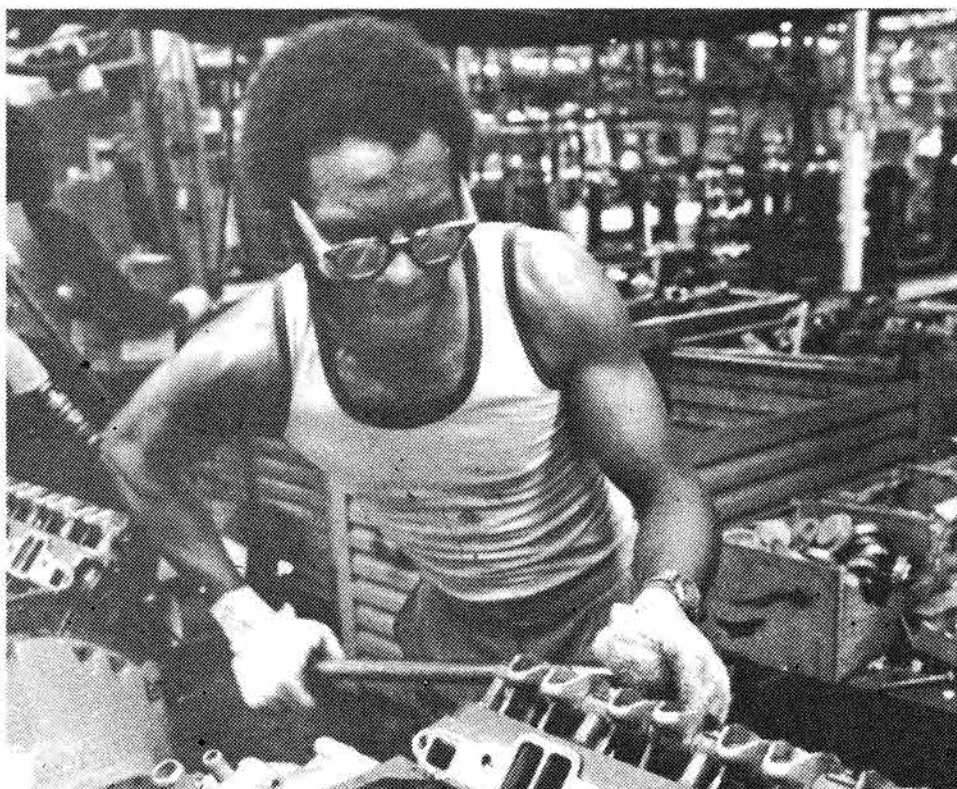
GM makes record profits

GM's plan to move forward with Saturn comes on the heels of the largest yearly profits ever for GM, as well as Ford and Chrysler. GM had profits of \$4.5 billion in 1984.

GM's plans for Saturn establish the massive concessions and union-weakening measures imposed on auto workers over the last five years as the starting point for a new contract. The contract will be negotiated for Saturn workers by the United Auto Workers union.

The Saturn Corp. is the single biggest plan yet announced by the auto giants to further slash the jobs of auto workers by the tens of thousands.

A page one feature in the big-business daily, the *Detroit News*, explained that, "Saturn Corp. ... is part of a productivity



General Motors hopes to use Saturn project to intensify competition among workers and weaken United Auto Workers.

drive so powerful that it could cut GM's employment and factory space in the United States in half by the year 2000."

Alex Mair, a GM vice-president, acknowledges that GM's current work force is targeted to be reduced by "a third to a half in 15 years." GM currently employs more than 500,000 workers.

'Worker flexibility'

Much of the technology and computerization projected for Saturn is already in operation at certain GM, Ford, and Chrysler plants in the United States.

In addition to the large-scale use of computers and robots, the Saturn plant will replace the moving assembly line with fixed stations where teams of workers will install large modular components.

This production method, according to GM, requires more "worker flexibility" — meaning that management will be free to assign workers to any number of jobs, without the protection of union work rules.

At GM's newest assembly facility in Wentzville, Missouri, management unilaterally imposed a worker flexibility scheme that went under the name of "pay for knowledge." On January 28 workers there ended a two-week strike against the

scheme, which scuttled work rules and seniority and made the work harder and more dangerous. They won some improvements in the plan.

Union-busting

While further technological innovation will be part of Saturn, the biggest change is not automation. The heart of Saturn is a deepening attempt by the auto bosses to weaken the union by job eliminations, stepped-up job combinations, changes in work rules, and further attempts to convince workers that collaboration with management is the way to save jobs, raise wages, and improve work conditions.

The "new management techniques" that will be part of Saturn are already being used to subject assembly workers to phony attempts at workplace "participatory democracy." The *Detroit News* quotes a UAW source as saying, "I can't see them giving real power to the workers. ... They'll give workers things like single parking lots and single cafeterias [with management], but what power does that give workers in the way the business is run?"

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that GM "will use a lot of the Japanese manufactur-

ing techniques it is learning in its Fremont, California, joint venture with Toyota Motor Corp. which it set up specifically to learn those techniques."

A *Detroit Free Press* article headlined "Blueprint for Saturn" describes the extensive job combinations now being implemented at GM's Pontiac, Michigan, Fiero plant. It explains that while most auto-assembly plants have up to 300 job classifications, the Fiero plant has only 32, with two major classifications: assembler and disassembler.

UAW officials collaborate

Central to GM's ability to move forward with these plans has been the open and willing collaboration of the top officials of the United Auto Workers union. GM's chairman, Roger Smith, said, "No element will be more important in its [Saturn's] success than the enlightened, cooperative spirit of the UAW."

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that it is "understood that the UAW will allow substantially relaxed work rules, compared with those found in most current GM plants. ... UAW officials add that, among other changes, it is possible that Saturn workers' compensation might be at least partly tied directly to how productively they work and that Saturn's blue-collar workers might be paid a salary instead of a wage."

The UAW officialdom begin from the false idea that helping GM become more competitive will save auto workers' jobs. Saturn has also become part of the UAW's reactionary, racist campaign against Japanese imports. UAW vice-president Donald Ephlin — sounding more like a GM executive than a unionist — said, "If we can develop Saturn — and we can — so that we can build in the U.S., whatever we get [in jobs] is a plus." In this way, GM's plan to admittedly cut the work force by one-half to one-third is passed off as a "plus" for jobs in the view of UAW officials.

Worker-management involvement

Much attention has been focused on the supposed management-worker involvement in planning the Saturn project from the beginning. Eight UAW staff members and 42 other union members picked by the UAW top officialdom formed a committee with 39 GM management and engineering personnel who "together" planned the Saturn project.

A UAW member who served on this committee told the *Detroit News* that he was displeased with the results and said he felt exploited. "I was at one of those meetings where a young guy from GM got up and started talking about where they were going. ... He started laying it on the line. He was talking about getting rid of the workers."

Committee plans included workers setting production quotas and designing commercial ads and a planned exercise and day-care center for the plant. But as the *Detroit News* reports, "Not all the new ideas will make it to the Saturn plant. GM already is weighing which will be kept and which will be discarded."

Unions lose ground to U.S. employers

BY HARRY RING

Figures released by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics confirm a continuing decline in union membership.

According to the Bureau, in 1984 union membership dropped to 18.8 percent of the work force as against 23 percent in 1980.

Peak union membership, according to government figures, was reached in 1945, when 35.5 percent of U.S. workers were union members.

The biggest recent loss in union membership was in the manufacturing and goods producing sector. From 30.5 percent of this part of the work force in 1980, it dropped to 24 percent last year.

In the service sector, membership dropped from 13.5 percent in 1980, to 10.5 in 1984.

The decline was substantial among both men and women unionists.

In 1980, 28.4 percent of male workers were in unions, with the figure dropping to 23 percent in 1984.

Among women workers, 15.9 percent belonged to unions in 1980, and in 1984 it was 13.8 percent.

According to the government survey, unions pretty much held their own among government workers, with 35.9 percent in unions in 1980, and 35.7 percent in 1984.

Despite these losses in membership, unions continued to prove to be an important weapon on the wage front.

According to the study, union workers enjoyed wages 33 percent higher than those of nonunionists.

In 1984, unionized workers received a

median wage (half above and half below) of \$405 a week. For nonunion workers, it was \$303.

In mining, wages of union and nonunion workers were reported as virtually the same — \$505 for union members and \$500 for nonunion.

In construction, it was \$549 for union workers and \$306 for nonunion.

Unionized manufacturing workers had a median wage of \$388 as against \$327 for nonunion.

In wholesale and retail trade, it was \$363 for union workers, and \$253 for nonunion.

Male unionists earned a median wage of \$444. For unorganized males it was \$362.

Women unionists had a median wage of \$326 as against \$251 for nonunion women workers.

For Black male unionists, it was \$399 as against \$253 for unorganized Black males.

Wages for Black union women were \$303; for nonunion Black women, \$218.

While the comparison between union and nonunion wages is impressive, union gains on the wage front were limited in 1984. According to the U.S. Labor Department, 539 major union contracts covering 2.3 million workers produced average wage increases of but 2.4 percent for the first year of the contracts, and 2.3 percent annually over the life of the agreements.

The figures on the significant wage differential between unionized and unorganized workers are but one barometer of the enormous value of unionism.

But the continuing decline of union membership, in the face of an unrelenting

employer-government offensive, underlines equally the incapacity of the present union officialdom to lead an effective fightback.

The figures point to the need for building a force within the unions with a program that can beat back the antilabor drive, including leading a struggle to organize the unorganized.

Budd workers ready for strike

BY STEVE HALPERN

PHILADELPHIA — Local 92 of the United Auto Workers union voted 1,038 to 43 in favor of authorizing a strike against the Budd Company here. One of the big reasons for this one-sided vote is because Budd has demanded concessions before and is again demanding a broad range of takebacks.

In the current negotiations Budd wants to separate Local 92, which manufactures passenger rail cars, from the other Budd locals, which manufacture auto parts, thus breaking up the Budd Council as a bargaining unit.

A new company has been formed at the rail car plant called Transit America. If the company is successful in breaking up the Budd Council, the bargaining power of all the locals would be weakened and pension funds would be undermined. Thyssen, the German steel conglomerate that owns Budd, is also asking for a \$2.14 per hour

pay cut and that each employee be made to pay \$1,200 for medical insurance.

In the previous contract Thyssen asked Local 92 to reopen the contract. The company's financial records were given to the union to examine in order to "prove" that the transit division was losing large amounts of money. Because of this and the fact that many unions throughout the country were agreeing to concession contracts, Local 92 agreed to reopen the contract. Eventually four paid vacation days and a cost-of-living increase were lost. A speedup plan was also agreed to.

The main issue that workers in the plant are concerned with is the need to maintain unity in the Budd Council. Parallels with the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization are also on the minds of many workers. Judging by the sentiment in the plant, Thyssen won't have an easy job of getting what it wants when the contract expires on March 8.

Grenada: a revolution and its overthrow

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

March 13 marks the sixth anniversary of the Grenada revolution. On March 13, 1979, the workers and farmers of that Caribbean island overthrew a hated U.S.-backed dictator — Eric Gairy. They set up a workers and farmers government headed by Maurice Bishop. That popular government was overthrown in October 1983 in a counterrevolutionary coup led by its deputy prime minister, Bernard Coard, opening the door for the subsequent U.S. invasion of the country.

U.S. imperialist troops still occupy Grenada today. Part of the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean is the demand for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Grenada.

Grenada revolution: beacon light

The U.S. invasion of Grenada signaled a qualitative turning point in Washington's war against working people in this hemisphere.

Ever since the success of the revolution, the imperialists have waged a fierce slander campaign against it. They seek to lessen the impact that the gains of the Grenada revolution have made on the oppressed and exploited in the United States. U.S. working people saw in Grenada that the exploited producers of the city and countryside can make big economic, social, and political advances when they take political power.

For U.S. Blacks, the impact of the Grenada revolution was especially great. They saw working people of their own color waging a genuine national liberation struggle and advancing their own class interests.

Moreover, the successful Grenada revolution represented yet another step forward in the advance of the socialist revolution in the Americas. Like Cuba and Nicaragua, it showed that the fight for national liberation requires the revolutionary overturn of capitalist rule. Grenadian workers and farmers, under the leadership of Maurice Bishop and the team of revolutionaries around him, set out on the path charted by the Cuban revolution 20 years before it. They overthrew a brutal capitalist regime, wielded political power in the interests of the workers and farmers, and used it to begin the process of winning national liberation and building socialism.

Preventing workers and farmers in Central America and the Caribbean from taking power while trying to overturn the successful revolutions in the region is the most important task the U.S. rulers have set for themselves. This goal is a life-or-death question for the imperialists. They depend upon exploiting the low-cost labor power and abundant natural resources of the underdeveloped world.

Economic and social gains attacked

A central priority of the Bishop-led government was economic development and jobs. The revolutionary government launched programs that reduced unemployment from nearly 50 percent to 12 percent. The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) advanced Grenada's agricultural development through generous aid to farmers and the establishment of "agro-industries."

Unions, the target of brutal repression



Militant/Flax Hermes

Contingent of Grenadian agricultural workers in 1982 May Day demonstration. Under revolutionary government led by Maurice Bishop, Grenadian working people were armed, organized, and mobilized. Revolution, however, was betrayed from within, opening door to U.S. invasion.

under the Gairy dictatorship, blossomed under the PRG. Established unions grew qualitatively, and new unions, such as the Agricultural and General Workers Union, were formed. Membership in the island's unions rose from 30 percent to some 90 percent of the work force.

On the social front, the PRG carried out a successful adult education program and made secondary education free. Medical and dental care were made free. And Grenadian women made important advances toward equality during the revolution as well.

But under the U.S. occupation, unemployment has jumped to at least 33 percent. Some U.S. and Grenadian officials place that figure at 50 to 60 percent. Free health care and free education are threatened, and all the other economic and social gains of the revolution are being undermined.

The overthrow of the Grenada revolution and the subsequent U.S. invasion were a devastating defeat for working people. The U.S. rulers directly intervened with massive numbers of U.S. troops — the first such use of U.S. soldiers in Washington's aggression in the region since 1965. Their military success has emboldened the Pentagon and spurred imperialism's war against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran people.

The Grenada defeat took place in the framework of other setbacks for working people internationally. Since 1979, working people haven't been able to take power in any other countries. The U.S. capitalist class has intensified its war in Central America, seriously challenging the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran revolutionaries.

Nevertheless, it was not inevitable that the U.S. government would intervene in Grenada in October 1983, nor was it inevitable that it would win. Under the Bishop-led government, the Grenadian masses were armed, organized, and mobilized in defense of their revolution. It was the beheading of the Grenadian revolutionary forces and disarming of the people there by

a Stalinist faction within the ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM) that allowed the U.S. military victory to come relatively cheap in U.S. lives and dollars.

Coard faction sets stage

A clique of government functionaries and military officers led by Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard set the stage for the U.S. invasion of the country by carrying out a counterrevolutionary coup in October 1983. The revolution's betrayers placed Prime Minister Bishop and other central leaders under arrest on October 12.

Coard's faction claimed to be applying "Marxist-Leninist" principles, but in reality this clique used bureaucratic and administrative methods to try to meet the challenges and problems confronting the revolution. Moreover, they placed the narrow interests of their bureaucratic grouping above those of the masses of Grenadian workers and farmers, rejecting a working-class internationalist stance.

When between one-third and one-half of Grenada's 111,000 people poured into the streets October 19, freed Bishop and other leaders, and challenged Coard's new regime, the revolution's traitors turned their guns on the people. Bishop and other top leaders of the ruling NJM were murdered, dozens of demonstrators were gunned down, and the entire population was placed under a 24-hour shoot-on-sight curfew that lasted four days.

The terror of Coard's so-called Revolutionary Military Council was brief, but brutal. This military regime had no popular support, which was the opening the U.S. employers were looking for.

The massive U.S. invasion began October 25, 1983. Within days, thousands of U.S. troops and a smattering of soldiers from proimperialist regimes in the region had crushed the exemplary armed resistance of Cuban construction workers and the courageous, but weak and disorganized Grenadians who fought the attack.

To this day, Grenada remains an occupied country. There are some 600 U.S. and other foreign troops occupying the island now. On February 8, the Reagan administration announced that at least some troops will stay until September 1985.

Imperialists reimpose rule

The U.S. employers and their government didn't invade Grenada to *rescue* its people, but to reimpose U.S. imperialist domination over them. For nearly a year and a half now, the U.S. rulers have been rolling back the remaining economic and social gains of the revolution. They have also successfully installed a new puppet regime, which makes them feel confident enough to leave the enforcement of imperialist domination to local "security" forces.

At U.S. insistence, several capitalist parties merged to form Grenada's New National Party. Herbert Blaize, who heads the party and was prime minister of a previous neocolonial regime on the island, was elected Grenada's new prime minister in last December's U.S.-sponsored elections. The imperialists are also continuing their

ideological battle against support for the Bishop-led revolution. The current trial of Bernard Coard and others who organized the October 1983 overthrow of the revolutionary government is being used to try to justify renewed imperialist domination of the island. The U.S. capitalists and their lackeys hope to sully Bishop's memory and smear the entire Grenada revolution.

Coard and his cohorts should be brought to justice for their treacherous betrayal of the revolution. But revolutionary justice can only be meted out by Grenada's workers and farmers. This task isn't possible as long as Grenada is occupied by the U.S. government and its hirelings.

Meanwhile, a layer of the most class-conscious workers is resisting these attacks and opposing the U.S. occupation. At the center of this initial fightback stands a layer of the surviving revolutionary vanguard. Some of the revolutionary leaders who were part of Bishop's team are still alive. They focus their work in the unions and in a new party, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM).

The party is led by Kendrick Radix, who chairs its steering committee, and George Louison, the former minister of agriculture in the PRG. Louison also heads the Maurice Bishop and Martyrs of October 19, 1983, Foundation, an organization dedicated to keeping alive the memory of Bishop and his comrades.

New party fights occupation

Using its political manifesto and the pages of *Indies Times*, its weekly newspaper, the MBPM seeks to organize the most militant and combative youth and workers around support for the program and policies of the Bishop leadership. The key aspect of the party's program is opposition to the U.S. occupation. An important part of the discussion that MBPM activists are having with supporters of the Grenada revolution is trying to clarify the reasons for the revolution's overthrow, and the counterrevolutionary character of the Coard coup.

The MBPM fielded candidates in last December's elections and used its campaign to explain Bishop's political legacy. The MBPM garnered more than 2,000 votes in the U.S.-rigged elections, reflecting the significant support the new party already enjoys among Grenadian workers and farmers.

The MBPM has put the demand for withdrawal of U.S. and proimperialist troops at the center of its program.

Despite their invasion and occupation of Grenada, the U.S. rulers haven't succeeded in reversing the revolution's impact among working people in the United States, the Caribbean, nor in Grenada itself. The revolutionary legacy of Bishop remains to haunt the imperialists.

The best way to fight against the continued U.S. occupation and aid militant fighters in Grenada is to build the broadest possible participation in the April 20 antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and on the West Coast. There could be no better tribute to Bishop and the other martyrs of the Grenada revolution.

Maurice Bishop Speaks

A collection of more than 20 major interviews with and speeches by the slain leader of the Grenada revolution and New Jewel Movement, including his June 1983 speech in New York City.

Contents also include a major new introduction covering the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the devastating blow dealt to the Grenada revolution by the murder of Prime Minister Bishop and other outstanding leaders of the New Jewel Movement; the October 20 statement by the Cuban government on the killing of Bishop and the other leaders; and the October 25-26 statement by Cuban President Fidel Castro on the U.S. invasion and Cuba's role in Grenada.

400 pp., \$6.95, published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for shipping.



The Flores family: Salvadoran refugees fighting deportation

Family of six seeks sanctuary in New Jersey church

BY BARBARA CAMPBELL

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — On January 15, the Justice Department handed down 16 indictments of North Americans, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detained more than 60 Central American refugees, as part of a roundup directed against the thousands of refugees, church people, and their supporters who are part of the national network known as the sanctuary movement. More than 200 churches and synagogues throughout the United States provide homes for Salvadorans and Guatemalans fleeing U.S.-backed terror in their homelands.

One such sanctuary is here in Piscataway, New Jersey, at the St. Michaels Chapel. The week of the indictments, the INS arrived at the chapel and asked Rev. Henry Atkins, the chaplain, to bring the family he was sheltering to the INS office in Newark.

Atkins refused. Sanctuary supporters held a news conference demanding an end to such harassment.

Atkins hasn't been indicted yet, and none of the members of the Salvadoran refugee family of six housed in the chapel have been arrested by the INS. "But we all live daily with the threat that it could happen any time," Atkins said.

The Salvadoran family at St. Michaels calls itself the Flores family. In the Flores family is Ramon, the father; Roberto, Ramon's brother; Victoria, the mother; and three children: Lupita, Lilly, and Freddie, ages six, three, and 18 months.

The Flores family has been in sanctuary in Piscataway since August 1984. Atkins told their story.

Ramon was a medical student and Victoria was an educational psychology student at the National University in San Salvador, El Salvador's capital. When the government closed down the university in 1980, the couple began working with a church-sponsored refugee camp. The assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero by government-supported, right-wing death squads in 1980 opened a period of intensified government repression in El Salvador. Many activists like Ramon and Victoria were killed or imprisoned. The entire Flores family was arrested.

The three children were allowed to remain in prison with their mother, but only for a brief time. They were soon taken from Victoria's prison to an orphanage, one that had a reputation for arranging adoptions for wealthy foreigners.

The official line at the orphanage was that the children had been found in the

street and that the parents were dead. For some time, the children believed that they had indeed been orphaned.

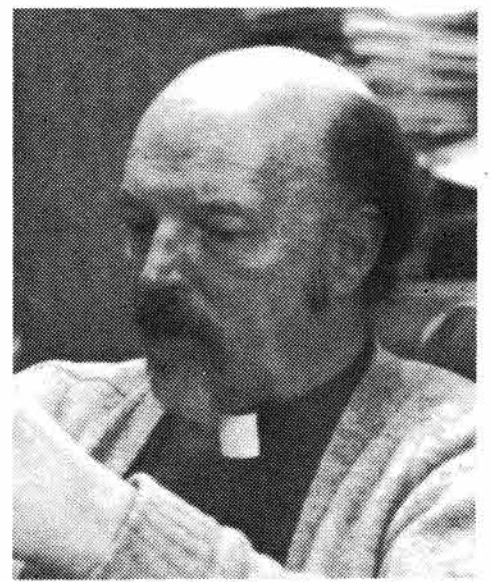
Victoria was finally released from jail. But Ramon was held for almost a year; he was tortured daily for some time.

Relatives got enough money together to pay off a judge. That, along with political pressure organized by supporters, resulted in Ramon's release. He was flown to Mexico and the family was reunited. After making contact with fellow Salvadoran church workers there, the Flores family decided to go into public sanctuary in the United States.

The proposal to provide them sanctuary at the chapel won the approval of 99 percent of the membership of the church when the vote was taken in May.

"There are hundreds, probably thousands in the area who support us," said Atkins. St. Michaels is an Episcopal university-connected chapel, so the sanctuary gets strong support, according to Atkins, from Black student groups, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and faculty members at Rutgers University, a state college.

Support has also come from the Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey, Bishop Mellick Belshaw, as well as the New Jersey



Militant/Barbara Campbell
Rev. Henry Atkins, chaplain of church in Piscataway, New Jersey, refused INS demand to stop sheltering refugee family.

Council of Churches.

Atkins attended the national sanctuary conference of 1,300 recently held in Tucson, Arizona.

The U.S. government's crackdown on the sanctuaries has been accomplished with the aid of FBI infiltration. Atkins learned at the conference that the FBI acquired more than 100 hours of tape recordings from "agents sporting body tapes who attended prayer groups and church services, not just organizational meetings."

In reference to the FBI's cloak-and-dagger activities, Atkins pointed out that the churches that have become sanctuaries have been totally public about their actions. Data is not what the FBI is after. "Their real purpose in infiltrating churches is to attempt to create fear, paranoia, and confusion within the sanctuary movement," he said.

What the government is attempting to do with the current persecution of the sanctuary movement is "to test how the U.S. public will react to this crackdown on people who are opposed to U.S. policies. They feel that if they can destroy the organized opposition to U.S. policy in Central America, it will be easier for them to invade Nicaragua or El Salvador."

"Our job," Atkins said, "must be to keep up the pressure on the INS, the Justice Department, and the State Department not to make the arrests. Statements and letters demanding hands off the sanctuary movement should be sent to Attorney General William French Smith, Justice Department, Washington, D.C.; and to the INS, 970 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey, 07102."

Messages of support can be sent to St. Michaels Chapel, 40 Davidson Road, Piscataway, New Jersey, 08854.

NBIPP forum commemorates Malcolm X

BY PAT WRIGHT

NEW YORK — "Malcolm X and the freedom struggle in South Africa" was the theme of a forum sponsored by the Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) on February 20 at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building in Harlem. About 80 people came out to commemorate this 20th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X.

After showing the film, *Malcolm X — Struggle for Freedom*, the overwhelmingly Black audience heard tributes to Malcolm X from Akua Montero, member of Manhattan NBIPP, and David Ndaba of the African National Congress (ANC).

Montero called attention to February as Black History Month, and said, "NBIPP has decided to pay tribute to Malcolm X, who developed his ideas during the civil rights movement, when Blacks were under attack by racist mobs like the KKK, who went unpunished for their violence against our people." She said Malcolm X "asserted that the U.S. government was unwilling to do anything for Black people because it is a racist capitalist government, and the only way Blacks are going to win their freedom is to fight for it."

After further explaining Malcolm's views on Black history, the Democratic and Republican parties, and the need to unite with the oppressed and exploited around the world, Montero said, "Malcolm was confident capitalism could be defeated. But it will take action, which is

why NBIPP is joining the united march on April 20th in Washington to oppose U.S. government policy from Central America to Southern Africa." She urged everyone to do the same.

David Ndaba spoke about the impact Malcolm X had on the liberation struggle in South Africa. "Even though Malcolm's speeches have been banned in South Africa, freedom fighters managed to read and hear them, and saw him as a man of action who worked with the masses, and paid attention to the education of African people."

Following up on Malcolm X's emphasis on Blacks knowing their own history, Ndaba spoke about the African resistance to colonization, and the brutal imposition of the racist apartheid system by force. He explained the formation of the ANC out of the struggle against apartheid.

In conclusion, Ndaba read from ANC leader Nelson Mandela's letter from

prison, recently released in response to the South African government's offer to give him freedom if he would denounce the anti-apartheid movement. In his letter Mandela made clear his staunch defense of the national liberation struggle being led by the ANC.

The discussion that followed revolved around the consciousness of Black youth in South Africa and the United States, U.S. corporations' racist policies, and what Blacks can do here in the United States against apartheid.

Ndaba reemphasized that the U.S. government is the main obstacle. Black people, Ndaba noted, have a responsibility to play a leading role in the anti-apartheid movement.

Twelve copies of NBIPP's programmatic charter and several copies of a newsletter put out by Manhattan NBIPP were bought by participants.

Apartheid protests in Miami gain victories

BY ALAN GUMMERSON

MIAMI — Anti-apartheid forces in Miami have scored some victories in recent weeks.

Southeast Bank, the largest bank in Florida, agreed in mid-January to stop selling the South African gold coins called Krugerrands. This decision followed two well-publicized pickets by the newly formed Coalition for a Free South Africa.

The bank's decision was also spurred by the action of the City Commission of Opa Locka, a largely Black suburb of Miami, to withdraw city funds from the bank to protest coin sales which support the racist government of South Africa.

Within a week, the Miami City Commission passed an ordinance requiring the city to divest itself of all pension fund investments in corporations that profit from the low wages and brutal working conditions of South African Blacks.

The coalition followed up by coordinating a campaign that forced the withdrawal of the South African racing team from the February 23-24 Miami Grand Prix auto race.

The coalition began its Grand Prix campaign by making plans to demonstrate against the participation of the South African team, and to call on the Miami City Commission to withdraw support from the organizers of the race because of the connection with apartheid.

A Black member of the Miami City

Commission was persuaded to put on the agenda of the next meeting a resolution that the South African team was not welcome in Miami. The local race organizer finally agreed to read a statement at a news conference that the South Africans were not welcome, though he denied that he had the power to exclude the team.

Before the news conference could be

held, or the City Commission resolution acted upon, the sponsors of the South Africa team announced that the team was withdrawing from the race due to "mechanical problems."

Meanwhile, another anti-apartheid group, the Free South Africa Movement, has begun protests at the University of Miami for its links to apartheid.

Ariz. labor backs sanctuary activists

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — The Central Arizona Labor Council heard indicted sanctuary activist Wendy LeWin and Rev. Joedd Miller, a member of the Valley Religious Task Force on Central America, on February 12. The council adopted by unanimous vote a resolution supporting them. It also decided to send a protest message to the U.S. attorney for Arizona, and voted to make an initial contribution of \$250 to the sanctuary movement legal defense fund.

The resolution it passed said:

"Whereas, the workers and union leaders in Central America face oppression, repression, torture, and murder, forcing many to flee in order to save their lives, and

"Whereas, the United States of America has historically been a haven for refugees seeking political asylum, and

"Whereas, thousands of citizens in the United States have risked danger and imprisonment by helping refugees through their involvement in the Sanctuary Movement, and

"Whereas, together we have the power to make a difference,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Central Arizona Labor Council publicly and strongly condemn the placement of infiltrators and undercover agents by the United States Department of Justice into the Sanctuary Movement and other organizations engaged in peaceful political activity, and

"Be it further resolved that the Central Arizona Labor Council stand in support of the Sanctuary Movement and urge the immediate granting of Extended Voluntary Departure for all refugees escaping from Central America."

Books to read by Malcolm X

By Any Means Necessary	\$3.95
Malcolm X on Afro-American History	2.95
Malcolm X Talks to Young People	.75
Two Speeches by Malcolm X	.75
Malcolm X Speaks	5.95
The Autobiography of Malcolm X	2.95

Order from Pathfinder Press
410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014
(include 75¢ for postage and handling)

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Nicaragua Today: An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Martin Boyers, member Young Socialist Alliance, recent participant in Crystal Lee Sutton International Harvest Brigade to Nicaragua. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 305 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

The World Economic Crisis: Its Impact on U.S. Labor and Working Farmers. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, National Committee member, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 9, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell #3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Abortion Rights Under Attack: How to Defend a Woman's Right to Choose. Speaker: Pam Burchett, representative Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 381-9460.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Freedom Struggle Benefit. Featuring jazz singers, entertainers, and poets. The Ojeda Penn Experience, Alice Lovelace, Woodie Neal Parsons, and Lee Heuermann. Sat., April 13. Atlanta Junior College Auditorium, 1360 Stewart Ave. Tickets: \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Children free. Ausp: National Black Independent Political Party. For more information call (404) 622-4120 or 624-4331.

No More Vietnams in Central America and Caribbean! Down With Apartheid in South Africa! Join NBIPP on April 20 in going to Washington, D.C., for the march against war and oppression. For more information call (404) 622-4120 or 624-4331.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Fight for Women's Rights — from Central America to the Coal Mines in Britain. A panel discussion with Estella Ramirez, in sanctuary in Cambridge, helped organize MUSYGES (United Movement of Unions and

Thousands demonstrate for voting rights

Continued from back page

entire eight miles of the first day's march toward Montgomery. He's been active in protests in Marion in defense of Albert Turner.

"After 20 years, it's great that this many people are still trying to keep the dream alive," he said. "So many people have died for our right to go up and down these streets."

He said he agreed with speakers who called for carrying the movement forward to deal with issues such as jobs, housing, hunger, and war. "It's not just a Black-white thing — it's for labor, for farmers, for all working people, all God's people."

Guilds of El Salvador); others. Showing of videotape *Not Just Tea and Sandwiches*, about the role of women in the British coal miners strike. Sun., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Avenue, 4th floor, Kenmore T. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Nicaraguan Farmers Speak on Agricultural Reform and U.S.-backed war. Speakers: Juan and Piedad Tijerino, representatives of Nicaraguan Association of Farmers and Ranchers. Sun., March 10, 7 p.m. UAW Local 879 hall, 2191 Ford Parkway. Ausp: North American Farm Alliance. For more information call (612) 439-9717.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Farm Crisis: What Future for U.S. Working Farmers? Speakers: Leland Fanning, dairy farmer; Lynn Lewis, solidarity activist recently returned from farm tour of Nicaragua; Andrea Gonzalez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 8, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Benefit for the New Bertha Calderón Women's Hospital in Managua. Cultural evening and dance. Program will feature new slideshows, including two on women in Nicaragua. Sat., March 16, 7 p.m. Taller Latinoamericano, 19 W 21 St., 2nd floor, just off 5th Ave. Admission: \$5. Ausp: Nicaragua Support Project and Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador. For more information call (212) 475-7159 or 242-1040.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

International Women's Day — Working Women Speak Out. Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5596.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Celebrate International Women's Day: Cuban Women Lead the Way. Showing of Cuban film, *Lucia*. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Nicaragua — the Revolution Advances. An eyewitness report and slideshow by a panel of Houston-area trade unionists. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

The Famine in Ethiopia: Who is Responsible? A panel discussion. Sat., March 16, 7 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Women and the Fight Against U.S. Intervention in Central America. Slideshow presentation with Joan MacLean, recently returned from El Salvador; Jill Fein, member Socialist Workers Party and International Association of Machinists Local 751. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m.

5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5530.

Rally Against Apartheid In Commemoration of International Women's Day. Sun., March 10, 12:45 p.m. South African Consulate, 835 Hillside Dr. E. Ausp: Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid. For more information call (206) 722-3725.

Direct From Nicaragua: The Hon. Ray Hooker. Elected representative to Nicaragua's National Assembly from the Atlantic Coast Region. Mon., March 11, 7:30 p.m. Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University. Donation: \$4. Ausp: El Centro de la Raza. For more information call (206) 329-2947.

Ireland: the Struggle Against British Rule. Slideshow and discussion. Speakers: Cait Callen, president, Seattle chapter Irish-American Unity Conference; Charles McAleese, Irish Northern Aid; Dean Peoples, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Socialist Educational Weekend. Forum: "U.S. Politics Today: Labor's Stake in the Fight Against War." Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Commemorate anniversary of Grenada revolution Showings of Cuban film 'Maurice'

A documentary on the Grenada revolution and the life of murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Francisco

Fri., March 15, 7 and 9 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

San Jose

Sun., March 17, 6 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

FLORIDA

Miami

Grand opening of Pathfinder Bookstore with showing of film *Maurice*. Sat., March 16. Open house all day. Film, 8 p.m. 137 NE 54 St. Donation for film: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Tribute to Maurice Bishop. Film showing of *Maurice* followed by panel discussion. Speakers: Mark Emanation, Pathfinder Press; Dr. Faye Harrison, professor, University of Louisville; Rev. Ron Robinson, president, Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Wed., March 13, 7 p.m. Manley Center, 1018 S 7th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Press. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

Classes: "The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party." Sun., March 24, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2 per session (\$6 total). Ausp: SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call: (206) 723-5330.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Bernhard Goetz: Hero or Racist Vigilante? Speakers: Alderman Michael McGee; Norma Balentine, Congress for a Working America; Mindy Brudno, Socialist Workers Party; Lucielle Berrian, National Black Independent Political Party. Fri., March 8, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Ireland: The Struggle for Freedom. Speakers: Bill Lange, member Human Rights Committee, Allied Industrial Workers Local 232; Chris Rayson, representative Socialist Workers Party and member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 64. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Sun., March 10, 7 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Discussion to follow film. Sun., March 17, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 646-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Legacy of the Grenada Revolution. Speakers: Joachim Mark, Grenadian historian; Mohammed Oliver, Socialist Workers Party; representatives from Metro Black United Front, African National Congress of South Africa, and Dominican Bloque Socialista. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 15, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cleveland

Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Commentary to follow film. Speaker: Marklyn Wilson, representative Socialist Workers Party and member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 128. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. **Seaside:** SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1645. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381073. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:**

YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-1018.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 7146 W. McNichols. Zip: 48221. Tel: (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-

0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 301 S. Elm St., Suite 522. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:**

YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409

Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Road, Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Think you're crazy? — You really thought the big-business press defends the interests of big business? Nope. It's trying to "tear



Harry Ring

down America" and is made up of "a narrow fringe element on the far left of our society." That's according to Dr. George Keyworth II, nuclear physicist and director of the White House Office of Sci-

ence and Technology.

Freedom fighter — Francisco Guirola, a right-wing Salvadoran politico, was busted in Corpus Christi, Texas, carrying a stash of \$5.9 million in small bills. Guirola is tight with Roberto D'Aubuisson, National Assembly member and death-squad leader. Guirola's private jet has been winging between here and various Central American countries. Drug running, money laundering, and plans to buy the March 31 Salvadoran elections are suspected.

Kind of like champagne — Authorities said they cleaned up a "minor" chemical spill from the American Cyanamid plant in Lin-

den, N.J. There have been several chemical leaks at the plant in recent months. A Linden official said the latest was "nothing environmentally hazardous, just a lot of bubbles."

It figures — The government is quietly circulating a proposal that would shut down more than half the nation's Social Security field offices, according to Rep. Roybal of California. The field offices are where you apply for benefits.

Our caring society — In St. Louis, the utilities folk are helping some of the poor to escape freezing to death. One room in each of 200 low-income homes is insulated and heated, while the others

remain "cool." "It reverts back to the pioneer days when everybody stayed by the fire," one utility official enthused. Added another, "We're not recommending that people spend their entire life in one room. But in this extreme weather it's ideal."

Give the kid something to clutch — Since it has a silver nipple, it's probably more for show than use, but Lord & Taylor is offering a crystal and sterling baby bottle. \$55.

They'll drink to that — ST. PAUL, Feb. 23 (UPI) — Archbishop John J. Roach, former president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, apologized today for his arrest on

a charge of drunken driving. . . . He told a meeting of archdiocesan leaders he wanted to stay on his job, and got a long standing ovation — News item.

"You really are top dog" — A New York consulting firm uses hypnosis to teach unemployed business execs how to build confidence and restore self-esteem while searching for a new job.

Housing tip — It's just a "sliver" of a building that's going up in Manhattan. Twenty-one stories high, it will house but 10 duplex condos. About \$1.5 million each. Best of all, you don't even have to traipse over to see it. A mobile presentation will be arranged at your home or office.

Thousands of farmers march, demand federal aid

Continued from front page

ing people and the poor join family farmers, churches, and rural businesses."

Carlos Polit, a member of the United Auto Workers union from Rock Island, Illinois, works for International Harvester. He said, "We're not building new farm equipment, only building service parts," because of the farm collapse. "As soon as they don't need us anymore . . . we'll get the unemployment line." As a result of industrial stagnation, he charged, "I've seen homes repossessed, bankruptcy, alcoholism, and mental disorder."

Polit said farmers and laid-off workers need immediate, emergency, federal relief.

Naomi Benson, Colorado farmer and vice president of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), addressed city workers. She stressed that farmers are the "largest consumer of steel and rubber . . . our ability to buy keeps these industries running." Benson said, "22 million people, or 20 percent of the working population, rely on agriculture for employment. We need help in a crisis that is affecting each and every U.S. citizen." She blasted U.S. embargos that hurt farmers, and to a standing ovation said, "It does not make sense to trade farms for arms."

Catholic Bishop Maurice Dingham of Des Moines, Iowa, one of the keynote speakers, pointed out that 250 farmers are driven into bankruptcy each day. "I say to our leaders . . . we need emergency credit assistance to plant spring crops . . . we need Congress to pass legislation . . . we need a just 1985 farm bill. Answers are not just strong exports . . . or a free market. . . . That will seal the fate of family farmers."

Corky Jones, Nebraska farmer and president of AAM, Inc., spoke briefly. He said farmers have been getting prices "20 to 25 percent below the cost of production." He charged, "We're victims of poor management by the political leadership of the state and nation . . . a leadership that could and should be charged with treason." He in-

vited participants to join a "parity march" in Washington, D.C., March 4 called by AAM, Inc.

Jon Wefald, chancellor of the Minnesota State University system and former Minnesota commissioner of agriculture, also spoke. "The American heartland is rising up," he said. "We're doing it together . . . the last 30 years both the Republicans and Democrats have let us down, and we're tired of it."

Other speakers at the rally included representatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Grange, the National Consumer League, Prairie Fire, and the Farm Crisis Committee. A banker and a fertilizer dealer also spoke.

This rally had broad unity among farm organizations, and all points of view were seriously listened to. However, the audience sharply booed when it was announced that a representative of the Iowa Farm Bureau would speak. The Farm Bureau, which grew out of the government-financed county agent extension service in the early part of the century, is today a huge business empire including insurance, oil, fertilizer, and finance companies.



Farmers protesting in Ames, Iowa.

Many farmers are angered by the Bureau's efforts to pass itself off as a farm organization, but a representative was allowed to speak, without interruption, later in the rally.

Cy Carpenter, president of the National Farmers Union, closed the rally by urging people to send postcards to Washington legislators and to phone senators to win their vote for farm legislation.

Report bares N.Y. vigilante's racism

Continued from back page

new to most people, they were known to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau since early January. The prosecutor failed to win an indictment for attempted murder against Goetz from a Manhattan grand jury despite the fact that he controls the evidence and interpretation of the law considered by that body.

Prosecutors consistently manipulate grand juries, which serve to rubber stamp district attorney recommendations. Sol Wachtler, the chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, admitted a prosecutor could get a grand jury to indict anyone — even "a ham sandwich." The grand

jury's refusal to indict Goetz for attempted murder shows that Morgenthau orchestrated the proceedings to guarantee that Goetz got off.

The police report — along with Goetz' statements — has further exposed Goetz as a racist and swung public opinion against him. This shift has forced some capitalist politicians to call for a new grand jury to indict Goetz for attempted murder.

While Mayor Edward Koch, a supporter of Goetz, has not joined in this call, he has stated that he was "stepping back" because "I am in possession of more facts."

This shift in public opinion has also led Herman Farrell, one of Koch's opponents

for the Democratic Party's nomination in the mayoral race, to make a statement on the Goetz case. Farrell said he believed that the shooting was racially motivated. "The fourth one appears to have been shot originally just because he was Black and riding on the subway. The other three were close to him [Goetz] and it is still an argument whether he had a right to do that or not."

Carol Bellamy, the other Democrat running for mayor, still has not issued a statement on the Goetz case.

Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, also commented on the new information in the case. "The report verifies what supporters of Black rights knew from the beginning: that Goetz is a racist who shot those youths simply because they were Black," said González.

"Goetz is walking free today because the district attorney, along with the mayor, supports racist violence against the Black community both at the hands of the cops and at the hands of individual bigots," she declared.

In commenting on the statements by her opponents, González said that "Koch always had the facts. He is 'stepping back' today because now the working people of this city also have the facts and are rejecting this racist violence."

"Democrat Farrell has not condemned this attack on the Black community. And now, months later his statement comes down to an argument about the 'right' of a white man to shoot Blacks who are 'close to him' on a subway," said González.

"As for Bellamy's silence, all I can conclude is that for her the racist shooting of four Black youths is not important enough to be an issue in her campaign."

González concluded, "I join with the families of the four victims and with all defenders of Black rights to demand that Goetz be indicted for attempted murder."

Pan Am workers strike to defend union

Continued from front page

negotiated in secret. Eastern workers on the Pan Am picket line chanted, "We're next."

Within Pan Am itself the strike is successful so far. TWU picketers report very few workers from the other unions are crossing the picket lines. Pan Am operations are sharply reduced. Most flights in the United States have been cancelled.

But management scabs are running the profitable overseas flights.

Many Pan Am workers are hoping for more help from other airline workers, especially in Britain, where they can shut down the London operation.

Many Pan Am workers in Miami are former members of the Machinists union. They worked for National Airlines, which merged with Pan Am in 1980. One of their hard-fought strikes against National was won primarily because of solidarity by workers in the British union that serviced National's planes. During that strike, the British workers refused to refuel the planes. Mechanics there noted urgent re-

pairs and put the planes up on jacks — where they stayed until the strike was over.

The issues in the strike at Pan Am have been building for several years.

Since 1981, Pan Am workers have given up over \$300 million in concessions to the company. In spite of these negotiated concessions, the company illegally took more. They unilaterally froze pension payments and ignored the contract agreement to restore a 14 percent pay cut. The pension freeze forced Pan Am workers out on a one-day strike last year. And the company refusal to restore the 14 percent pay cut ended up in court, where the unions won twice before the company decided not to appeal again.

Ironically the appeals court decision to restore the pay cuts only resulted in the 14 percent appearing on one check — the one issued the day the strike started. Instead of paying the 14 percent retroactive to January 1, as the court ruled, Pan Am only paid the 14 percent for one pay period.

The strike is over the pay raises that Pan

Am workers have not had since 1981, and restoring the pension plan. It is also against drastic company proposals concerning a two-tier wage scale and the company's demand for unlimited rights to hire part-time and temporary workers who would not be in the union. Pan Am wants to establish new pay and benefit scales for the part-time, temporary, and also new full-time union members that would be at about half the level of current wages. They also want to be able to order workers to transfer to other cities or lose their jobs.

At a March 3 meeting, the flight attendants, who are already honoring the TWU strike, voted by a large margin to go on strike after a federally mandated 30-day waiting period. The company has been boasting that it is hiring and training scabs to replace the flight attendants.

Another company attack was the sale of three Pan Am kitchen facilities to the nonunion Marriott Corp. and the announcement that the jobs of 700 TWU members who worked in those facilities are being eliminated.

Spying on sanctuary movement

The Central Arizona Labor Council has taken a step that deserves to be noted by the labor movement in the rest of the country. On February 12 the council unanimously voted to approve a resolution condemning recent federal indictments of activists in the Central America sanctuary movement. It also kicked in \$250 toward their legal defense. (See news article, page 11.)

One of the points in the AFL-CIO body's resolution that deserves special attention is: "Be it firmly resolved that the Central Arizona Labor Council publicly and strongly condemn the placement of infiltrators and undercover agents by the United States Department of Justice into the Sanctuary Movement and other organizations engaged in peaceful political activity."

The government's violation of fundamental democratic rights by sending spies into the sanctuary movement is a threat to all organizations — including unions — that seek to advance the interests of working people.

Under the smokescreen of obtaining "evidence," the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) carried out a 10-month spying operation against refugees and their supporters. The INS used undercover informants, conducted early morning raids, ransacked activists' homes, and for months infiltrated meetings at churches in Tucson and Phoenix.

INS agents, with tape recorders and transmitters strapped to their bodies, secretly taped meetings, personal conversations in homes and cars, and telephone calls. In all, they collected some 40,000 pages of "evidence" and taped at least 100 hours of meetings and private conversations.

The claim that all this was necessary to secure indict-

ments is laughable. The 200 churches that offer shelter to refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala have done so publicly, in a number of cases announcing their intention on local and national television.

The sanctuary activists do not hide from public view. They seek news coverage because they want to get out the facts about the consequences of Washington's war in Central America. First and foremost is the fact that it is practically impossible for Salvadoran refugees to obtain asylum and remain legally in the United States. According to the INS's own figures, of the 13,501 Salvadorans who applied for asylum last year, only 503 were granted it. That is, a turndown rate of more than 96 percent.

The real aim of the INS infiltration is to intimidate those who already actively oppose Washington's war in Central America, to paint them as "dangerous" elements requiring "surveillance," and to discourage others from voicing the doubts, misgivings, and opposition they feel toward the new Vietnam War that is being prepared.

One year ago the FBI smeared CISPES (Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador), attempting to brand it as "terrorist" because it opposed U.S.-financed terror in El Salvador. Today the target has been expanded to include the sanctuary network of refugees and their supporters.

As the U.S. government pushes deeper into war in Central America, the effort to silence opposition targets will be expanded to the growing number of union brothers and sisters who want peace, not war. The Central Arizona AFL-CIO has set an example in recognizing this threat and responding to it.

Why Pentagon wants MX missile

It now appears likely that Congress will okay the production of 21 more MX missiles.

Rep. Jim Wright (D-Texas), the House majority leader, said the Washington-Moscow arms talks in Geneva "enhance the likelihood" that the further production of the supermissiles will be approved.

The bizarre rationalization offered by the Reagan administration and members of Congress for producing the MX is that a bigger U.S. arms buildup will persuade an allegedly reluctant Soviet Union to accept an arms reduction.

Three previous rounds of such talks have ended with further increases in the U.S. government's stockpile; Washington is now expanding its arsenal at a yearly rate three times that of the Soviet Union.

The MX missiles, like the "Star Wars" system they supplement, have been billed as "defensive" weapons and a "deterrent" to a conjured-up Soviet nuclear threat. Perhaps with intended Orwellian humor, Reagan has dubbed the MX the "Peacekeeper."

The "Peacekeeper" has a range of 8,000 miles and can carry 10 nuclear warheads. These can be directed at separate targets and are reportedly more accurate than the three-headed Minuteman missiles they supersede.

Originally, a Pentagon brain came up with the idea to have the MXs mounted on rail cars, shuttling back and forth across the west, allegedly so the Soviet Union wouldn't know where to aim.

Strong protest from working people in Utah and neighboring states, where the MX missiles were to be based, laid that plan to rest.

The MXs already built are deployed in silos that formerly housed the now obsolete Minutemen.

Since these silos are not immune to nuclear attack, Reagan has now assured Congress that "remarkable progress" has been made in developing a superhard silo, up to 40 times tougher than existing ones.

However, a Pentagon official has advised that the new, superhard silos will not be available until three years after all the MXs are deployed in the existing ones.

This does away with the pretense that the MX is intended as a deterrent to a Soviet first strike. The argument had been that because the MX would survive such an attack, it represented the threat of immediate retaliation.

However, neither the administration nor Congress seems bothered by this detail. That's because the talk about the defensive nature of the MX is simply that — talk. And the talk is intended to gull U.S. working people, not the Soviet Union.

The MX is a first-strike weapon, which, its designers hope, can penetrate Soviet defenses.

The Soviet Union has, on a number of occasions, reiterated its public pledge that it will never make a first nuclear strike. Washington refuses to make a similar commitment.

Washington, in fact, is the only government that has ever used nuclear weapons — it dropped two atomic bombs on Japan during World War II.

Since the Soviet Union developed its own nuclear capacity in the 1940s — in self-defense against U.S. imperialist aggression — Washington has been frustrated by the military balance this created. The balance pushed

back its plan for an attack on the USSR. But the Pentagon has never stopped working to achieve a scientific-technical breakthrough and a big enough arsenal to end the military standoff and give it a free hand.

This is because the capitalists who run this country realize that their world system of imperialist exploitation and oppression faces a mounting threat. Not from a mythical Soviet "subversion," but from the rising mass rebellion of the victims of that exploitation and oppression.

The ruthless war now being waged by U.S. imperialism in Central America is testimony to Washington's determination to crush that rebellion by any means available. And the Democratic Congressional complicity with the current arms escalation, as well as with the Central American aggression, confirms that the problem is not simply Ronald Reagan.

The present bipartisan drive to further multiply the Pentagon's overkill capacity underlines that all humanity has a stake in disarming the Washington warmakers.

Every opponent of the MX missile, and the danger it represents, has good reason to pitch in on building the April 20 antiwar demonstration.



Maurice Bishop on democracy and revolution

The following are excerpts from a June 1983 speech delivered by Grenada's former prime minister, Maurice Bishop, to more than 2,500 people at New York City's Hunter College. In these excerpts Bishop explained why the U.S. rulers feared the Grenada revolution, and answered the imperialist slander that Grenada's revolutionary government was undemocratic.

The full text of the speech can be found in *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, published by Pathfinder Press. The book costs \$6.95 and can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014.

[The imperialists] give all kinds of reasons and excuses [for their attacks] — some of them credible, some utter rubbish. We saw an interesting one recently in a secret report to the State Department. I want to tell you about that one, so you can reflect on it. That secret report made this

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

point: that the Grenada revolution is in one sense even worse — I'm using their language — than the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions because the people of Grenada and the leadership of Grenada speak English, and therefore can communicate directly with the people of the United States. [Applause]

I can see from your applause, sisters and brothers, that you agree with the report. But I want to tell you what that same report said that also made us very dangerous. That is that the people of Grenada and the leadership of Grenada are predominantly Black. [Applause] They said that 95 percent of our population is Black — and they had the correct statistic — and if we have 95 percent of predominantly African origin in our country, then we can have a dangerous appeal to 30 million Black people in the United States. [Applause] Now that aspect of the report, clearly, is one of the most sensible.

But, sisters and brothers, how do we evaluate other sides of the report? Like when they say that Grenada violates human rights. When they say to us, how come you have detainees, what about the press, what about elections? When they say to us: Where are your elections?, they don't turn around at the same time and say to their friends in South Africa: Where are your elections? [Applause]

When they say to us that elections must be held, and if you don't have elections you can't expect support, and unless you have elections we can't give you the normal treatment, we say: Salvador Allende of Chile. [Applause] Salvador Allende of Chile was elected in September 1970 by the people of Chile. Allende did not take power through a revolution. Within twenty-four hours of his election, Richard Nixon, [Henry] Kissinger, and [Richard] Helms sat down and devised their plan, "Operation Make the Economy Scream." And even in the first three months after Allende was elected, before he was inaugurated as president, they already tried to kill Allende once. They couldn't even wait for him to be formally inaugurated.

Allende did not form a militia. Allende did not grab any land or property. Allende had no political detainees. Allende did not crush the press. He did not close down the parliament. He did not suspend the constitution. He played by every rule they wrote. But they killed him still.

These people understand very well that a revolution means a new situation. A revolution implies a fracture. It implies a break with the past. It implies disruption of a temporary character. Revolution means that the abuses and excesses of the violent, reactionary, and disruptive minority have to be crushed so that the majority's interests can prevail. [Applause]

No revolution that does not have a dislocation can be called revolution. That is an impossibility. When the British had their revolution in the 1650s, it took them 200 years to call their first election. When the Americans had their revolution in 1776, it took them thirteen years to call their election.

In the first week of the American revolution, 100,000 fled to Canada. Thousands were locked up without charge or trial. Hundreds were shot. And the counterrevolutionaries after the American revolution had no right to vote. They had no right to teach. They had no right to preach. They had no right to a job. Their land was confiscated without payment.

So when the falsifiers of history try to pretend that the American revolution was a Boston tea party — it was a very bloody tea party.

International Women's Day: build April 20 rally

On March 8, supporters of women's liberation throughout the world mark International Women's Day. On that day we both celebrate our victories and rededicate ourselves to the fight for women's equality. In this country, the most important thing we can do to advance the fight for women's rights is to redouble our efforts to build the April 20 demonstration in Washington, D.C., against U.S. intervention in Central America.

The biggest battle in the fight for women's liberation on a world scale today is taking place in Nicaragua. It is



WOMEN IN REVOLT Pat Grogan

being fought by the working people of Nicaragua — with women in the front lines — against the efforts of the U.S. government to overthrow the Sandinista revolution and government.

I recently heard Josefina Ellizander, a representative of AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan Women's Association, speak to a meeting of the New York City chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). She explained women's lives had changed in Nicaragua since the 1979 Sandinista revolution overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship and established a workers and farmers government.

She summed it up this way: "Before the triumph of the revolution, it was dangerous just to be a woman in Nicaragua. Now, we have rights. We have a government that protects our rights."

Despite the hardships imposed by the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionary (*contra*) war against Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan government has made great strides in meeting the needs of working people and women. Women have especially benefited from the literacy crusades, health campaigns, and efforts to create jobs, housing, and child care. The first targets of the *contras*' destruction are the child-care and health-care centers set up by the Sandinista government.

Unlike the U.S. government, the Sandinista government is pushing forward the struggle for women's rights. It stands foursquare behind the efforts of women to free themselves. It champions equal pay, child care, and the full participation of women in all aspects of life. It leads an educational campaign for women's rights. And the use of women's bodies to sell products is outlawed in Nicaragua.

The reason women are making gains in Nicaragua is that the workers and farmers took power and began running their society in the interests of the overwhelming majority of working people. They put the needs of human beings ahead of the profits of a few ruling families, just as Cuba did more than 25 years ago. That is why Cuba and Nicaragua stand today as examples to women's liberation fighters throughout the world and in this country.

Women in this country are also the direct victims of the U.S. war drive. The social services we need are being cut back in order to finance it.

And women's rights in this country are under the most

concerted attack in over a decade. The cutting edge of this drive to reverse the gains of the women's liberation movement is aimed against abortion rights and is accompanied by a barrage of antiwomen propaganda.

This offensive against women's rights is inseparable from the ruling class offensive against all working people — here and throughout the world.

Women's rights fighters need to wage an uncompromising battle over the burning issues facing women: reproductive rights, child care, affirmative action, equal rights, and against the special oppression suffered as a result of racism by women of the oppressed nationalities.

The fight against the U.S. government's war against the working people — women and men — of Central America is part of this fight for women's liberation.

Many feminists, members of women's rights organizations, women unionists, and others have traveled to Nicaragua and seen for themselves the great advances women have made through the Nicaraguan revolution. Chapters of NOW and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) have organized educational programs on the liberation struggles in Central America.

Some NOW chapters have already begun to participate in building the April 20 rally.

One of the demands of April 20 is to "provide for human needs and challenge racism and discrimination based on sex and sexual orientation." The call for the action rightly links the struggle against sexist discrimination with the fight against the U.S. war in Central America.

April 20 will be a big opportunity to advance the fight for women's rights by mobilizing against Washington's war in Central America.

Alice Walker's 'In Search of Our Mothers Gardens'

In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens, by Alice Walker. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 397 pp., \$6.95.

BY SONJA FRANETA

Alice Walker has become famous through her excellent novel *The Color Purple*.

Another fascinating book by Walker is a collection of essays called *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*, written over a period of about 16 years, 1967-1983. A chronicle of impressions and conclusions about Black culture, it is a book of how one Black woman, through the civil rights movement and the women's rights movement, became the writer, Alice Walker, of today.

Born and raised in Eatonton, Georgia, Walker felt like "an exile in my own town, and grew to despise its white

and the civil rights movement are worth reading. The impact of the march on hundreds of thousands of people is reflected in her words: "Later I was to read that the March on Washington was a dupe of black people, that the leaders had sold out to the Kennedy administration, and that all of us should have felt silly for having participated. But whatever the Kennedy administration may have done had nothing to do with the closeness I felt that day to my own people, to King and [Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee leader] John Lewis and thousands of others."

In her essay, "The Unglamorous but Worthwhile Duties of the Black Revolutionary Artist, or of the Black Writer Who Simply Works and Writes," she explains why she is a writer and asserts the importance of the Black artist as a conveyor and preserver of Black culture.

One of my favorite essays in the collection is a review of Langston Hughes' book *Good Morning Revolution: Uncollected Writings of Social Protest*, a wonderful introduction to the man and his work. She defends his appreciation of the Soviet Union: "Being black and with perfectly good sense, good eyesight, and a highly educated sensibility about racial and economic matters, Langston had found 'the Soviet form of government' quite appealing, having as it did clear advantages over the Jim Crow system of democracy he was used to in America."

One of the most interesting longer essays, called "My Father's Country is the Poor," is an account of her visit to and impressions of Cuba. She observes and respects the social gains of the revolution, the virtual elimination of racism, the Cubans' continuing struggle against sexism. And she brings the human effects of the revolution in Cuba into sharp focus when she compares the life and aspirations of her father back in Georgia with that of an older Cuban man she meets who reminds her of her father. "The transformation of Pablo Diaz from peasant to official historian deeply impressed me. I envied his

children, all the children of Cuba, whose parents are encouraged and permitted to grow, to develop, to change to 'keep up with' their children. To become *compañeros* as well as parents. A society in which there is respectful communication between generations is not likely, easily, to fail."

Her most powerful assertions are about Black women and the forgotten Black writers. She helps us become acquainted with those who have been silenced or belittled because of the racism in our society — Zora Neale Hurston, especially.

In her comfortable, honest, storytelling style, she describes over and over, as she does in her poems and novels, the painful conditions with which a Black woman must struggle in our society — through herself as a Black woman writer, her mother as a Black mother of five, the particular problems of Black lesbians, and in the title essay where she caused me to shudder, when she said, "Listen to the voices of Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Roberta Flack, and Aretha Franklin, among others, and imagine those voices muzzled for life."

It is not an accident that some of the most powerful and popular writing today is by Black women — Ntozake Shange, Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison, Gloria Naylor, June Jordan — to name just a few. It is more than their fine talent that gives them such popularity and importance.

I am reminded of Rosa Luxemburg's essay on Russian literature which I first read a few years ago. It changed my thinking about how great literature is written. Luxemburg said, "The chief characteristic of this sudden emergence of Russian literature is that it was born out of opposition to the Russian regime, out of the spirit of struggle." The social struggle is what forms great writers like Alice Walker.

IN REVIEW

citizens as much as I loved the Georgia countryside. . . ." So she moved to Atlanta to go to college in 1961. Then it was on to New York to, as she says, "Take my memories and run north. For I would not be a maid, and could not be a 'girl,' or a frightened half-citizen, or any of the things my brothers and sisters had already refused to be."

Deciding to become a writer, Walker was swept up by the great civil rights struggles in the sixties, although not an activist herself. She settled in Jackson, Mississippi, during the late '60s, where she began to write the novels, stories, and poems she is known for today.

"That summer marked the beginning of a realization that I could never live happily in Africa — or anywhere else — until I could live freely in Mississippi."

Her description of the 1963 civil rights March on Washington and her comments on Martin Luther King

LETTERS

Rich take a rest

Militant readers will be interested to learn that New York City's rich and powerful are in the middle of their quietest social season since the dim days of Vietnam and campus protest, according to a report in the *New York Times* society page.

"We need the rest," panted one exhausted social stalwart. Now, says the *Times*, the rich are "eagerly delighting in this glorious freedom from diamonds, dinner dress, dancing, and dogooders."

Charlotte Ford, the grande dame of the auto fortune, spends her evenings reading catalogs at home.

According to the *Times*, the rich decided "that they were going to spend more time at home and send all their money to Ethiopia."

But lest anyone think that New York's "high society" has sworn off diamonds and caviar and become a bunch of sad sacks, the

Times assures us all is well:

The rich were only kidding about Ethiopia. And the spring social calendar is "going to be a killer." C.G.

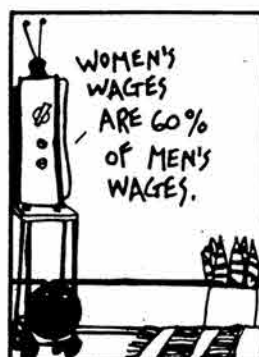
New York, New York

Nicaragua solidarity

On February 16, I attended a rally here in Tallahassee in solidarity with Nicaragua. More than 150 people came out to hear the truth about Nicaragua, as told by Rita Clark, the sister of Nicaragua's foreign minister Miguel D'Escoto, and the Rev. Tim McDonald of the Atlanta Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"There is a great deal of misunderstanding in this country about Nicaragua. But I am glad to see that the Nicaraguan people have friends here in Florida," said Clark.

She called the CIA-backed *con-*



Sylvia



by Nicole Hollander

tras murderers and described how — in their drive to disrupt the economy — they have even killed big capitalist farmers who were not supportive of the Sandinista revolution.

McDonald, who has visited Nicaragua twice, said he was wrong when he had earlier believed that the U.S. government was on the right side of the world revolution. "I found the truth in Nicaragua," he said. "If the *contras* are freedom fighters, then

Richard Nixon never told a lie. If the *contras* are freedom fighters, then Ronald Reagan doesn't like jelly beans."

W.T. Peterson
Tallahassee, Florida

Prisoners like 'Militant'

I have been receiving your publication for a month now, and I must thank you for providing the *Militant* paper to me and many other oppressed inmates. Your paper is very educational. As soon

as I obtain some income, I will be sure to send a donation to your well-respected paper.

A prisoner
Auburn, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Thousands march for voting rights

Honor historic Alabama march, protest new frame-ups of Black activists



On 20th anniversary of Selma-to-Montgomery march, thousands of civil rights marchers crossed Edmund Pettus bridge where on March 7, 1965, Alabama state troopers attacked voting-rights march.

BY ANDY ROSE

SELMA, Ala. — Thousands of Blacks marched through the streets of Selma and over the Edmund Pettus Bridge March 3 — chanting, singing, and shouting that “we will never go back” to the days of Jim Crow segregation.

Twenty years ago, on March 7, 1965, peaceful Black marchers demanding the right to vote were beaten, whipped, and tear gassed by state troopers at the west end of the Pettus bridge. The cop riot led to outraged protests that forced a reluctant Pres. Lyndon Johnson and the Democratic-controlled Congress to adopt the Voting Rights Act.

The 20th anniversary march from Selma to Montgomery, sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Voter Education Project (VEP), included veterans of those historic civil rights battles. Albert Turner plans to march the whole 50 miles to Montgomery again. He was a central leader of the voting rights protests in Marion, Alabama, that led to the 1965 march.

Today Turner faces jail again, along with his wife Evelyn and Spencer Hogue, Jr. The federal Justice Department has charged the three with “vote fraud,” claiming they tampered with absentee ballots. Black activists here are convinced the charges are a frame-up aimed at halting and

reversing efforts to extend voting rights for Blacks in Alabama.

Many of the anniversary marchers wore caps with the slogan, “Free the Marion Three.”

The need to defend the Turners and Hogue was mentioned by several of the speakers at a rally at Browns Chapel A.M.E. Church before the march. The crowd heard talks by Jesse Jackson, SCLC Pres. Joseph Lowery, Atlanta city council member John Lewis, VEP executive director Geraldine Thompson, and others.

Most of the marchers were young, including many high school and college students. Unionists from the United Food and Commercial Workers, National Maritime Union, and Hospital Workers District 1199 carried signs or banners from their unions.

A significant number of civil rights supporters who were white joined the march, including antiwar activists from Atlanta, Birmingham, Mobile, and other cities. Two banners were carried promoting the upcoming April 20 antiwar march on Washington.

I talked with Lester Lipscomb, a garment worker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union from Marion. Seemingly tireless, he led songs and chants such as “Black people — United! Together! Forever!” for nearly the

Continued on Page 12

Selma 1965: watershed in civil rights fight

BY HEIDI FISCHER

MARION, Ala. — The 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march, which is widely credited with helping to force the passage of the Voting Rights Act, actually got its start here in Marion, Alabama.

In February 1965 cops murdered a Black man, Jimmie Lee Jackson, during a violent assault on Blacks who were demanding the right to vote here. Outrage over the killing led to the historic march.

Albert Turner, then working as a bricklayer, was a central leader of the Black community's struggle in Marion. Today he faces jail on trumped-up charges of vote fraud because of his continuing leadership in the fight for Black equality.

Turner tells the story of how the original march began in the book *My Soul is Rested* by Howell Raines. The book is an oral history compiling many interviews with leaders and participants in the civil rights battles in the Deep South.

Turner explains that in February 1965, Perry County had been the scene of a massive effort to get Blacks registered to vote.

“We recognized that we weren't going to get registered to vote really through the normal procedure of court actions and knocking on the door and trying to pass tests and all that. . . . So we decided to go to direct action, and on the first Monday in February 1965 we organized a mass voter registration drive, and we took about three hundred people into the courthouse [in Marion] that day to get registered. . . .

“I led the line down to the courthouse that day, and we went down and we stayed in the courthouse all day that day, and they didn't register nobody. . . . I guess we went back every day from then on. . . . We met day and night and we marched and we demonstrated. . . .

“And of course, the powers that be felt that they had to do something to stop us because they saw our determination, and at that point, they decided that they would organize a bunch of state troopers and send them into Marion to give us all a good whipping. . . .

“They sent in maybe a couple of hundred state troopers with nothing in mind but a good whipping, and we had planned a

night march. They knew this. They had put James Orange in jail at that time. That was one of the civil rights leaders from SCLC [Southern Christian Leadership Conference]. So they knew we was going to march to the jail that night to protest James' arrest, and their plans were to beat us up that night. They did just that.”

Willie Bolden, a speaker at that night's meeting, describes what happened as they began filing out of the church. “The cameras were shooting, and all of a sudden, out of nowhere, we heard cameras being broken, newspapermen being hit, and looked around and saw folk trying to run out of the church. And what they had done, they had gone through the side and the back of the church, and the troopers were in there beating folk . . . trying to get

em out, and troopers were outside along with the local police and sheriff department, beating folk out there.”

Bolden was beaten and thrown in jail with many others. “And when I walked in the door, there was blood on the floor. Just literally puddles of blood leading all the way up the stairs to the jail cell. . . .

“Shortly after I was in there, that's when we heard the shots. Well, that's when Jimmie Lee Jackson got killed. The cop was beating on his mama, and he was headed toward his mother, and that's when they shot him.”

Albert Turner explains that the cops “shot the lights out, and they beat people at random. They didn't have to be marching. All you had to do was be Black. . . . And

they just was intending to kill somebody as an example, and they did kill Jimmie Jackson. . . .

“In a real sense, Jimmie Jackson's murder in Marion was the thing that determined the march on the bridge [on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, in Selma],” Turner recalls.

“Our first plan was to go to Montgomery with Jimmie Jackson, take his body and put it on the steps of the capitol. . . . That was the original idea, that we gon' walk from Marion to Montgomery, and they decided that was too far and that it would be much more dramatic to go from Selma, instead of Marion. So all the people from Marion was to come to Selma in cars and this is really what did happen.”

N.Y. vigilante's confession bares racism

NEW YORK — Public opinion is turning against the racist vigilante, Bernhard Goetz, as a police report, which confirms that he shot four Black youths on a New York City subway simply because they were Black, has become public.

The recently published police report blows apart the big-business media's portrayal of Goetz as an innocent subway rider who shot in “self-defense” after he was “cornered” and “threatened” by four youths carrying screwdrivers.

The police report, which is a summary of Goetz' December 31 statement to New Hampshire cops, proves that he got on the subway December 22 prepared to cold-bloodedly murder the first Blacks that came within range.

The report states that Goetz “checked” each of his victims after shooting them to make sure they were hit. One youth, Darrel Cabey, who is paralyzed from the waist down and is currently in a coma, “was half sitting, half laying on a bench.” When Goetz “saw no blood” on Cabey, he said, “you don't look so bad, here's another,” and shot at Cabey a second time.

Goetz, who now pleads “self-defense,”

told New Hampshire cops that at no time did he feel threatened by the youths. And for good reason — eyewitnesses report that the four Black youth threatened no one on the train.

The New Hampshire police report said Goetz “knew what he was going to do . . . that he was going to fire when he did in fact shoot the men.” Another New Hampshire cop told the *New York Times* that during questioning Goetz “indicated he drew a pattern of fire prior to the shooting taking place, indicating that he was going to shoot from left to right in the quickest and most effective manner as possible.”

Goetz himself told reporters he regrets not having murdered, at least one of the youth. “If I had more control, I would have held the gun to his head and blown his brains out,” Goetz said. “I wanted to kill those guys. I wanted to maim those guys. I made them suffer any way I could.”

To make perfectly clear that he was hunting Blacks, Goetz told reporters that he wanted to be “just an innocuous gun-toting honky on the street.”

While the facts in the police report are

Continued on Page 13



Militant/Jeff Powers
Andrea Gonzalez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City, blasted city administration for whitewash of shooting of Black youth by Bernhard Goetz.