

## U.S. troops practice invasion of Nicaragua



U.S. tanks landing in Honduras as part of massive military maneuvers that include amphibious landing on Caribbean coast.

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has denounced U.S. plans to carry out yet another set of war maneuvers in Honduras as "a new demonstration of the policy of force and intimidation being advanced by the U.S. government."

The maneuvers, called Universal Trek '85, are to take place April 12-27 and will bring to 11,000 the number of U.S. troops in Honduras. Of these, 1,500 are perma-

nently stationed in that country, 3,000 are part of the Big Pine III exercises already under way, and 6,500 more are due to arrive for Universal Trek.

The purpose of this massive mobilization of GIs is to train them for an actual invasion of Nicaragua. For four years, Washington has been waging a war to overthrow the workers and peasants government of that country through the CIA-led mercenary army of counterrevolutionaries (*contras*). The immediate aim of these terrorists

is to seize a piece of Nicaraguan territory and establish a "provisional government," thus opening the door to direct intervention of U.S. troops in Nicaragua.

The Universal Trek maneuvers are clearly designed to prepare U.S. soldiers for such an invasion. The maneuvers include a simulated amphibious landing, supposedly in response to an "invasion" by Nicaragua. The mock landing will take place near Puerto Castilla on the Caribbean

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## April Actions coalition leaders meet

BY MARGARET JAYKO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With a few weeks left till the April 19-22 Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, efforts to mobilize the largest possible number of people have picked up momentum.

A March 30 steering committee meeting of the national coalition discussed how to most effectively build the actions in the weeks remaining, as well as the work that needs to be done to organize the April 20 march and rally, and other activities that will take place in Washington, D.C., that weekend.

The steering committee also reaffirmed its commitment to continue the process of building a broad-based coalition after the April Actions are over. It was agreed that a meeting to discuss the political character of the coalition, the types of activities it should carry out, and how to increase the involvement of the unions and Black and Latino communities would be held before the end of May, after consultation with the organizations that are part of the coalition about the best date for such a meeting.

The demands of the actions are: stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home; freeze and reverse the arms race; create jobs, cut the military budget.

Danu Smith, national coordinator for the April Actions, explained that the priority for all those building the actions in the next few weeks has to be to get out the word to the largest number of people possible, including through mass leafleting and the media.

To mobilize people, Smith said, it's nec-

essary to point to what's happening politically in this country and in the world to explain why it's important to participate in these protests.

He pointed to the South African government's recent banning of 29 anti-apartheid organizations; the escalating U.S. intervention in El Salvador; CIA funding of the counterrevolutionaries who are waging war against Nicaragua; bipartisan Congressional approval of for the MX nuclear missiles; as well as the worsening poverty working people face in this country as issues which builders of the action should address and highlight.

Solidarity organizations that support the struggles of the peoples of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua have drafted a letter to other supporters of the actions, highlighting the demand against U.S. intervention in Central America. They are organizing an anti-intervention contingent in the march. Among the posters being printed are ones that say: "Remembering Vietnam — Stop the war in Central America!"

Leslie Cagan, the national chairperson of the steering committee, explained that it's necessary to convince people that it does make a difference when they demonstrate. She pointed to the fact that April marks the 10th anniversary of the ending of the U.S. war in Vietnam — a victory that the U.S. antiwar movement played a significant role in. Cagan urged all the organizations involved in building the April Actions to turn out their membership and step up their work within the national and local coalitions.

The first report on the agenda was a review of how mobilizing for the April 20 march and rally was progressing. It was

given by staff member Josh Bornstein, who works as liaison with local coalitions around the country.

Bornstein pointed out that the action had gotten a bit more wind in its sails in the couple of weeks leading up to the meeting.

Hundreds of buses, Bornstein reported, are expected to come to Washington that Saturday. One indication of the breadth of

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## Nat'l farm-labor group formed

BY JEFF DORFMAN

ST. LOUIS — Beneath a large banner reading Farmer-Labor Solidarity!, over 150 farm activists and trade unionists met here March 23 and formed a new national organization called Farm-Labor Alliance.

The meeting grew out of labor's participation in the March 4 Jefferson City, Missouri, farm protest organized by the American Agriculture Movement-Grassroots, and the March 15 protest in Plattsburg, Missouri, to stop the sale of the Wilson farm.

Spirits were high in the aftermath of those joint activities and were raised higher by the breadth and scope of this meeting.

The meeting was convened by Ken Worley, director of Region 5 of the United Auto Workers (UAW), and chaired by Bill Casstevens, a UAW International vice-president and director of the union's Agricultural Implement Department.

The morning session featured remarks by a broad panel of farm and labor leaders. The farm leaders included Cy Carpenter, president of the National Farmers Union;

## Socialist candidate hails Goetz' indictment

The following statement is by Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

A Manhattan grand jury's decision to indict Bernhard Goetz for attempted murder in the shooting of four Black youths on a New York subway December 22 is a victory for the working people in this city and across the country.

"The indictment," as Héctor Soto of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund told a March 28 meeting of 200 people against racist violence, "was not a vindication of the system." (See story on page 13.)

The indictment represents the unraveling of a cover-up of this racist attack by the district attorney, the cops, the big-business media, and the city's mayor.

The cover-up was aimed at giving the green light to capitalist politicians and the cops — vigilantes in uniform — against the Black and Latino communities in New York.

Despite the best efforts of these politicians and cops, and the media that serves them, the facts in the shooting became public. Witnesses came forward. The city's working people learned the truth.

Bernhard Goetz was no victim. He had been waiting for his chance to shoot some Blacks. He was never threatened by the youths, but had sought a confrontation with them. He deliberately shot them and then cold bloodedly checked each of his victims to make sure they were severely wounded. When he saw no blood on Darrel Cabey (currently paralyzed from the waist down), Goetz said, "You don't look so bad, here's another," and shot Cabey a second time.

After he was let off the first time with the help of the district attorney, Goetz described himself as a "gun toting honky." He told the press that his only regret was that he didn't "blow the brains out" of at least one of his victims.

Fearing a bigger response if action wasn't taken, the city's rulers switched the green light to red. The district attorney was forced to find another witness to go before the grand jury and to give the youths immunity to testify — in short, to make sure that Goetz was indicted for the crime he

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DeVon Woodland, president of the National Farmers Organization (NFO); Corky Jones, president of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), Inc.; Carlos Welty, national spokesperson for the AAM-Grassroots; Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA); and Wayne Cryts, president of the Missouri Division of AAM, Inc.

Labor leaders speaking included L.B. Porter, director of Region 2 (covering much of the farm belt) of the AFL-CIO; Duke McVey, president of the Missouri State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and Jim Wineger, Iowa AFL-CIO.

Carlos Welty spoke appreciatively of labor's participation at the Plattsburg protest, saying, "Labor didn't stand behind us, you stood beside us."

Welty also announced his organization, AAM-Grassroots, would be bringing farm products to sell at parity prices to St. Louis April 6 and Chicago April 13 to dramatize the plight of farmers, and to reach out to the Black and working-class communities

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY BETTY WINTON

ATLANTA — The Atlanta branch of the Socialist Workers Party has been working hard for the last months to regularize its plant gate sales.

We have regularized four to five weekly teams that sell at two large General Motors plants organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW). Sales at these plants are especially brisk whenever news about the auto industry appears in the press.

Last year the GM plant in Doraville, right outside Atlanta, went out on a brief strike. We or-

ganized to be at the picket line and sold well. Since then our teams sell anywhere from a couple of *Militants* to over 10 at one time.

Through these sales we've gotten to know a lot about what's happening to auto workers. For example, at a recent sale at the Doraville GM plant, a *Militant* salesperson sold to an auto worker who had just left another UAW-organized plant in Buffalo, New York. After 23 years, he had lost his job. So he had to leave his family in New York and come to Atlanta.

Other workers tell *Militant* sales

people about issues in the plant that affect them — for example, line speed and the oppressive heat in the summer.

Although the other GM plant in Atlanta has just called back its second shift, many auto workers are still laid off. Workers on the job at both GM plants are concerned about their future.

Another important sale in the Atlanta area is at the Cluett-Peabody plant, which owns Arrow Shirts and is organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). A weekly sales team has sold at the

production plant for over six months. Sales range from one or two up to six at one shift change. We are now reestablishing weekly sales at the ACTWU-organized Cluett warehouse.

Regular sales of the *Militant* to ACTWU and UAW members is helping to build the April 20 March for Peace, Jobs and Justice in Washington, D.C.

Teams also sell at a large steel plant organized by the United Steelworkers (USW); Eastern Airlines, organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM); and at the UAW-organized

Ford Motor plant. But we are still working to make these sales regular.

The consistency we have established over the last six months can be seen in the fact that our teams now average two or more *Militants* at each plant-gate sale.

The biggest challenge faced by the teams is to organize sales around the work schedules of team members. We plan to integrate our plant-gate sales into our regular Saturday and other community sales as part of our participation in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* spring sales campaign.

## Danly renews union-busting assault against USWA

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

CHICAGO — Just several weeks after the end of a bitter nine-month strike by steelworkers against the Danly Machine Corp., the company has renewed its efforts to break United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 15271.

At the very moment that company and union negotiators were working on the final settlement of the strike in January, the Ogden Corp., using one of its supporters inside the plant, circulated a petition demanding that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hold a decertification election to throw the USWA out of Danly. Danly is a subsidiary of the Ogden Corp.

In March the NLRB ruled the petition valid and notified the leadership of the Danly workers that the decertification vote will take place on April 12.

The company also petitioned the NLRB to allow only a total of 731 workers to vote in the election, since the company allegedly estimates it will only further hire 141 more workers by May 1 to meet its production requirements. More than two-thirds of the current work force crossed the picket line during the strike.

The company has also made known its intention to call back those 141 workers irrespective of seniority. The NLRB has agreed to this petition.

Inside the plant the company is waging a virtual war against the former strikers who have been called back, while allowing company supporters a free run of the plant to intimidate anyone thinking of voting union. Suspensions of prounion militants have taken place. Work rules virtually do not exist. Union activists are followed around and harassed, as well as arbitrarily transferred from better jobs and replaced by procompany workers.

The company is circulating a leaflet to remind its supporters of the treatment they received during the strike by the striking Danly workers and alleging that if the union wins, the workers who crossed the picket line will be penalized.

The leadership of USWA Local 15271 has organized a campaign to talk union at the Danly plant, using its 150 supporters

inside the plant as its main resource. These 150 union militants have assumed the responsibility of convincing the others of the years of struggle it took to build the USWA, win the gains that have been won, and that it is union power that did this, not reliance on the good will of Ogden or any other corporation.

The Danly union, although small numerically, has a long tradition of standing up to the boss and defending the interests of its

members. It has been one of the most militant USWA locals in the secondary shops organized by District 31 in this basic steel stronghold of the union. District 31 is the biggest district in the USWA.

The union-busting drive against Local 15271 comes in the context of the employers' victory in the Arizona copper mines. The bosses successfully decertified the USWA and 12 other unions after a long battle. The employers seek to repeat that

example at Danly and weaken the entire USWA in the Chicago area.

The stakes in this battle are high. The Danly workers need the support of working people. Union activists and others should do whatever possible to back them in their fight to defend their union.

Nelson González works at a small shop outside Chicago and is a member of USWA Local 3387.

## Join socialist sales effort on April 20; 'Militant', 'PM' get good response in N.J.

Even as the last big push is under way to build the April 19-22 actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice in Washington, D.C., plans are being made for the massive distribution of the socialist press — the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist* — at the action.

As part of this special effort, the *Militant* will be publishing an expanded 20-page issue. Distribution of the press need not wait until supporters get to Washington, but can begin on the buses and at the send-off actions being planned in various cities.

Besides the socialist press, Pathfinder Press will have available its new 400-page book of speeches by the leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution, entitled *Nicaragua: Sandinista People's Revolution*. And the Young Socialist Alliance is planning to have various T-shirts and buttons with the demands of the actions for sale.

At the end of the day an open house is scheduled so people can come to relax and talk to members of the SWP and YSA about the socialist perspective in the fight against war.

Supporters of the socialist press and the Socialist Workers Party campaigns are invited to help in this effort. If you'd like to participate with us, contact the SWP branch or YSA chapter nearest you (see directory on page 12).

\* \* \*  
NEWARK, N.J. — On Saturday,

March 30, a *Militant* sales team visited Paterson, N.J. Eastside Paterson was the scene of a recent execution by the cops of Roberto Rosa, a 17-year-old Puerto Rican youth.

The eastside residents have been greatly affected by the murder. Hand lettered signs that read "cold-blooded murder" hang from lamp posts. And 3,000 residents attended Rosa's weekday funeral.

Residents are angry that the cop who killed Rosa is already out on the street after paying only \$1,000 of his \$10,000 bail. While city officials let the killer cop out, they have been trying to defuse the community's anger over the murder.

Socialists found that people in Paterson were eager to read and pass around this week's issue of the April 5 *Militant*, which reports on the murder and joins the community in demanding that the cop be prosecuted.

As copies of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM), and the *Young Socialist* (YS) were snatched up, friends and family of Rosa talked with the sales team. They pointed to the spot only 50 feet away where they saw young Rosa harassed, then shot. The discussion focused on how to fight police brutality.

The team also visited downtown Pater-



Rosa funeral in Paterson, N.J.

son. Along with selling the *Militant*, the team leafleted for the April 20 March for Peace, Jobs and Justice in Washington, D.C. Although most people were hearing about the march for the first time, leaflets went fast as people asked for extras for their friends, churches, and schools.

Altogether, the team of three sold 51 papers, including 2 YSs, and collected 50 additional signatures on petitions to put Mark Satinoff, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, on the ballot.

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# Bishop Movement organizes in Grenada

## Rallies on 6th anniversary of revolution

BY SAM MANUEL

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) continues to organize in the face of the U.S. military occupation of the island. The so-called peace-keeping force — consisting of soldiers from the United States, Jamaica, Dominica, and several other Caribbean islands — was established in the wake of the Oct. 25, 1983, U.S. invasion.

George Louison and Kendrick Radix, central leaders of the MBPM, told of some of the recent activities of the MBPM. Louison and Radix were close political collaborators of the murdered prime minister, Maurice Bishop, and were survivors of the October 1983 coup organized by Bernard Coard, then deputy prime minister.

The MBPM recently organized a rally in the Market Square here in St. George's to mark the 6th anniversary of the March 13, 1979, revolution. Radix estimated the crowd at about 2,000; even the main pro-government newspaper, the *Grenadian Voice*, acknowledged a crowd of 800 people.

In an effort to cut down attendance, the government-owned National Transport System refused to rent buses to the MBPM, which had planned to use them to get people to the rally. Spice Island Radio also refused to broadcast announcements about the rally.

Louison explained, "The authorities in Grenada were attempting to blank March 13 from the news. They wish to erase the peoples' struggle from our history."

Indeed, as I had boarded the Liat Airlines plane to come to Grenada, I was given two informational booklets. An article on the new Point Salines airport made no mention of the Bishop government or the assistance of Cuba, both of which contributed the greatest share to the construction of the airport. A short article on the "history" of Grenada likewise made no

mention of the March 1979 revolution or the October 1983 U.S. invasion.

Speakers at the March 13 rally here included Louison and Radix. They condemned the continued military occupation and demanded the withdrawal of all U.S. and Caribbean troops. They also condemned the dismantling of the free medical-care, education, jobs, and other programs in the interest of the workers and farmers that were established by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

The Cuban film, *Maurice*, was also shown.

The rally heard from Einstein Louison — chief of staff of the People's Revolutionary Army before the counterrevolutionary coup — who announced the formation of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organization (MBYO). The MBYO is currently focusing its efforts on a relief fund for Ethiopian famine victims.

Radix explained that the MBPM held its second National Delegates Conference on March 24. The conference was attended by 75 delegates, representing every parish in the country.

The delegates discussed proposals to expand the MBPM's work among Grenadian working people and adopted several resolutions. One resolution condemned the apartheid regime in South Africa and called for stepped-up assistance to the African National Congress; another expressed solidarity with the people and government of Nicaragua and called for a halt to U.S. aggression in Central America; a third demanded that the U.S. and Grenadian authorities turn over the remains of Maurice Bishop and the others murdered on October 19. (Officials claim never to have found the bodies, but there is substantial evidence to the contrary.)

Radix and Louison also reported that the MBPM's newspaper, *Indies Times*, has a weekly circulation of 1,500 copies.

## Killer of pro-Vietnam professor gets away with manslaughter rap

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — Friends of slain professor Edward Cooperman have sharply condemned a judge's March 18 ruling finding the accused killer guilty of involuntary manslaughter. The prosecution had asked for a first-degree murder conviction in the first trial, which ended in a hung jury on February 19.

Anthony Russo, of the Committee for Justice for Professor Ed Cooperman, termed the ruling, "a license for more attacks."

Cooperman was well known for his efforts to deliver scientific and humanitarian aid to Vietnam.

Minh Van Lam, a former student of Cooperman, admitted shooting him on October 15 in his office at Cal State-Fullerton in Orange County, but claimed it had been an accident.

Immediately prior to the judge's ruling, a jailhouse inmate claimed that Lam had admitted to him that he had "deliberately killed" Cooperman, according to a report in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Although a jury had been selected for a new trial, the informant's account was considered in secret hearings involving only Lam's attorney, the prosecutor, and the judge. Afterwards, the agreement was announced allowing the judge to rule on the case without a jury trial.

Russo charged "a cover-up — although it didn't cover up very much."

In January another inmate had told the district attorney's office that Lam had said he had been put up to the murder by a local Vietnamese businessman.

Orange County has the largest concentration of Vietnamese immigrants in the United States. News media reports have fo-

cused on the role of right-wing gangs that prey on the Vietnamese community.

"They say they didn't call the first inmate because he lacked credibility," Russo said. "They said he might have made up the story to get a reduced sentence. But the attorney for our committee talked to him in prison after he was sentenced — when he had no reason to lie — and he stuck with his story."

"Now it was reported that this second informant had testified for the government in over forty cases, so they must view him as very credible. But rather than bring him before the jury, the prosecution chose to let the judge rule."

Russo and others have been highly critical of the government's performance in the previous trial. The prosecution failed to suggest a motive for the killing, thus avoiding dealing with the evidence of a political conspiracy. Some jurors said the lack of a motive had been a reason for their inability to deliver a guilty verdict.

The slain professor's widow, Klaasje Cooperman, had delivered a petition to the Orange County District Attorney's office on October 22, calling for "a more vigorous prosecution." The petition charged, "Much of the evidence available was not used, and there was no attempt to uncover evidence that would establish a motive for the murder."

"The complacency of your office with regard to investigating links with organized terrorist groups in the Vietnamese community is appalling. . . ."

Russo said the Committee for Justice for Professor Ed Cooperman will continue to get out the truth about Cooperman's work, the character of his murder, and other attacks against friends of Vietnam.



George Louison (right) and Kendrick Radix (center) with Lyden Ramdhanny at demonstration last year marking founding of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. They were leaders of People's Revolutionary Government before its overthrow in October 1983.

## Grenadians protest a death at hands of U.S.-backed cops



Indies Times

March in Grenada's St. Patrick's Parish protesting police murder of Stanley George.

BY SAM MANUEL

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Carrying signs that said, "We want justice" and "Stop police brutality," some 100 people, many of them young members of the Rastafarian religion, marched on the Hermitage police station in the St. Patrick's parish of Grenada. The March 26 demonstration was organized to protest the police killing of 35-year-old Stanley George.

The organizers of the march told the *Militant* that they are demanding a full investigation into George's death and the immediate suspension and trial of the policemen responsible for it.

George was arrested on Thursday, March 21, by nine armed policemen. George was unarmed. Witnesses report

that the police fired five shots at George. The fatal bullet struck him in the heart. This killing brings to five the number of young Grenadians slain by the police in the last year. To date no investigation into the deaths has been made by police officials of the U.S.-imposed government.

In an as yet unexplained move the next day, the cops raided George's home, confiscating clothes, books, and other personal items. They were accompanied by four U.S. soldiers.

Kendrick Radix, a central leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, condemned the shooting as "a brutal crime." He pointed out that during the four and a half years of the revolution, not one person was shot and killed by a police officer.

## Refugee-sanctuary activists sentenced

BY JOHN SARGE

HOUSTON — On March 27 and 28, sanctuary workers Stacey Merkt and Jack Elder were sentenced to prison terms in federal court in Brownsville, Texas. The sentences stem from their conviction Feb. 21, 1985, for allegedly violating immigration laws by aiding refugees fleeing the U.S.-backed war in El Salvador.

Elder was sentenced to one year in federal prison. Merkt was sentenced to 179 days plus an additional 90 days for probation violation. She was on probation at the time of her February trial, stemming from a conviction last May on similar charges.

The sentences came in the face of widespread protests and calls for leniency, including an appeal from 50 members of Congress.

After announcing the prison terms, U.S. district Judge Filemon Vela tried to silence the defendants by establishing a gag order against them while their appeals were pending. Elder refused to accept the order and informed the court that he will not accept bail under that condition.

This is the third trial the two sanctuary

workers, who are part of the staff at Casa Oscar Romero — a church sponsored shelter for refugees in San Benito, Texas — have faced. In addition to Merkt's conviction last May, Elder was tried and acquitted of similar charges at the end of last year.

The attacks on the sanctuary movement and Central American refugees has become the focus of the April 20 Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice here in Texas. The statewide coalition planning the regional action in Houston voted to add the demands: Stop the deportation of Central American refugees! Stop the persecution of sanctuary workers! Full rights for undocumented workers!

Elder, who is an endorser of the national April 19-22 Actions in Washington, was planning to participate in the regional demonstration in Houston.

The April 20 march in Houston will assemble at San Jacinto and Jefferson at 2 p.m. and will march to City Hall Park for a rally. Building activities are taking place throughout Texas, including the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin.



A broad coalition of peace and civil rights organizations and several trade unions have called for protests in Washington, D.C., April 19-22, highlighted by a mass march and rally on April 20. Actions will also be held in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities.

The demands of the protests are: stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home; freeze and reverse the arms race; create jobs, cut the military budget.

To contact the national coalition, write or call: April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598; (202) 667-9485.

## Black party's newsletter builds D.C. march

The National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) is actively building the April actions.

In the latest NBIPP Newsletter, published by the Manhattan chapter, Ken Morgan explains why NBIPP supports the actions and why Blacks should participate in them. Morgan is cochair of the Baltimore April Actions Coalition and a member of Baltimore NBIPP.

"We as Blacks and NBIPP activists must see our participation in the April 20 national march and rally for Peace, Jobs, and Justice

as an essential tactic in our struggle," says Morgan. The demands of the action "are directly aimed at the weight of oppression that rests on our shoulders as well as the shoulders of our South African, Central American and Grenadan brothers and sisters," declares Morgan.

"We have more in common with the Salvadoran guerrillas who are fighting against poverty and oppression," he continues, "than with the U.S. government policy of supporting the reactionary Salvadoran government. We see in Nicaragua that the Sandinistas are continuing their efforts to put human needs ahead of profits and greed."

Nuclear arms, Morgan explains, "won't be used to protect us from racism, Bernhard Goetz, the Ku Klux Klan, or from the employers who hire us last and fire us first. Those weapons won't be used to protect us from our own government, which we definitely need protection from."

As victims of racism, Blacks in this country understand why they must oppose apartheid in South Africa and racism at home, says Morgan.

"The NBIPP charter states in no uncertain terms that Blacks must demand an end to U.S. economic, political, and military support for racist, fascist, and dictatorial regimes around the world. It states that we must also demand an end to U.S. military intervention and CIA covert operations in other countries," declares Morgan.

He calls on readers of the Newsletter to join the NBIPP contingent

on April 20, which will assemble at 11 a.m. at 17th and Constitution Ave. NW (off the Ellipse).

## Puerto Rican leader calls for all out April 20

In the March 15-21 issue of *Claridad*, the newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), José A. Soler, the president of the PSP section in the United States, made a call to all Puerto Ricans living in this country to participate in the April 20 demonstration.

In an article entitled "An April 20 of Protest," Soler writes that U.S. foreign policy is one of "aggression against the countries of the Third World to brake the revolutionary struggle of the peoples." To carry this out, Washington uses every weapon necessary — "from rapid deployment forces to food as a weapon to pressure the people of Africa."

"To guarantee the profits of the capitalists," Soler writes, "the U.S. government is trying to eliminate vital social services." All this will mean "more unemployment, more people without housing, and more children living in poverty."

Turning to Central America, Soler points to Reagan's recent call to overthrow the Sandinista government and the massive military maneuvers on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border to explain that the threat of a direct U.S. intervention is real.

Puerto Ricans in the United

States, says Soler, "must involve ourselves in the struggles that are being waged in this country for jobs, housing, better education and health care, and against the U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. We should denounce the use of our homeland as a base of aggression against our Latin American brothers and sisters and as a nuclear warehouse."

On April 20, "we will demonstrate our solidarity with peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Caribbean, South Africa, and Namibia. We will tell the U.S. government yes to peace and disarmament, no to the yankee intervention in Central America and the Caribbean."

## Boston unionists: 'Labor can make a contribution'

Boston area labor officials sent out a letter to unions in the area urging them to support the action. They explained that "labor has an opportunity to make an important contribution to the movement for jobs, peace and justice this spring," by building the April Actions.

After listing all the activities planned in Washington during the four days, the letter said that labor's resources can help make them a success.

The April 20 demonstration "should attract thousands of unionists. We are reserving buses especially for this event. . . . A

labor contingent for this protest is under discussion."

In motivating labor's participation, the letter said, "our country is in a grave moral crisis" — and listed attacks on Black rights, impoverished working people, and organized labor, as well as a "foreign policy of support for dictators, intervention and apartheid."

"During the last election," the letter continued, "labor was painted as a narrow special interest group. We can destroy that myth by joining with other constituencies, such as women, minorities, and farmers, to forge a powerful movement to advance progressive values in this country."

The letter urged "fellow officers, your locals and your district organizations to endorse, financially support, and actively promote the April Actions. It suggested distributing leaflets to union members, placing articles in union newsletters, and giving shop stewards information on the actions.

Among the signers of the letter are Nick Roussos, president, United Labor Council of Greater Fall River; Ed Clark, international vice-president, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and vice president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO; Nancy Finkelstein, president, Massachusetts Teachers Association; John Templeton, president, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 509; and Michael Gallagher, member of Joint Executive Board, SEIU Local 509.

# April Actions leaders meet as momentum builds

Continued from front page

the action is the fact that in addition to buses from the major cities on the East Coast and in the Midwest, buses are also being organized from smaller cities like Fargo, North Dakota; Wheeling, West Virginia; and Racine, Wisconsin.

April 20 actions will also be held in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, and other cities.

Thousands are expected to turn out for the civil disobedience at the White House and the lobbying of Congresspeople, both of which will occur on Monday, April 22.

To aid local coalitions' building efforts, said Bornstein, a national poster is out and a button is in the works.

Activists from the local coalition in Washington, D.C., reported on efforts to get area residents to the protests.

## Link with anti-apartheid struggle

The Washington, D.C., school board passed a resolution in support of the April Actions. The coalition is following up on this by contacting high schools and arranging speakers to address students about the issues and to urge them to come to the ac-

tions and use their spring break to build the protests.

There was a lot of discussion about the importance of building the April Actions at the April 4 activities that will commemorate the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and protest the super-exploitation and oppression of Blacks in racist South Africa.

Friday, April 19 — the first day of the April Actions — will feature a picket line at the South African Embassy in Washington. A large turnout from the D.C. area, especially, is expected.

Later that day there will be a multi-faith religious service to link the Central American sanctuary and anti-apartheid activities.

Gwen McKinney from the National Alliance of Third World Journalists and the staff member responsible for media work, reported on newspaper coverage already obtained and plans for getting prominent people to do public service announcements for radio spots. She reported that Jesse Jackson and Rep. John Conyers have both agreed to record such announcements.

National news conferences are slated for April 18 and April 22. An April Actions update newsletter will be distributed the

week of April 8 with the latest facts on the mobilizations. It will be distributed to the media. A special fundraising project is being organized, McKinney said, to cover the costs of paid advertisements for the April Actions.

Coalition staff member Kay Shaw gave the first part of the fundraising report. More than \$25,000 had been raised as of the meeting, with more than \$10,000 needed to finance the remaining expenses for the actions.

Fundraising committee member John Studer reported that several thousand dollars had been raised from foundations. The rest of the money came from supportive individuals, local coalitions, and the national organizations that are supporting the actions. These national supporters, said Studer, had made substantial contributions in the form of donations of money, personnel, printing, and other resources.

## 'Festival of Resistance'

David Sawyer gave a report on the "Festival of Resistance." This will be a political program that will include both cultural acts and speakers who will address the four demands of the coalition. The program will take place simultaneously on six stages at the Ellipse near the White House, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday before the kickoff rally and march. Thirty-four acts have been confirmed to date.

The people who had accepted invitations to speak at the main rally by the time of the steering committee meeting included: Jesse Jackson; Anthony Luddy, International secretary-treasurer, United Food and Commercial Workers Union; representatives of the people of Nicaragua, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front/Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, and the African National Congress of South Africa; Peg Mullen, Gold Star Mother (group of mothers who lost children in Vietnam); and Rev. William Sloane Coffin of New York's Riverside Church. D.C. Congressman Walter Fauntroy will chair the main rally.

## Grenada

A number of steering committee members raised the importance of having someone from Grenada at the main rally to address Washington's criminal invasion and

occupation of that once-free island. There was also a discussion on the need to have more unionists on the platform. The meeting ratified both proposals.

Speakers being invited to be part of the festival before the march include representatives of the struggles of family farmers, Native Americans, Haitians, Central American refugees, Vietnam veterans, and women. It was also suggested that a supporter of Vietnam's revolution and reconstruction efforts be asked to speak.

In the report on Monday's civil disobedience, which will consist of peacefully blockading the White House, it was explained that there will also be a legal rally across the street at the same time for those who do not want to get arrested. On Sunday, there will be a civil disobedience training session at 11 am at the Marie Reed Community Center.

A report on Monday's lobbying reviewed the extensive preparations for the event, including workshops at Georgetown University on Sunday.

Susan Bailey, in reporting on the logistics of the actions, explained that lots of volunteers were needed on the four days to help marshal, sell coalition T-shirts, set up the stages, and to carry out the other tasks to make sure the actions come off smoothly.

## An ongoing process

Leslie Cagan initiated the discussion under the agenda point on continuation of the coalition after April 22. She explained that right from the start, the groups that came together to form the coalition didn't want to simply organize one set of actions. The actions are even more important, she said, if they are viewed as part of an ongoing process of building a broad-based coalition around the issues of peace and social justice.

Between now and the May meeting, the dozens of local April Actions coalitions around the country will be having discussions in preparation for that meeting about what kind of activities can be carried out in their local areas, as well as what the national coalition should project.

To contact the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice Coalition, call or write: P.O. Box 2598, Washington, D.C., 20013-2598; (202) 667-9485.



April 20 action will help mobilize unionists, Blacks, and Latinos against U.S. war in Central America.



# Solidarity — 'not charity, but mutual aid'

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — "Solidarity is not an act of charity, but an act of mutual aid," declared David Ndaba, representative of the African National Congress of South Africa. Ndaba was one of the speakers at a March 29 event here sponsored by the New York April Actions Coalition. Attended by about 100 people, the speak-out was organized to build New York participation in the April 20 march in Washington, D.C. The evening was chaired by Jean Schneider, president of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, District 65 of the United Auto Workers, which has endorsed the action and provides office space and phones to the labor outreach committee of the New York coalition.

Ndaba linked the fight of the Black majority in South Africa against the U.S.-backed regime in Pretoria to the U.S.-sponsored war against the workers and farmers of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

## Toll of U.S. war

Ivonne Siú, director of international relations for the Nicaraguan women's organization, AMNLAE, described the terrible toll that the U.S.-sponsored war against her people has taken. "During the last five years of the triumph of our revolution," she said, "we have had to suffer political, economic, and military attacks, and all because of the will [of U.S. imperialism] to maintain political power and hegemony in Central America."

Siú invited everyone to come to her country to see for themselves what the Sandinista government is doing to advance the interests of workers and farmers there. "We have opened our doors because we feel everyone needs to learn from our revolution. . . . We believe that what we can contribute to the struggle in Latin America is precisely our example. And this is what the U.S. government cannot stop us from demonstrating!"

## 'Intervention can be stopped!'

Participants were also treated to cultural presentations from an Irish folk group active in the H-Block/Armagh Committee; the Float Company Break Dancers; Ar-

mando Martínez, a singer from El Salvador; and a Vietnamese musician active in the Association of Vietnamese Patriots. He received an ovation when he opened his performance, saying, "My people know the terrible consequences of U.S. intervention. But we also know it can be stopped."

He urged everyone present to build a movement against U.S. intervention in Central America, South Africa, and the Middle East, and invited them to join his organization and others in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Vietnamese people over U.S. imperialism. A rally is slated for May 5th.

The N.Y. April Actions Coalition, which includes more than 150 organizations in the city, had several "volunteers" tables and urged participants to help build the April actions.

A number of other activities to build the April 20 demonstration have also taken place in the last several weeks in this city.

• The New York chapter of the National Black United Front sponsored an important forum in Brooklyn's Black community on March 26 to hear reports from several Black activists who recently traveled to Nicaragua. Entitled "Black Perspectives and Nicaragua," the meeting heard Safiya Bandle, Center for Women's Development, Medgar Evers College; Dr. Vickie Alexander, Alliance Against Women's Oppression; Job Mashariki, Black Veterans for Social Justice; and Ron Ashford, African-American Solidarity Network.

In addition, the talks on advances made in health care, changes in Nicaraguan women's status, and U.S. policy in Nicaragua, there was a lively discussion on the Sandinista government's proposals for autonomy for the Bluefields region and the indigenous peoples.

One of the speakers pointed out that an autonomy plan would have been unheard of under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, when the Atlantic Coast population was discriminated against and the entire region neglected. The workers and farmers government in Nicaragua has promoted special programs to aid the peoples of the Atlantic Coast.

During the discussion, participants

raised the need for the Black community to be part of and help lead the developing movement against the U.S. war in Central America.

• On March 19, Black activists met to discuss how to reach out to and involve the Black community in the April 20 action. The meeting, held in Harlem, was built by a letter signed by Assemblyman Roger Green; Congressman Major Owens; Rev. Ben Chavis, United Church of Christ Commission of Racial Justice; Johnetta Cole, Grenada Foundation board of directors; Harriet Michel, N.Y. TransAfrica chair; Roscoe Brown, Bronx Community College president, and others. Participants at the meeting, who included Brown and a representative of Congressman Major Owen's office, decided to issue a leaflet featuring Black endorsement for the April action and to organize special teams to paste up and distribute leaflets, set up tables, and sell bus tickets in the Black community.

• On March 28, Reagan was greeted by a spirited picket of 75, demanding "U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua!" The president was in New York to address Wall Street businessmen. The picket was led by the New York April Actions Coalition and got a good response from workers and shoppers in the area.

• An important gathering of trade unionists took place March 26 at the national offices of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). The 30 participants heard a talk by David Dyson, secretary of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. Dyson reported on the recent trip that he and a delegation of other trade union leaders, including Jack Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of ACTWU, and Victor Gottbaum, executive director of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, made to El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Human rights violations in El Salvador continue, Dyson reported, despite U.S. government attempts to paint the regime of Pres. Napoléon Duarte as democratic. The murder and torture of trade union leaders and their families, in particular, have not



Militant/Robert Kopec

Ivonne Siú of the Nicaraguan women's association spoke at New York building rally for April 20.

stopped. Despite the stepped-up repression against the labor movement, Dyson reported that the trade unions are increasing their activities to press their just demands. He said, for example, FENASTRAS, one of the largest labor federations in El Salvador, had just opened up a public headquarters in San Salvador, the capital.

Dyson told the trade unionists at the meeting that the delegation of labor officials decided that it also had to visit Nicaragua because the U.S. labor movement is more and more being forced to address U.S. government policy in that country. The delegation was able to witness the effects of the CIA-organized war on Nicaraguan society. In addition to touring areas attacked by the U.S.-backed *contra* army, the delegation was able to meet with representatives of all three labor federations in Nicaragua, as well as visit a textile factory and talk to workers. The U.S. labor officials also had an opportunity to meet and talk with U.S. embassy officials, including the U.S. ambassador, about U.S. support to the *contras*.

Dyson pointed to the danger of more direct U.S. military involvement in Nicaragua. He stated that the only way to stop the U.S. war was for antiwar forces to mobilize to help raise the political price that the U.S. government would have to pay for such a war.

He urged everyone to get involved in this effort by pressuring the U.S. Congress and marching on Washington April 20. This is especially important for the U.S. labor movement, Dyson said. The top officialdom of the AFL-CIO has attempted to maintain a "monopoly over foreign-policy questions." This monopoly, he pointed out, is being challenged today around the questions posed by the war in Central America.

To contact the New York April Actions office, call (212) 242-5990.

## Baltimore rally builds April Actions

BY J. WALTERS

BALTIMORE — More than 100 people participated in a March 28 rally here at the Centennial United Methodist Church to build the April 19-22 Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice. The fight for freedom from South Africa to Central America was the theme of the rally.

Participants came from the Baltimore Anti-apartheid Coalition, the Baltimore National Organization for Women, Maryland Campaign for a Nuclear Freeze, NAACP, and many of the other local organizations that have endorsed the April Actions.

Bea Crockett, executive secretary of District 1199E of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, spoke on behalf of her union. Crockett had just returned from Nicaragua. She described the impact of the U.S. war there and stressed the need for working people in the United States to demand that Washington "leave those people alone."

Crockett said that upon returning from Nicaragua, she reported on her experiences to her union and on the need for 1199E to actively oppose U.S. intervention. She said that the April 20 action was one way to do this. Her national union has endorsed the action, and the district has put out its own leaflet and reserved buses for the membership.

Rally cochair Reba Dixon from the April Actions Coalition read a resolution from her union, the International Association of Machinists District 12, endorsing the action.

Dixon reviewed the impressive union support that the action has won in Baltimore, including United Food and Commercial Workers Amalgamated Local 27, United Furniture Workers Local 75A, United Electrical Workers Local 120, and G.I. Johnson from the United Steelworkers Civil Rights Commission. Dixon urged

union members to encourage their locals to get involved.

Dumi Matabane from the African National Congress of South Africa talked about his recent experience speaking to coal miners in West Virginia. The United Mine Workers union opposes apartheid, pointing to the fact that it's the same U.S. corporations that are oppressing workers here and in South Africa. Matabane also answered those who oppose the demand that U.S. companies divest their holdings in South Africa. "To those who say divestment will hurt us, we say we've been hurting for 300 years; we can hurt for three more to win our freedom," said Matabane.

Romeo Posada from the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador explained that the people of El Salvador,

under the leadership of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the FDR, are fighting for the same things that U.S. workers and farmers want — "peace, justice, and social equality." He said that the April 20 march was an important action in the fight to achieve these goals.

Mamie Williams, pastor of the Centennial Methodist Church, and Richard Ullrich from the Peace and Justice Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore also spoke.

Many of the speakers talked about the need for the April 20 coalition to stay together after the action.

Rally cochair Dottie Burt from the Maryland Campaign for a Nuclear Freeze gave a fund pitch, and \$450 was donated to build the action.

## No justice for vets in Agent Orange case

BY DAVE ZILLY

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — In a day of hearings in the court of federal Judge Jack Weinstein, the wheels of justice once again rolled over Vietnam vets victimized by the deadly herbicide, Agent Orange.

Weinstein, who engineered a \$180-million, out-of-court settlement of the vets' claims against manufacturers of Agent Orange in May of last year, summarily dismissed motions by vets' lawyers that attempted to address the glaring inadequacies of the settlement. The hearings occurred on March 18.

In the first of these motions, Robert Taylor of the law firm of Ashcraft and Gerel asked Judge Weinstein to set aside the settlement and return the case to a full jury trial.

Taylor told the court that "the settlement greatly disserves Vietnam vets" and contended that it "was not reasonable, fair, or adequate." He stated that 99 percent of the

vets and veterans' organizations he was in contact with around the country were opposed to the settlement.

Taylor explained that while the settlement had anticipated approximately 20,000 claims against the \$180-million fund, there are already in hand 235,000 claims — 12 times the number expected. In addition, there are 20 times the number of "serious" claims, involving death or major injury.

Citizen Soldier, a veterans' group opposed to the settlement, has reported that of the first 60,000 claims analyzed, 7,000 were death cases. Citizen Soldier coordinator Tricia Critchfield pointed out, "In any civilian court today, those death cases would bring at least \$500,000 each. That's \$350 million just for the first group of deaths."

Taylor also explained to the court how Judge Weinstein had restructured the way the trial was to be conducted when he took

over the case, leaving the vets' case less than adequately prepared.

The original trial was abruptly terminated when Weinstein rammed through his proposed settlement. One of the arguments Weinstein had used in forcing the settlement was that the case was unwinnable.

Taylor contended that with sufficient preparation, funding, and staff, the vets' case could be won. Weinstein, however, ruled against the motion without comment.

Benton Musslewhite, representing Citizen Soldier and 2,000 vets who were party to the class-action suit, petitioned the court to open a 60-day period in which vets could "opt out" of the settlement and pursue their own legal recourse. An earlier "opt out" period expired before the full implications of the settlement and the number of claimants were known.

Musslewhite characterized the settlement as the "ultimate indignity" to Viet-

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# Reporter-worker militia in rural Nicaragua

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

A union's strength lies in keeping the ranks informed of and involved in the problems, advances, and setbacks the union makes in workplaces large and small all over the country.

With this starting point, the Association of Rural Workers (ATC) in Nicaragua has organized the Militia for Revolutionary Ideology. The ATC, the farm workers' union, was severely repressed under former-dictator Anastasio Somoza. Until the victory of the Sandinista revolution in 1979, farm workers were kept illiterate and were treated like dogs. This project is aimed at developing reporter-workers among the ranks of the union.

Started in 1982, these reporter-workers send information from each work area to the union headquarters. Their reports make up part of the union's newspaper, *El Machete*, as well as its national radio program.

The reporter-workers' stories cover everything that affects the farm worker. In the December issue of *El Machete*, one farm worker wrote about three new schools under construction in his region. Another, from Esteli, wrote an article complaining of the indifference of a farm director who had hurt production. One woman worker from Jalapa wrote a eulogy about another woman who had as part of the defense effort taken a nontraditional job on the farm — driving a tractor — and had recently been killed.

The reporter-workers' project is called the Militia for Revolutionary Ideology because through their reports, reporter-workers help to defeat the counterrevolution's campaign of lies in the "ideological trench." Workers selected for this responsibility are activists in the revolutionary process. They participate in adult education programs, public health campaigns, revolutionary vigilance against counterrevolutionary attacks, the militia, and the Sandinista People's Army.

The movement of reporter-workers in Las Segovias, an area close to the Hondu-

ran border and a front in the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary war, is in the vanguard of the national movement. In the two years since the first ATC workshop for reporter-workers was organized there, 35 workers have been trained. Today, 31 are actively carrying out this responsibility, and 45 percent of them are women.

"The movement of reporter-workers of the ATC has led to the strengthening of the radio program," Leda Valenzuela, coordinator of *Radio Liberación de Esteli*, said. "The proof of this is the quantity of information we receive from the different zones in the region."

The reporter-workers movement has advanced in the face of serious difficulties, ranging from simply physically getting the reports from the local work areas to the union headquarters and radio station, to the low educational level of the majority of the reporter-workers. They, like most Nicaraguan workers, only learned to read and write after the victory of the revolution.

The most serious obstacle to this movement, like to all social progress in Nicaragua, is the U.S.-backed war. A full 90 percent of the reporter-workers have been mobilized and sent to the war front at least once in the last two years.

This movement has paid a human price for the war. In Las Segovias alone two reporter-workers, Carmen Mayra Laguna of Ocotal and Blanca Moreno from Jalapa, have been killed in battle against the U.S.-funded mercenaries. Lucio Cárdenas, a reporter-worker from San Juan de Rio Coco, has been kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary terrorists.

Despite these difficulties, the reporter-worker movement continues to develop. The spirit and motivation behind the movement was explained by Alicia Andino, a reporter-worker from Las Segovias: "I write at least 7 news items a week, and if I had more time, I would write more. I want to continue struggling in this ideological trench for the defense of our revolution."

## Practice invasion of Nicaragua

Continued from front page

coast of Honduras. The U.S. forces will use a guided-missile cruiser, a destroyer, and a frigate as support for an aerial assault task force of the 101st Airborne Division and Cobra attack helicopters.

At the same time, Washington's Big Pine III maneuvers will be going through their second phase: tank exercises only a few miles from the border with Nicaragua, involving at least 40 tanks. Soviet-built T-54 and T-55 tanks — stolen by Israel from Egypt — will be used to represent the Nicaraguan "invaders." Following this exercise, the GIs will carry out "counterinsurgency" maneuvers.

Scheduled to participate in this military dress rehearsal are Green Berets from Fort Bragg, North Carolina; a communications unit from the McDill Air Force Base in Florida; an aviation support unit from the Pennsylvania National Guard; military intelligence from Aberdeen, Maryland; military engineers from Fort Campbell, Kentucky; military police from Fort Polk, Louisiana; and armored units from the Texas National Guard, among others.

Universal Trek will be the fifth major set of U.S. war exercises in Honduras since 1983, and the largest.

On March 25, papers here printed a *Washington Post* revelation that U.S. Special Forces — Green Berets — in addition to taking part in the joint maneuvers, have been secretly integrated into a Commando of Urban Operations in Honduras. The commando's 40 soldiers passed themselves off as members of a Honduran internal security force, called the *cobris*, while carrying out special "antiterrorist" missions.

The training program, code-named Operation Quail Shooter, began in 1982 under the auspices of the CIA. Since then commando members have been involved in a half dozen actions in support of the CIA-directed counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua. It has been known for some time that the *cobris*, as well as the other Honduran military forces, works closely with the *contras* in their Honduran bases.

The U.S. government has denied that the antiterrorist unit has anything to do with Nicaragua. Yet a recent court case in the United States puts the lie to this assertion. In that case, two Green Berets have been accused of selling arms and ammunition they stole from the Fort Bragg military base. The accused, one of whom participated in the Honduran commando training program, claimed that the arms were part of a secret program of aid to the *contras* in their efforts to overthrow the Sandinista government. And they intend to call a Honduran army officer who was involved in the training program to testify for the defense.



Cover of *El Machete*, paper of Nicaraguan farm workers union. Once illiterate, union members are today being trained as reporters for paper.

## Nicaraguan speaker describes 'the fruits of freedom'

BY JEFF POWERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — "The most difficult thing human beings can involve themselves in is making a revolution. Under Somoza, our people were scared by years and years of oppression and exploitation. Now Nicaragua is a great school. Our people are learning on the job. Over one million people are in classrooms."

This was the message Ray Hooker, an elected official to the Nicaraguan National Assembly from Bluefields, Nicaragua, brought to Kansas City March 8 and 9.



Militant/Jeff Powers  
Nicaraguan official Ray Hooker speaking in Kansas City.

Hooker, who was captured by the U.S.-backed *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) and held for 55 days in the fall of 1984, is on a national tour of 12 North American cities.

While in Kansas City, Hooker spoke to over 250 people at meetings held at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Martin Luther King Urban Center, and Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas.

All three major television networks, several radio stations, and a UHF TV channel carried news of Hooker's visit. Both of the city's major dailies — the *Kansas City Star* and *Times* — ran extensive stories on Hooker.

At each of Hooker's events, he was extremely well-received. His talks were followed by lengthy question-and-answer sessions, where Hooker explained the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution and exposed the role of the *contras*.

Hooker was confident that the North American people can be won to support Nicaragua's revolution. "In the past 5 years, over 100,000 North Americans have come to Nicaragua. The overwhelming consensus of these people is that our revolution has accomplished great things for our people," he said.

Hooker was also confident that the Nicaraguan people will never turn back from the road they have chosen: "Once you taste the fruits of freedom, no other food is to your liking."

## Nicaraguan unions discuss economy in 'IP'

Last month the *Militant* carried a report by José G. Pérez from Managua on a series of new economic measures taken by the workers and farmers government of Nicaragua.

For several weeks prior to the announcement of the new policies on wages and prices, Nicaraguan working people were able to discuss the economic problems confronting their country in the face of U.S.-directed counterrevolutionary attacks.

One of the forums in which workers considered these problems was the Fourth National Assembly of Unions, held on January 26 and 27. The current issue of *Intercontinental Press*, dated April 15, includes two documents from that conference.

In the closing report by Commander of the Revolution Víctor Tirado López, he stressed to the unionists that "the battle against imperialism is not just taking place on the military plane, but also on the economic plane."

Along with this report, *IP* prints

the resolutions of the assembly, which outline how the unions will help to: "1. Fight imperialism by wiping out the counterrevolutionary bands. 2. Begin to wipe out the sources that generate speculation and nonproductive jobs. 3. Raise production and productivity."

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# Sandinistas thwart new provocation by CIA, Arturo Cruz

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has thwarted a major CIA provocation against the revolution here.

The provocation centered around Arturo Cruz, the Washington, D.C., banker who served briefly in the Nicaraguan government following the 1979 revolution and then quit in opposition to the government's course of advancing the interests of Nicaragua's workers and peasants.

Cruz was chosen last year as presidential candidate by the Democratic Coordinating Committee, a coalition of Nicaraguan capitalist parties and organizations that oppose the workers and peasants government.

Cruz refused to file for ballot status and only spent a few weeks in Nicaragua during the three-month election campaign. Instead, he placed himself at the center of an unsuccessful U.S. effort to torpedo the elections, demanding that the Sandinistas call them off and that they carry out a dialogue with the CIA-led mercenaries waging war against Nicaragua.

In January 1985, Cruz testified in Washington in favor of Congressional funding for these mercenaries, called *contras*. He claimed at the time that he was merely an "independent opponent" of Nicaragua's government.

But at the end of February, he visited the Honduras headquarters of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) — the main contra group, led by former National Guard officers of deposed Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

In a speech he gave there, later broadcast over the CIA's Radio 15 de Septiembre, Cruz hailed the FDN, which specializes in murdering civilians and kidnapping peasants.

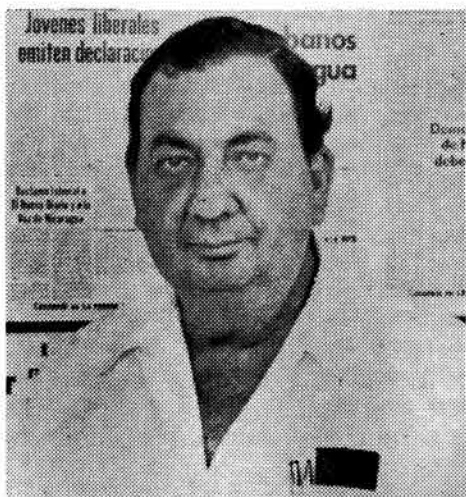
"I don't have your heroism," Cruz told them. "I greet you with humility, with respect, with selflessness, and with profound affection."

From Honduras, Cruz went to Costa Rica, where he and other "civic" opponents of the Nicaraguan workers and peasants government joined with the armed counter-revolutionaries in issuing an ultimatum to the Nicaraguan government.

## 'La Prensa' publisher admits goals are same as 'contras'

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, coeditor of the capitalist daily *La Prensa*, has openly admitted that his paper is working for the same objectives as the CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries waging war against Nicaragua.

"The *contras* are fighting with weapons, we are fighting another way, together with the political parties and private enterprise, trying to prevent Nicaragua from becoming a Communist state," Chamorro told a group of U.S. tourists who visited the editorial offices of *La Prensa* on February 20. His remarks became public here a



La Prensa's Jaime Chamorro

The March 2 document, clearly inspired by Washington, demanded freedom for imprisoned members of Somoza's National Guard, as well as dissolution of the Sandinista Defense Committees and of the National Assembly elected last November.

The central demand was for "dialogue" with the U.S.-paid mercenary chieftains.

Signing the document, in addition to Cruz, were Adolfo Calero, commander in chief of the FDN; Alfonso Robelo, a leader of the other main mercenary group, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE); Steadman Fagoth, whose armed group MISURA works with the FDN; Pedro Joaquín Chamorro Barrios, former copublisher of the Managua capitalist daily, *La Prensa*, and others.

Two prominent contra figures did not sign — Edén Pastora and Brooklyn Rivera, whose group MISURASATA has begun cease-fire negotiations with the Nicaraguan government.

The document was clearly timed to appear as the debate in the U.S. Congress over funding for the *contras* began.

In a March 5 interview over Radio Impacto, a CIA station in Costa Rica, Cruz threatened that "if no attention is paid to this call," the *contras* "will have the last word." Having laid this groundwork, Cruz then set out for Managua.

On March 7, before Cruz managed to get to Managua, Nicaraguan State Security announced that it had uncovered a CIA plot against the revolution linked to Cruz' activities.

As a Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior communiqué explained, "Cruz' going to Nicaragua is based on the expectation that he would be arrested upon his arrival, given his now public counterrevolutionary affiliation...."

"In the event the Nicaraguan government did not take any penal measure, the CIA — according to information obtained by our intelligence services — would carry out ... an assassination attempt against Mr. Cruz. This assassination attempt would be immediately attributed to the Sandinista People's Revolution."

According to the Nicaraguan government, Cruz intended to contact Catholic bishops in Managua, whom he would ask

month later when the New Nicaragua News Agency obtained a tape of the meeting.

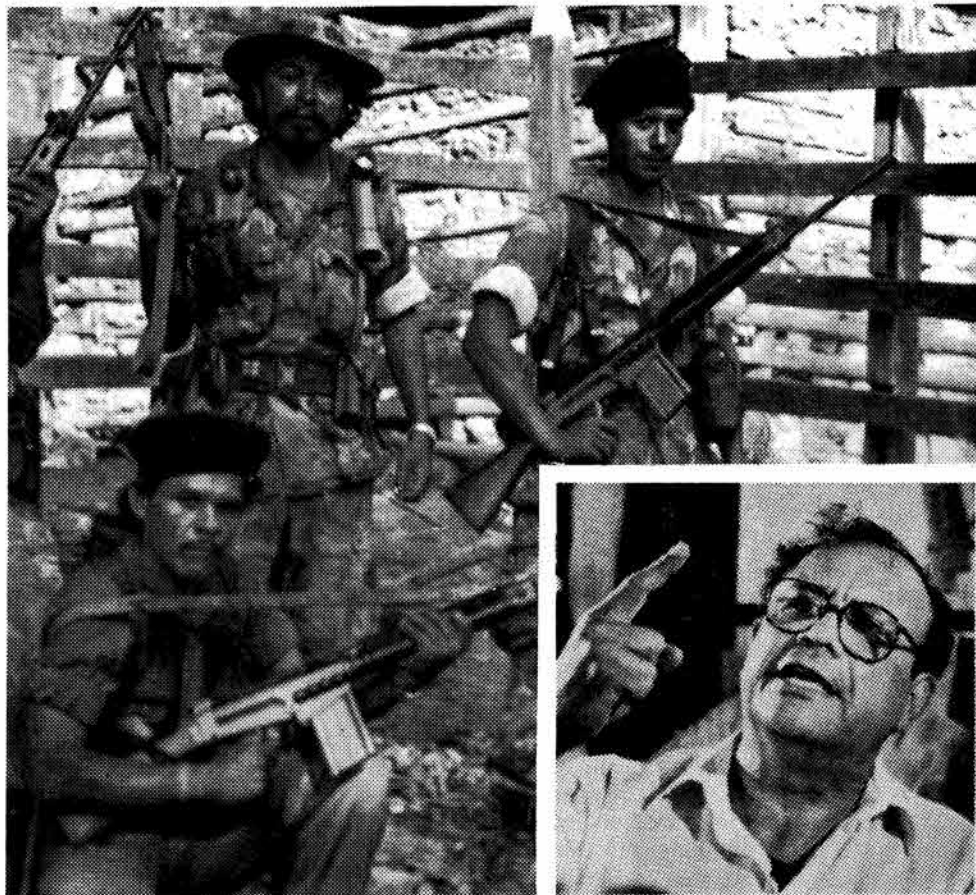
Chamorro piously described the U.S. war — which has killed and maimed thousands of Nicaraguans — as "lamentable." Nevertheless, he said, contra violence and U.S. political and economic pressure are "fundamental to preventing Nicaragua and the rest of Central America from going 'completely communist.'" He also called for renewed, open congressional funding of the *contras*, saying they "have a right" to this backing.

Chamorro told his visitors that *La Prensa* did not say these things openly because "anything we could say in favor of the *contras*" would be considered "treason" within Nicaragua.

Chamorro also revealed that *La Prensa* is being financed by the U.S. government to the tune of \$100,000 — a large amount of money by Nicaraguan standards.

The money was funneled through a "National Endowment for Democracy," which the Reagan administration set up in 1983 for the express purpose of sparing recipients the embarrassment of getting money directly from the CIA. The endowment, like the CIA, is funded by Congress.

Given the gravity of his statements, on March 21, Chamorro was summoned and questioned by Commander Lenín Cerna, head of State Security. He was released after being given a warning.



Washington's mercenaries, trained to kill, kidnap, and torture Nicaraguans. Arturo Cruz (inset) hailed these terrorists, expressing his "profound affection" for their "heroism."

to act as "mediators" in the campaign for a dialogue with the *contras*. Following this, the CIA-organized assassination attempt would take place.

Either way — if the Nicaraguan government arrested Cruz for his actions in support of the *contras*, or if an attempt were made on his life — the U.S. government would rush in to champion "democrat" Cruz and charge he was the victim of "Sandinista persecution." The U.S. imperialists hoped to use these events to discredit the Sandinistas and their call for peace negotiations. Washington would charge that the attack on Cruz justified further aid to the *contras*, and would try to lay the basis for severing more diplomatic ties with Nicaragua and for recognizing a contra "government in exile."

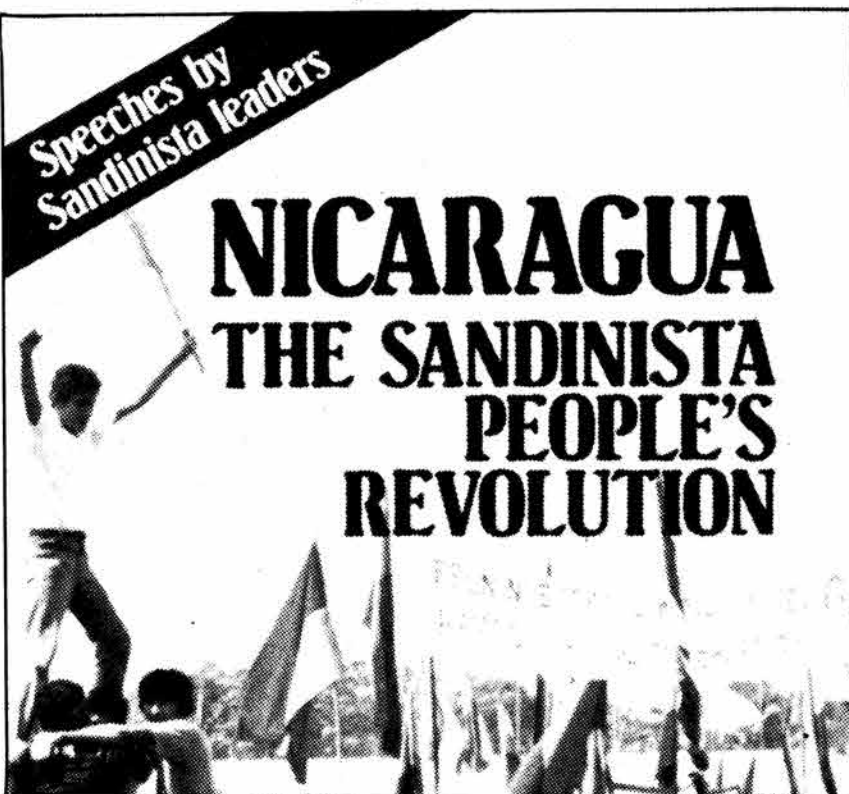
But the Nicaraguan government aborted the CIA plan by warning all airlines not to

allow Cruz to board a plane for Managua. He was unable to return.

On March 10, addressing a rally in Matagalpa to celebrate the successful conclusion of the coffee harvest, Nicaraguan Pres. Daniel Ortega took up the CIA-Cruz provocation. "... we made it clear," said Ortega, "that those who wish to ally themselves with the aggressive policy of foreign imperialist powers, those who ally themselves with Sandino's assassins ... with the assassins of Nicaraguan children and women, elderly people and workers — had better go to their camps outside Nicaragua because they will be politically finished in this country."

"Better that they go and take up guns over there, under the orders of the CIA Somozaist criminals. Here we are ready to confront them in that arena as well, and defeat them."

## Special Pre-publication Offer! \$3 off!



This new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. It will be available for the first time at the April 20 antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and other cities — where you can buy it for the special pre-publication price of \$5. (Regular price: \$7.95) Between now and April 20, Pathfinder Press is making that same offer available to *Militant* readers.

Just clip out this coupon and mail it to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$.75 for shipping; book will be mailed in May.)

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# Newark trial a blow to democratic rights

BY DAVE PRINCE

NEWARK, N.J. — Timothy Blunk and Susan Rosenberg were found guilty of illegal possession of firearms and explosives after a widely publicized "terrorist" trial at the Federal Courthouse here March 17. The two face up to 55 years imprisonment at their sentencing scheduled for April 29.

Rosenberg also will face government charges that she was the driver of a getaway car in the 1981 Brinks armored truck robbery in New York state in which two policemen and a Brinks guard were killed.

Blunk and Rosenberg, who were arrested in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, on Nov. 29, 1984, state they are revolutionaries opposed to U.S. imperialism. They refused to answer the government's charges against them.

The ten-day trial was a deliberate and provocative attack by Judge Frederick B. Lacey and First Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas W. Greelish on the democratic rights of the defendants; and it reinforced legal precedents that can be used more broadly to take away the rights of other indicted individuals. The court and the government took full advantage of the pariah status they imposed on the defendants as dangerous terrorists to deny their rights and justify abusive treatment.

During the trial, the big-business media conducted an inflammatory campaign against the defendants as "radical terrorists," pushing into the background and obscuring the important civil liberties issues at stake. The *Star Ledger*, the main Newark-area paper, had daily front-page coverage.

The abusive treatment of the defendants was designed to prejudice the jury and the public, and in effect denied the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Bail was denied under the 1984 Bail Reform Act. Elaborate security measures were in force throughout the trial, including transporting the prisoners to and from

the courtroom under heavily armed guard with helicopters flying overhead. Observers of the trial were required to go through a series of metal detector tests, and a large number of plainclothes government agents were in attendance throughout the trial. Blunk and Rosenberg were shackled in the courtroom. They were harshly treated in prison.

Judge Lacey railroaded the case to judgment, denying a request from defense attorneys Susan Tipograph and Mark Gombiner for a three-week extension to help prepare an adequate defense to the serious charges.

Serious cross-examination of key government witnesses from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) was blocked by Lacey when he upheld government objections to questions by Blunk and Rosenberg about political spying by the agency. The defendants had sought to find out how the case against them was put together. They called attention to a BATF document that referred to the two as members of the "May 19 Communist Organization."



Timothy Blunk

Any attempts by the defendants to explain their political views were denied. The entire defense case was ruled irrelevant, and the trial proceeded directly from the government case to the summations.

The Newark trial continued the sharp attacks on democratic rights — in the name of fighting "terrorism" — carried out by



Susan Lisa Rosenberg

the government, courts, and prisons during the Brinks robbery trials. The precedents are intended to be used, as well, against other radicals, unionists, Black and women's rights fighters, and antiwar activists.

The undemocratic character of these "terrorist" trials needs to be brought to light and opposed.

## Swedish socialist begins U.S. tour

Swedish trade union and socialist leader Göte Kildén will open an 18-day U.S. visit at an April 9 meeting of the Detroit Militant Labor Forum. He will be in Kansas City April 11 and St. Louis April 12.

A worker at the Volvo auto and truck plant in Gothenburg, Kildén is chairman of the Metal Workers union section committee at the truck plant and a leader of the Union Opposition at Volvo, a militant formation aimed at making the union a more efficient defender of the workers' interests.

A leader of the Socialist Party of Sweden, he will be a candidate for parliament on the party ticket. The Socialist Party is the

Swedish section of the Fourth International and a sister party of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party. He is here at the invitation of the SWP.

Kildén's April 9 meeting in Detroit will be held at 7 p.m. at 7146 W. McNichols.

His April 12 meeting in St. Louis will be held at 7 p.m. at the Militant Labor Forum, 3109 S. Grand St.

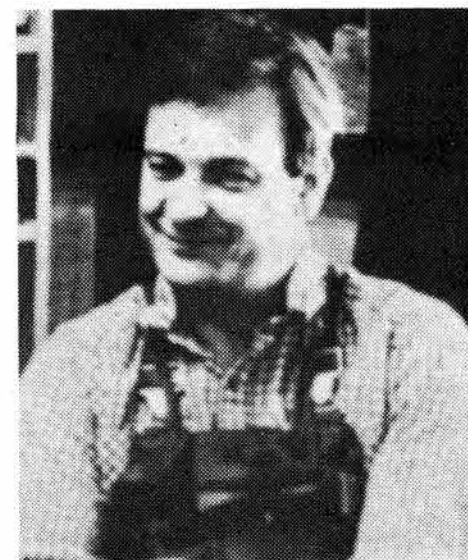
After the forum, Kildén and other forum participants will be attending a benefit reggae for the April 20 antiwar coalition.

During his St. Louis visit, socialist coal miners employed in southern Illinois are planning a dinner get-together for him with mining coworkers.

Kildén will also be visiting the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, Los Angeles, New York, Newark, Houston, and Montreal, Canada. He will be speaking at public meetings on the political situation of Swedish workers and will utilize his trip to meet with workers in various industries, and with farm activists.

On April 20, Kildén will be in Washington, D.C., to join the march against U.S. intervention in Central America.

Information on the balance of his tour schedule will be reported in the coming issues of the *Militant*.



Internationalen Göte Kildén, socialist and chair of Metal Workers union section committee at Volvo truck plant, starts his U.S. tour in Detroit April 9.

## Seattle area gov't shelves gay rights bill

BY LISA HICKLER

SEATTLE — On March 15, the King County Council refused to act on an anti-discrimination bill, voting instead to send it back to committee for further redrafting. The proposed county ordinance would make it illegal for employers to discriminate on account of political or religious views, or sexual orientation.

The bill has become the forum for public debate over gay rights; most of the testimony at two days of public hearings centered on this question. Over 300 people signed up to testify before the council. It is unlikely, however, that the ordinance will be reconsidered by the council before next

November's elections.

Support for the bill came from organizations such as the Dorian Group, a gay-rights organization, the National Organization for Women, and other civil rights organizations. The King County Democratic Party went on record for the bill, as did the two major Seattle dailies.

The hearings took on a rally-like atmosphere. Remarks were frequently interrupted with applause. Supporters of the bill wore lavender ribbons to signify support for gay rights. Men and women of all ages and professions spoke out against discrimination they had personally faced as gays on-the-job and in society. One woman told

about harassment she encountered in the 1950s for being a lesbian, and likened it to the McCarthyite anticommunist red-baiting of the period.

The central spokesperson against the ordinance has been County Councilman Paul Barden, who told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* that the ordinance would "require a believer, under penalty of law, to disobey God — to sin. It would require a believer to hire, retain, or even promote one who, as a conscious decision, chooses to mock God and his Commandments."

Most of the testimony against the bill included references to god and the Bible. Many also mentioned AIDS as a reason to allow job discrimination. Opponents also testified that the bill would take away "rights" of employers. One man told the council: "If homosexuals have a right to choose their lifestyle, I have a right to choose who I employ."

Prominent religious figures testified in favor of the ordinance. Tony Lee, speaking for the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, told the council: "We firmly believe that homosexual people are entitled to enjoy the same protection of their rights as any other individual or group."

Rev. David Bloom, associate director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, issued a statement which said: "Discrimination based on sexual orientation is as much a violation of basic human rights as discrimination based on race or religion."

Several speakers challenged the assertion that AIDS is spread by on-the-job contact. Others also pointed out that this disease should not be used as a pretext for antigay prejudice. George Bakan, editor of *Seattle Gay News*, said he resented "linking a virus to a civil rights issue."

King County Executive Randy Revelle criticized the council for shelving the ordinance.

In nearby Tacoma, three lesbian students at Stadium High School have announced that they will file a complaint with the Tacoma School Board. The ACLU is working with the three young women who say that they are being harassed by students and administrators because of their sexual orientation.

## Thousands protest racism in France

Thousands of people marched against racism in Paris on Sunday, March 31. The march, which included prominent entertainers and political figures, was called the day before to protest racist attacks against Arab and African immigrants, their children born in France, as well as French Jews.

The march was called in response to the bombing March 29 of a movie theater showing a Jewish film festival. Eighteen people were wounded in the attack. This bombing was only the latest in a wave of racist violence throughout France that has included the murder of a number of Arab immigrants.

The racist violence, according to the

French newspaper, *Le Monde*, was unleashed by "xenophobic agitation" and "competitive bidding against immigration."

In the face of the wave of racist violence, SOS Racism was formed a few months ago. The organization has already won the support of prominent entertainment figures in France.

SOS Racism initiated the "hands off my buddy" movement, aimed at eliminating racist sentiment.

The movement has been growing in France. Many of the participants in the Sunday demonstration wore the outstretched-hand insignia of the movement.



Thousands join antiracist march in Paris



# Burkina revolution mobilizes to fight famine

Continued from back page

When the Burkinabè leaders approached Washington for technical assistance for artificially inducing rainfall in Burkina, the Reagan administration said no. It also threatened to halt all further economic assistance to Burkina if it continued to vote against U.S. policy interests in the United Nations.

On February 1, officials of the World Bank and of 13 imperialist governments met in Paris to set up a new, \$1 billion fund for African countries suffering from famine and economic collapse. But the criteria for receiving this aid are blatantly political — those countries that forcefully attack imperialist policies are for the most part excluded. On the list of the 18 countries likely to obtain such assistance immediately or in the future, Burkina's name is not to be found.

But the Burkinabè government and people are not demoralized by the low level of international assistance or the tremendous economic, social, and environmental problems they face. They are fighting back. They are waging an audacious and determined struggle to overcome Burkina's legacy of imperialist domination and to challenge the forces of nature. The struggle to eat is a key revolutionary task in Burkina today.

In an interview with *Intercontinental Press*, Youssouf Ouédraogo, the minister of planning and popular development, asserted that the government has "a strategic objective of self-sufficiency in food."

But to attain that goal will require a long and difficult effort. Both to meet the immediate, emergency needs in the north and to improve food production over the long term, the CNR is seeking to mobilize and organize the Burkinabè people to be active participants in this struggle. This is in contrast to the approach of the previous neo-colonial regimes, which fostered passivity and a reliance on foreign handouts.

According to Josephine Ouédraogo, the CNR's immediate operational strategy is "aimed partly at providing food aid and partly at gaining access to the disaster regions, which are sometimes very difficult to reach."

In 1983, shortly after the CNR seized power, a national solidarity fund was established, to which people were encouraged to contribute. Since then, the fund has collected some 500 million CFA francs (about US\$1 million), largely from within the country. Most of it has been used to buy grain for distribution in the north or to improve roads in the region.

An indispensable role in the struggle against the drought and famine is being played by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs), the mass-based bodies that have been established in every neighborhood, workplace, and village. It is through the CDRs and their elected leaderships that virtually the entire population is being mobilized, in one way or another, to deal with this gigantic problem.

The CDRs have organized convoys of emergency food aid to the north. In many instances, the CDRs have themselves distributed the grain, either free or at low, fixed prices. This has helped to push aside the private traders who have sought to profit from the famine.

In October 1984, the CNR launched its ambitious People's Development Program (PPD), a 15-month crash plan of economic development that focuses largely on improving conditions in the countryside: the construction of dams, irrigation canals, roads, health clinics, schools, animal vaccination centers, grain storage bins, and other basic facilities. Most are of a modest scale, planned at minimal cost and involving the mobilization of local labor power through the organizing efforts of the CDRs.

The PPD will help reduce the isolation of the northern regions and improve Burkina's physical and economic infrastructure, making it easier to quickly mobilize and deploy resources to the areas that are in particular need.

Currently, the CDRs are on a major campaign for the "Battle of the Rail," the construction of a railway from Ouagadougou to Tambao in the north — a distance of some 350 kilometers.

In an effort to slow down and halt the spread of the Sahara Desert, another campaign has been launched to plant 10 million trees this year. The trees will help prevent

the continual erosion of the soil and will provide some protection from the desert winds.

Burkina's options for intensive agricultural development are limited. It has only one river that flows year round, the Black Volta, which runs through the Sourou Valley northwest of Ouagadougou, making it the country's most fertile region. To take full advantage of the Sourou Valley's potential and to transform it into one of Burkina's major granaries, thousands of volunteers, organized by the CDRs, have already built an irrigation dam and canals there, to irrigate some 40,000 acres of land. With the addition of another 32,000 acres fed by rainfall, the area is capable of producing 15 percent of Burkina's cereal needs.

Such projects are being coupled with various agrarian reform measures aimed at improving the conditions of the peasants and encouraging them to produce more.

All land has been nationalized, with peasants retaining full use of their land and eliminating the problems of land speculation that existed in some parts. New banks and credit associations have been set up to make financial aid more accessible to small peasants. The tax on peasant farming that was imposed under French colonial rule has been abolished. The producer price of grain is being gradually raised to spur in-



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Sign in Ouagadougou, Burkina, says, "For independence in foodstuffs and for national sovereignty, to the assault of the Sourou," referring to revolution's construction of irrigation dam and canals in Sourou Valley, where country's only year-round river flows.

creased production. This will also encourage peasants to sell their grain directly to the National Grain Board (OFNACER), which is building up its stocks, and will limit the ability of speculative traders to buy up grains at low prices and resell them at exorbitant rates.

This multifaceted struggle against famine and hunger is only conceivable through the mobilization of the labor and

energy of the population as a whole. As the revolution unfolds, it is unleashing those energies and directing them toward a major economic and social transformation of this impoverished country.

By surmounting this fundamental problem of hunger, Burkina will be taking an important step forward in its battle against imperialist domination and for genuine independence.

## Publications fund makes Africa tour possible

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The managing editor of *Intercontinental Press (IP)*, Ernest Harsch, has just returned from a three-week fact-finding trip to West Africa.

Harsch traveled to Ghana as part of a delegation of 18 North American political activists, the majority of whom are active in the Black movement in the United States. They were official guests of the government for the March 6 ceremonies marking the 28th anniversary of Ghana's independence. They received a considerable amount of attention in the news media in Ghana while they were there.

Following the trip to Ghana, Harsch spent a week in Burkina. While there he was able to obtain exclusive interviews with Pres. Thomas Sankara, the head of Burkina's new government established in August 1983, and other leaders.

Harsch was also able to make a fact-finding trip to Senegal and stop briefly in the Ivory Coast before returning to the United States.

This week's issue of the *Militant* has a report by Harsch on Burkina. Future issues of the *Militant*, as well as *IP*, will feature other reports on the developments in these countries and interviews with working-class leaders and government officials. (For *IP* subscription information, see ad on page 6.)

This trip offers an excellent opportunity for us to bring our readers on-the-spot coverage from an important part of the world.

This trip, like all reporting trips of this kind, cost money. It is to pay for trips like this one that the Socialist Publications

Fund was launched March 22. Our goal is to raise \$75,000 by June 15.

In addition to paying for reporting trips, the fund will help finance the publication of the *Militant*, our Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as *IP*, *New International*, and socialist books like the forthcoming *Nicaragua: Sandinista People's Revolution*.

The fund is now in its third week and off to a modest start. To date, \$3,200 has been collected.

In order to complete the fund drive in full and on time, we need to receive \$8,000 a week from now on. This will be quite an ambitious task. If we are to get on schedule in the next few weeks we will need a

stepped-up effort on the part of all supporters of the *Militant*.

We have gotten word that *Militant* readers around the country are preparing to make pledges to the fund. These pledges can be made now and paid off over the course of the fund drive. For example, one report has come to us from Detroit. *Militant* readers and supporters who work in the automobile plants there and are members of the United Auto Workers have decided to pledge one week's pay to the Socialist Publications Fund.

We are appealing to our readers to help us. Any contribution, no matter what the amount, will be greatly appreciated.

## Baltimore hears forum on Burkina

BY BRENDA BRDAR

BALTIMORE — "There is now in Africa a country called Burkina Faso, which means 'the country of right, incorruptible men; a poor but proud people.'"

Forty people, including members of the African National Congress, and several South African students, heard Mélégué Traoré, the 33-year-old chargé d'affaires from the Burkina Faso embassy in Washington, D.C., at the Militant Forum here on March 16. (Faso is roughly equivalent to the English term "republic.")

Traoré described the young revolution in this former French colony as a revolution for "freedom, dignity, and independence from foreign powers."

In August 1983, the Burkinabè people stood up "to say it's enough. We should stop it. We should no longer accept being

slaves of a foreign power. . . . Nobody abroad should tell us what to do . . . what kind of society we should have. What kind of government we should have," said Traoré.

Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, had gained its formal independence from France in 1960. But until August 1983, he explained, "it was very hard to say we were really independent from France."

Traoré quoted Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina, to further explain real independence: "If you have political freedom, without economical freedom, you have nothing, in fact."

The young chargé d'affaires also stressed the important role of women in the Burkina revolution. "Social change means the liberation of women," he explained. "How can you have a revolution without the participation of 52 percent of the population? We should give women and men a new mentality. Without women, there can be no revolution in Burkina Faso."

The Burkina revolution is profoundly internationalist, as well. "We support, anywhere in the world, all the liberation movements," said Traoré. He singled out for particular mention the fight of the Black majority of South Africans for self-determination and the Nicaraguan revolution.

Concerning Nicaragua, Traoré stated: "It's important for us to support the Nicaraguan Sandinista junta, and now President Ortega. . . . We have invited Ortega to Burkina Faso to see our people standing up and taking their destiny into their own hands."

Traoré referred to himself as part of a new generation of Burkinabè diplomats. While he continues to have responsibilities on the official governmental level, he said it is important to build solidarity between the Burkinabè people and working people in the United States.

In the March 22 issue of the *Militant*, we launched the Socialist Publications Fund with the goal of raising \$75,000 by June 15.

A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* and other socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publications Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.

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# Puerto Rico's role in Caribbean Basin

## Governor's new plans 'Made in USA'

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernández Colón, has begun what is called the Caribbeanization and Latin Americanization of the island.

Beginning at his inauguration, to which dozens of government officials from Latin American and the Caribbean were invited for the first time, Hernández Colón announced that the island will become a technical training center for "our Caribbean neighbors." He projected Puerto Rico "assuming a leadership role in achieving those valuable objectives contained in President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative. We are going to become an active and creative protagonist in the promotion of economic development, political stability, and democracy in this region."

The U.S. government's Caribbean schemes are called the Caribbean Basin Initiative, or CBI. This 1982 Reagan administration proposal is a 12-year program of "aid, trade and investment," to solve the economic crisis in the region through the capitalist market.

While proclaiming, "I declare with pride that I am from this land" and reaffirming the Puerto Rican national identity, Hernández Colón also rejected any plebiscite, referendum, or other political process to change the "Free Associated State" that is the current colonial relationship with the United States.

In the name of reaffirming "our own profile and identity," Hernández Colón announced the formation of a high-level commission to guarantee Puerto Rico's full participation in the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Americas.

Within days of his inauguration, Hernández Colón's administration announced that Puerto Rico would not only become a member of the newly conceived Caribbean Parliament, but would serve as the headquarters of this body. The Caribbean Parliament would be made up of representatives of Caribbean nations, excluding Cuba and

possibly Nicaragua. Its purpose, according to Leonardo Ferrer, president of the Venezuelan House of Representatives, would be to discuss such problems as political conflicts in the region, economic difficulties of member countries, and drug traffic. Puerto Rico's secretary of state, Héctor Luis Acevedo, explained that this is only a first step to joining other Latin American forums.

Hernández Colón's plans include using funds from the Puerto Rican Government Development Bank (Fomento) to develop industry in other Caribbean countries under a "twin plant" arrangement. Under this arrangement a corporation would establish two factories in the Caribbean — one in a low-wage area such as Haiti to carry out the labor intensive work, and the other in a relatively high-wage area such as Puerto Rico to do the more technical work of finishing the production. Both factories would be backed by monies from Fomento and covered by the same tax exemptions given to companies in Puerto Rico today. Along with the "twin plant" arrangement, Hernández Colón is actively encouraging Spanish companies to set up shop on the island.

These measures appear to be completely out of step with Puerto Rico's legal, economic, and political status. Under the "1950 compact," Puerto Rico became known as a "Free Associated State" of the United States. The "compact" explicitly forbids Puerto Rico from signing treaties with any countries. Under U.S. law, Puerto Rico's government can take no initiatives nor pass any laws without the approval of the U.S. Congress. For decades, U.S. laws have required Puerto Ricans to study English from kindergarten through college in an attempt to Americanize the island. English is required to participate in certain court proceedings on the island. A full 88 percent of all Puerto Rican industry is owned by U.S. corporations, which pay no taxes and are subject to few ecological or health and safety laws.

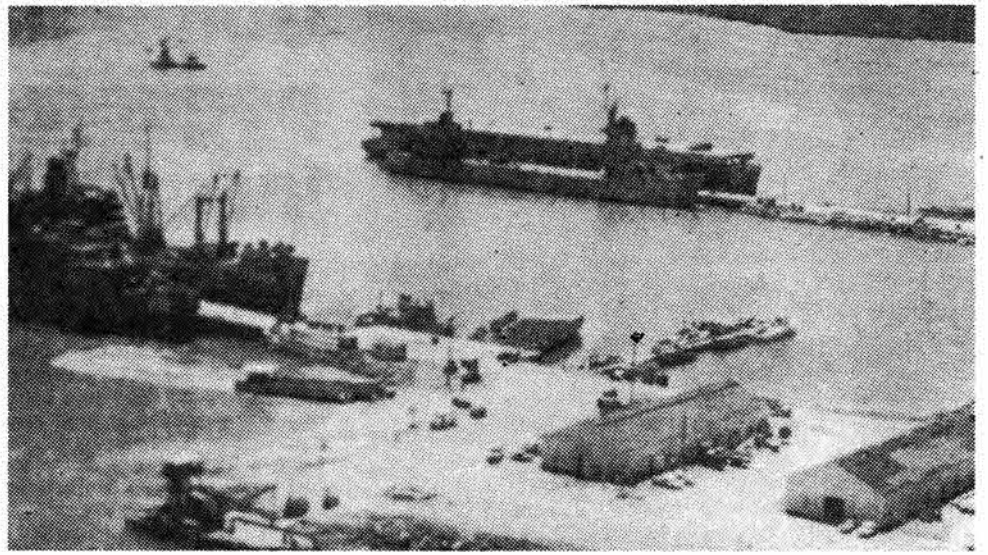
Hernández Colón and his party, the Popular Democratic Party (PPD) — which rejects not only any change in this arrangement but even a public vote on the colonial status — say that all these initiatives are within the framework of the "1950 compact."

And they are right. The framework of the "compact" is the subjection of Puerto Rico and its people to the interests of the rulers of the United States, not only on the island, but throughout the region. Within the framework of the "1950 compact," Puerto Rico has been used as a military staging ground for U.S. military intervention into Latin America and the Caribbean, from the 1965 invasion of the Dominican Republic, to the 1981 practice invasion of Grenada and the yearly massive naval maneuvers directed against the revolutionary government of Cuba.

The plans to Caribbeanize Puerto Rico are within this basic structure, since they represent not a reaffirmation of Puerto Rican identity or Puerto Rican national pride, but the expansion of the role Puerto Rico will play in defending U.S. imperialism's exploitation and oppression in the Caribbean.

The plans to Caribbeanize the island were not made in the Fortaleza, the governor's mansion in San Juan, but in the White House in Washington, D.C. In fact, Hernández Colón's plan to Caribbeanize the island was written as early as 1980 by Constantine Menges, then director of the CIA's Caribbean section, in a memo entitled "Strategic Evaluation of Puerto Rico."

In this memo, Menges, who is currently the presidential assistant in charge of Latin America on the National Security Council, rejects statehood and even a plebiscite on this question (independence is unimaginable to him), because it would cause instability in the region. Statehood, Menges says, would be "extremely dangerous" to U.S. interests in the Caribbean. Puerto Rico as a "Free Associated State" — a colony — is essential to maintaining the bal-



U.S. military bases in Puerto Rico such as Roosevelt Roads have served as a staging ground for aggression in the region. Puerto Rican governor's plans will expand island's political and economic role in the Caribbean in the interests of U.S. imperialism.

ance of power on the side of the U.S. government in the Caribbean.

The CIA memo makes the meaning of Hernández Colón's sudden discovery that Puerto Rico is a Spanish-speaking country in the Caribbean clearer. The "twin plants" and Fomento's investing in the Caribbean are Menges' "economic independence." Such independence only serves to open the door to more U.S. companies on the island and throughout the region to exploit the workers and farmers there. This "economic independence" is "independence" for the U.S. corporations at the expense of the workers and farmers in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Puerto Rico's membership in the Caribbean Parliament is a form for the colonial officials to more effectively play their key role for the U.S. imperialists' plans in the Caribbean and Central America.

As the pro-statehood Rafael Martínez Nadal Foundation wrote in a recent report,

the United States intelligence agencies "are attempting to convert the new administration of Puerto Rico into a front for their Caribbean plans."

Robert Benzinger of the Political Economic Office for Latin American Affairs in the State Department told the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce that they could make a difference: "You are near, you understand the market in the United States and in Latin America. Puerto Rico is in a perfect position to be the great link in the Caribbean Basin Initiative."

He also added that there are big profits to be made from the joint operations and "twin plants."

Hernández Colón's Caribbeanization plans only serve to deepen Puerto Rican ties to U.S. imperialism. The only real way for Puerto Rico to fully reclaim its identity and its national pride as a Latin American and Caribbean country is to fight for complete independence from the United States.

## Marroquín wins support from Congressional Black Caucus

The following is a letter from the Congressional Black Caucus, to David Betts, the U.S. consul general in Toronto, Canada. The letter, signed by Rep. Mickey Leland, takes up the case of Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist in the United States facing deportation to Mexico.

Because of Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations, Marroquín is required to leave the United States for an interview in Canada in order to obtain a "green card" — a permanent resident visa — which would allow him to live and work in the United States. Marroquín, married to a U.S. citizen, would normally be immediately eligible for a green card. However, the U.S. government is obstructing the processing of his application because of his socialist views. The letter is one of many sent to urge an end to government stalling.

Additional letters and telegrams demanding action on the part of the government can be sent to Consul General Betts, United States Consulate, Toronto, Canada, with a copy to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, INS, Washington, D.C. 20536. Please send additional copies, and contributions in support of Marro-

quín's case, to the Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

On behalf of the 20 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am writing to you on behalf of Héctor Marroquín, whose file was transferred to your consulate by the New Jersey Immigration and Naturalization Service in October 1984.

Mr. Marroquín is a Mexican national, married to an American citizen, Priscilla Schenk, who filed an I-130 petition on his behalf on June 30, 1983. Your consulate accepted the file and issued a Packet 3 on March 22, 1984. Claudia Slovinsky, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Marroquín, wrote to your office on December 12, 1984 indicating their readiness to be interviewed.

Because of the long lapse between acceptance of Mr. Marroquín's case last March and the present, there is some concern that the file has been overlooked. The Members of the Caucus urge you to grant Héctor Marroquín an interview regarding his permanent residence visa.

The Congressional Black Caucus would be interested in receiving any information that you can provide to us on the status of this case.

## Cuban exiles threaten activists

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The right-wing Cuban newspaper, *La Crónica*, published in Puerto Rico, printed the names, addresses, license plate numbers, and description of cars of four Puerto Rican independence fighters. This can only be seen as a threat against their lives.

This information was printed in an article entitled "Alternative Perspective" as a response to a Superior Court ruling against the paper in a suit brought by Pilar Pérez Negron. The individuals named in the article are Pérez Negron and her attorneys. The suit was filed to force *La Crónica* to stop publishing photos of the autopsy of Pérez Negron's husband, Carlos Muñiz Varela.

Muñiz Varela was a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a group of young

Cubans who support improved relations with the Cuban government. He was murdered in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, on April 28, 1979. Prior to his murder, Muñiz Varela had been the target of many articles in this same newspaper. A right-wing Cuban organization has publicly taken responsibility for his murder.

*La Crónica* is edited by Gloria Gil. Her husband, Antonio de la Cova, is currently in a Florida prison for his right-wing terrorist activities.

The photos, which de la Cova admits obtaining from the Medical Examiners Office, have also been sent to various leaders of the Puerto Rican independence movement as part of the terror tactics of these right-wing groups in Puerto Rico.

## P.R. cops convicted in Cerro Maravilla case

Ten Puerto Rican cops have been convicted of 45 counts of perjury and conspiracy to commit perjury in a federal court in San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 28. The trial grew out of the 1978 murder by the cops of two Puerto Rican independence activists, Carlos Soto Arrivi and Arnaldo Darío Rosado at Cerro Maravilla, the location of the mountaintop towers of Rikavision Television Company.

The jury, which had been carefully selected to weed out any working people and supporters of Puerto Rican independence, deliberated for 22 hours before reaching the verdict.

Angel Pérez Casillas, the former commander of the Police Intelligence Division who was identified by witnesses as the mastermind of the conspiracy to cover-up the murders, was found guilty of six of the eight charges against him.

Rafael Moreno, who has been identified by witnesses as the cop who actually killed Carlos Soto was found guilty of six charges.

Luis Reverón Martínez, who has been identified as the cop who killed Arnaldo Rosado, was found guilty of all five charges against him.

The other six cops were found guilty of anywhere from three to five charges against them.

Two previous federal grand juries and two investigations by the Puerto Rican Justice Department had ended with no indictments of the cops.

But a six-year struggle in Puerto Rico for justice in the case finally forced a trial.

All 10 cops have also been indicted for murder of the two activists and face another trial in Puerto Rican courts on these charges beginning April 19.



# Hunger protests shake Sudan dictator

BY FRED FELDMAN

Thousands of Sudanese took to the streets in three days of massive protests in the capital city of Khartoum against sharp increases in the prices of food, gasoline, and other necessities. The price hikes, demanded by the United States government and the International Monetary Fund, mean more hunger in a country already in the grip of famine.

Protests began March 27, the day military dictator Gaafar el-Nimeiry left for a two-week visit to Washington, where he met with Reagan.

The protests were savagely suppressed. Imperialist sources conceded that 18 may have died. At least 1,400 people were arrested. Hundreds were sentenced to jail terms and flogging.

Thousands are being deported to labor camps far from the capital "as part of a plan to rid Khartoum of large numbers of unemployed Sudanese suspected of joining in the riots," reported the March 30 *New York Times*.

Hinting at further mass deportations, the governor of Khartoum Province charged that 690,000 "alien elements" had snuck into the city. These aliens are farmers and other rural people who have been forced by hunger to migrate to the city.

In the wake of the repression, the Sudanese Doctors Union went on strike March 30 and issued a call for a general strike. "The disturbances and riots which took place recently were a natural result of the present political and economic regime," declared a leader of the union. "Our strike is a notice, a symbol, to show that we reject the present situation."

U.S. officials were quick to signal support for measures to crush the demonstrations. "We are concerned about the stability, the strength of the government of Sudan," declared a high State Department official. Unnamed "Westerners" in Khartoum, according to the *Times*, pinned the protests on "vagrants" — another term of contempt for the country people fleeing famine conditions.

Washington and the International Monetary Fund have insisted that Nimeiry take measures to reduce the living standards of Sudanese working people — already unbearably low — in order to guarantee payments on Sudan's \$9 billion debt to U.S. and other billionaire loan sharks.

Nimeiry briefly resisted the demands which he knew would cause unrest. Washington responded by suspending \$180 million in aid. But on March 25 he bowed, ending government subsidies which had helped limit the price of food, clothing, and other necessities.

The price of bread immediately rose 30 percent. That of gasoline jumped 66 percent.

Other antihuman measures are sure to follow. According to the March 28 *Washington Post*, "agreement had been reached with the IMF delegation on all economic reforms demanded by the fund."

These measures will mean more unemployment, stepped-up exports of agricultural products that are desperately

needed by the Sudanese people, and the expulsion of more farmers from their land.

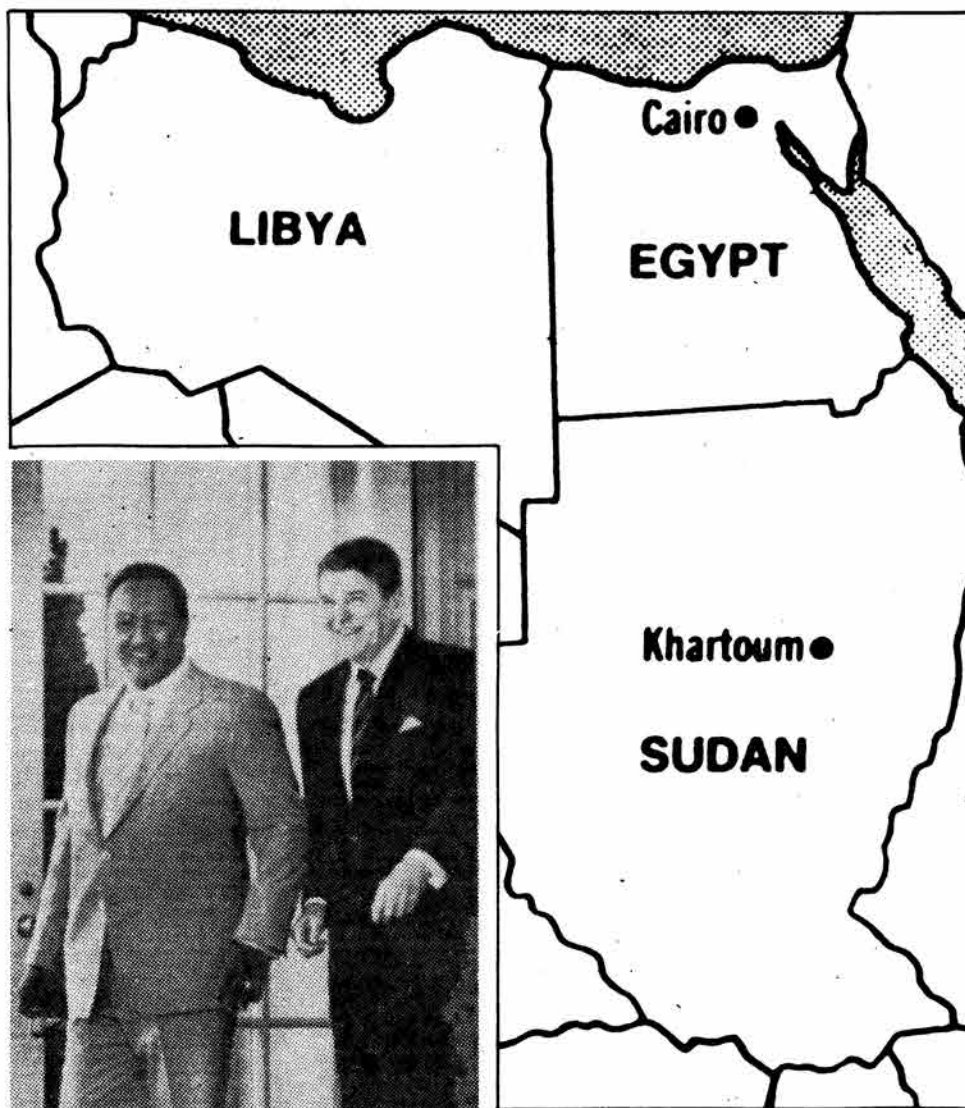
Nimeiry's capitulation to the IMF further reduced the base of his landlord-capitalist government. He faces a popular rebellion among the predominantly non-Muslim people of the south, who have long suffered discrimination.

For a time Nimeiry attempted to win some support by presenting his savage repression as a pious enforcement of *sharia*, or Islamic law. This pretense soon wore thin, however. Even the conservative, pro-capitalist Muslim Brotherhood, which supported Nimeiry in recent years, has been forced into opposition. Seventeen of its leaders are being sought on charges of having "instigated" the demonstrations and eleven others have been jailed. The regime recently hanged the 77-year-old leader of the Islamic Republican Party, Mahmoud Mohammed Taha.

Washington provided \$166 million in military hardware to Nimeiry last year. U.S. military exercises have been held in the Sudan, and it is viewed as a likely staging area for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force.

Nimeiry has made military threats against Ethiopia and Libya, whose governments are in conflict with U.S. imperialism, and he backs the Iraqi regime in the war against the Iranian revolution.

For the imperialists, keeping Nimeiry in power is a way to guarantee that Sudanese workers and farmers are forced to follow the economic and political dictates of big business. Washington is helping Nimeiry to crush his opposition in order to prevent a popular revolution like those that have challenged imperialist domination in Ethiopia and Iran.



As dictator Nimeiry came to U.S. to meet with Reagan, the people of famine-stricken Sudan took to the streets to oppose food-price increases demanded by Washington.

## Cuba hosts mtg. on freedom fight in U.S.

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

The January-February 1985 issue of *Black Scholar* magazine is devoted to coverage of the second seminar "On the Situation of the Black, Chicano, Cuban, Native American, Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Asian Communities in the United States," held in Havana, Cuba, December 4-6, 1984.

The first such seminar was held in Havana in November 1981, and, like this second gathering, was sponsored by Casa de las Americas and the Center for the Study of the Americas.

More than 50 people from the United States attended the second seminar. This included political activists and academics.

They were joined by Cuban historians, sociologists, and cultural workers, and together shared papers and held discussions. Several of the talks presented to the conference are published in the January-February *Black Scholar*.

The seminar was aimed at bringing together a broad spectrum of individuals with differing political viewpoints to discuss perspectives for the freedom struggles of

oppressed nationalities and national minorities in the United States.

By sponsoring this conference, Cuban revolutionaries were showing solidarity with the fight against racial oppression in the United States. This support will help push this antiracist struggle forward.

Moreover, this conference is an example that helps to mobilize support for all those battling the U.S. rulers — including Cuba itself. The *Black Scholar*, for example, strongly condemns U.S. aggression against Cuba, and explains Cuba's progress in reconstructing itself after centuries of colonial and imperialist domination. It describes Cuba's preparations to defend the revolution that made this socialist reconstruction possible.

Their attendance at the conference made the U.S. delegates to the seminar active opponents to the U.S. war drive against Cuba. Their presence in Havana was a blow to the U.S. government's attempts to quarantine the Cuban revolution.

The decision by the Cuban sponsoring organizations to host yet another seminar shows the continued interest of Cuban rev-

olutionaries in political developments in the United States. This interest has grown in recent years, as U.S. workers and farmers have been hit with a deepening capitalist economic crisis and the U.S. government escalates its war in Central America and the Caribbean. Cuban revolutionaries are following closely the response to these developments by U.S. working people.

Some of the papers presented to the seminar included "Subjective Factors in the Re-election of Ronald Reagan," by Robert Chrisman, editor of *Black Scholar*; "Indigenous Peoples of U.S.: A Struggle against Internal Colonialism," by Ward Churchill of the International Indian Treaty Council; "The Poet as Creator of Social Values," by Sonia Sanchez, a well-known Afro-American poet; "The Puerto Rican Woman and Survival," by Esperanza Martell of the Congress for Puerto Rican Rights; and "Hispanics in U.S. Elections," by José Luis Valdez and María Rosa García.

Cuban members of the two sponsoring groups also presented papers and participated in the seminar's events. One group of Cubans was part of a "Roundtable on the History of Racial Prejudice in Cuba."

The conference was opened with an address by Armando Hart, Cuba's Minister of Culture. Hart pointed to the U.S. government's deepening war in Central America and explained the necessity for the oppressed and exploited peoples of the Americas to join together to fight against this threat.

"The role of the U.S. communities [of oppressed national minorities], which gather important strata of the U.S. people, can be decisive in achieving that future of unity among us," said Hart. "In turn, the role of Latin America and the Caribbean will also be decisive in the future of mankind. Together, we can do a lot; divided, our actions will always be limited. And we will go forward as long as we are able to coordinate our efforts, to closely unite in favor of extending democracy, extending freedom, and extending the dignity of man."

"For this reason, we underscore in this meeting the significance of your seminar and the importance of this effort of yours not only for the future of the United States, of democracy in North America, but also of peace among the peoples."

## UAW, farm groups set up Farm-Labor Alliance

Continued from front page

there. Selling at parity prices shows workers the huge disparity between what farmers get for their produce and what workers end up paying at the supermarket.

"This will build the alliance we've been talking about," he said, "an alliance that means something."

The meeting adopted a four-page resolution that details the farm crisis and explains the basis for the alliance between organized labor and working farmers. The resolution concludes:

"When the auctioneers and the sheriffs look out before them and see union members and farmers arm in arm, they will know we have decided not just to mourn, but to organize and to fight back."

"So too will the politicians — Republican and Democrat, local and state and national alike — when they see the crop of social, economic, and political reform planted in our time of crisis begin to grow abundant across the land."

"That day won't come without alliance

and struggle and it may not be upon us, but it will come."

After lunch the farmers and unionists caucused to bring back proposals for their own 1985 Farm Bill to present to the U.S. Congress.

The meeting approved the following resolution: "The coalition calls for an immediate moratorium on foreclosures of any farms, homes, or small businesses, by any lending institution until such time as loan rates and commodity prices have been set at parity levels. We will mobilize our members, farmers and union members, to stop such foreclosures by any non-violent means necessary."

The farmers pledged to bring their tractors to the cities to stop the foreclosure on homes and urged union participation at the April 8 sale of the last parcel of the Wilson farm in Plattsburg.

During the discussion some farmers called for a reduction of food imports. Other farmers such as Merle Hansen of NAFA pointed out in his remarks that "this is not just a U.S. crisis, but an international

one." He pointed to a French and West German farmers protest the day before in which farmers carried signs saying, "The U.S. is walking all over us."

The meeting also discussed the need to bring in oppressed minorities and the working poor into the alliance. A resolution prepared by Carol Hodne, the executive director of NAFA, and Bobbie Polzine of Minnesota Groundswell opened a discussion on the role of women in the alliance.

A structure was approved whereby each farm group would select one representative to a statewide steering committee to which would be added a comparable number of trade union representatives.

Region 5 of the UAW in St. Louis is currently serving as the clearinghouse for the network.

The meeting was a good step forward in uniting the different groups in the farm movement and organized labor.

For information about the Farm-Labor Alliance write to: UAW Region 5, Attn.: Ken Worley, 11340 Hammack, Bridgeton, Mo. 63044.



## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Cuba Today: A U.S. Socialist Reports on the Country Reagan Doesn't Want Us to See.** Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

**Freedom Struggle Benefit.** Featuring jazz singers, entertainers, and poets. The Ojeda Penn Experience, Alice Lovelace, Woodie Neal Parsons, and Lee Heurmann. Sat., April 13, 7 p.m. 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.

## KENTUCKY

### Louisville

**Drop the Charges; Free Lindsey Scott.** Speakers: James Scott, father of Lindsey; Father Thomas R. Clark, pastor of St. Benedict's; Mattie Jones, Chair, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Videotape of Lindsey Scott's case on "60 Minutes". Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

## LOUISIANA

### New Orleans

**Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua.** Speaker: Bill Ware, member Socialist Workers Party recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**April 20 and the Fight Against U.S. War in Central America.** Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, member National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Labor's Stake in the Fight Against War in Central America and Apartheid in South Africa.** Speakers to be announced. Sun., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Hear Göte Kildén, Socialist Trade Union Leader from Sweden.** Tues., April 9, 7 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

**Why U.S. Rulers Support Wrong Side in Central America, South Africa, Middle East, and Right Here.** Speakers: Kgati Sathekge, member of African National Congress of South Africa; Anan Jabara, Palestine Aid Society; Vassi Brume, Third World Task Force of the Freeze; representative of National Black Independent Political Party. Videotaped interview featuring Maurice Bishop, slain prime minister of Grenada, will be shown. Sat., April 13, 4 p.m. 18100 Meyers. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Detroit NBIPP. For more information call (313) 892-2428 or 895-6010.

**U.S.-Israeli War Against Lebanon.** A panel discussion. Speakers: Anan Jabara, Palestinian Aid Society; representative Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., April 14, 7 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Socialist Perspective on Sweden.** Speaker: Göte Kildén, union leader at Volvo and national chairperson of Socialist Party, Swedish section of the Fourth International. Fri., April 12, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, room 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**May Day Celebration Book Sale.** Discount of 20 percent with this ad on initial visit. Books in English, Spanish, and French. May 1-4, 12 noon - 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks south of Canal between B'way and Church). Ausp: Socialist Books/Libreria Socialista. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

**Viet Nam! Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Victory Over U.S. Military Intervention.** Speakers: representative of UN Mission of Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Dave Dellinger; representative of Nicaraguan government; representative of FDR-FMLN of El Salvador; others. Sun., May 5, 2 p.m. Washington Irving High School, 16th St. and Irving Pl. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Vietnam 10th Anniversary Committee. For more information call (212) 286-0396.

# Workers' savings held, banker keeps \$100 million

BY SUSAN BERMAN

CLEVELAND — Marvin Warner owns Home State Savings bank of Cincinnati. Home State Savings collapsed on March 9, freezing the savings of a half million working people in Ohio.

Warner, however, is not especially affected. His personal fortune is estimated at \$100 million.

He has real estate holdings stretching from Ohio to California. Home State Financial, Inc., the holding company housing most of Warner's money, has major interest in financial concerns worldwide. Included in these is major interest in an offshore bank and a trust company in Antigua.

The Antiguan government, the same Caribbean government that helped orchestrate the U.S. occupation of Grenada, has granted a 20-year tax holiday to the two firms housing Warner's investments.

It doesn't stop there.

Warner was a major contributor to the presidential campaign of James Carter. In return, Carter appointed him U.S. ambassador to Switzerland.

He also contributed heavily to the campaign of the Democratic governor of Ohio, Richard Celeste. Celeste named Warner chairman of the Ohio Building Authority, a position he resigned days after the Home State scandal broke.

Warner's "holdings" in the Democratic Party have paid off. In 1980, when he was investigated by the federal government on \$90,000 fraud charges, he secured Edward Bennett as his lawyer — a "power broker

## OHIO

### Cincinnati

**Speak Out Against Toxic Chemical and Radiation Poisoning of Environment.** Speakers: Dr. Shane Que Hec, Department of Environmental Health, UC Medical Center; Will Gates, Citizens Alliance for Responsible Benzene Operations Now (CARBON); Joe Lombardo, Socialist Workers Party, founding member of Citizens Active Against a Radioactive Environment; Elizabeth Meyers, member United Steelworkers of America. Sun., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

### Cleveland

**The True Story of the Vietnamese Revolution.** Speaker: Susan Berman, representative of the Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

### Toledo

**Family Farmers Struggle for Survival.** Speakers: John Burkett, executive board member, Ohio Family Farm Movement; John Gaige, member, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., April 13, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**Puerto Rico: Struggle Against U.S. Colonialism.** Speaker: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York and *Militant* staff writer. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

within the Democratic Party," according to the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*.

Within 24 hours charges against Warner and his associates were dropped and transferred to Home State, which paid a measly \$11,000 fine.

Warner is not the only person who campaigned for Richard Celeste. The Ohio

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Passing the Message.** Film about trade unionists in South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 555-8054.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**British Coal Miners Strike; Eyewitness Report and Slideshow.** Speaker: Cecelia Moriarity, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Mine Workers Local 2176. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State Street. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**All out April 20! — The Fight Against Imperialist War.** Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Charleston

**Nicaragua: Workers and Farmers Mobilize Against U.S. Aggression.** A grand opening Militant Forum. Speakers: Pearl Christy, member Laborers Local 1353 and Socialist Workers Party. Recently participated in Nicaragua harvest brigade. Sat., April 13. Open house. 6 p.m.: forum, 7 p.m. 422 Shrewsbury St., suite 210. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

# Black and Third World book fair

Continued from back page

masses were acting on their own, outside the influence of vanguard parties.

While Hector's view is not overtly critical of Bishop and the central leadership of the New Jewel Movement before the coup, it does lead to a double-blame theory of the overthrow of the revolution. It equates the revolutionary policies of Bishop with those of Bernard Coard, the deputy prime minister and leader of the faction that overthrew the workers and farmers government and murdered Bishop. The theory makes no distinction between the bureaucratic clique led by Coard, which was responsible for the overthrow, and the revolutionary policies of Bishop.

Another important event at the conference was a forum held on Malcolm X called, "Malcolm X and Social Liberation."

This was one of the most well-attended meetings of the entire gathering, with 200 people present. It was held in Brixton, a predominantly Black section of London.

The panel consisted of Abdul Alkalimat, a professor of Afro-American studies and sociology at the University of Illinois; Jayne Cortez, a U.S. writer and poet; Tim Hector; Darcus Howe, editor of *Race Today*; Roberto Marquez, a Puerto Rican writer; and Samba Mbuub, a Senegalese writer.

The international character of the panel was seen as an important aspect of this tribute to Malcolm X. All the speakers expressed how they were able to appreciate and learn from Malcolm, even though they came from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

After the panel, an animated discussion took place on Malcolm's ideas and their relevance for Black people today, especially in Britain. A central part of the discussion was what the character of alliances between Blacks and whites should be, and if any alliances should be formed at all.

Pathfinder Press had a literature booth at the conference and sold a number of books by Malcolm X.

# 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.

**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 370486. Zip: 33137. 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, 2219 E. Market. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock 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, 422 Shrewsbury St. Zip: 25301. 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.



**Worldly fellow** — Ensconced in a well-secured villa outside his native Athens, Panagiotis Takis Veliotis is enjoying his tape collection. He split these shores on



**Harry Ring**

the eve of a federal kickback indictment. Since then he's been feeding the feds tapes implicating other Electric Boat execs and top Pentagon brass. Some of the juiciest tapes, however, remain in

a vault in case the government "doesn't play it straight." Also, his lawyers will release them in the event of his demise.

**Natch** — The *Times* describes Veliotis as "a man with rigidly anti-Soviet politics and an acknowledged affection for the American way of life."

**More than one way to skin a cat** — In this land of opportunity, the folk at General Dynamics are not forced to live on only what they steal. For instance, since 1972, as the nation's top war contractor, GD admitted to more than \$2 billion in profits. On this tidy sum it paid not a thin dime in federal income tax. In fact it has accumulated \$3 billion in tax

"losses," meaning it could continue dodging taxes until 1998.

**P.S.** — Don't think you have to have special suction like General Dynamics to beat the taxpayer. For instance, GE netted \$6.5 billion over the past three years and, cool as a cucumber, claimed a \$238-million tax refund. Dow Chemical and Union Carbide, the poison people, enjoyed combined profits of \$1.379 billion and put in for refunds totalling \$303 million.

**"With justice for all"** — The *Federal Employee*, which reported the above figures, notes that while these outfits are waiting in line for their refunds, federal workers face a 5 percent pay cut, plus reduced benefits. Happy

April 15.

**Chance to upgrade** — If you're tired of the old plastic version of Etch A Sketch, put in for one of the limited edition marking the toy's 25 years on the market. All silver finish, including the two knobs which operate the etching needles. \$3,750.

**Never too rich** — Cartier's, the snooty Fifth Ave. jewelry store, was indicted for illegally helping customers beat the city and state sales tax. Like, one customer saved \$14,000 tax on a \$175,000 diamond and platinum bracelet. If only our local shoe store was so cooperative.

**No regulations, no violations** — Manufacturers are barred from

discharging vinyl chloride into the air except in unpreventable emergencies. Now the EPA proposes they be permitted four to seven discharges a year, with no limit on the amount. Why? Because, we're told, easing the rules will make it easier to enforce them, bringing better health. Vinyl chloride causes brain and liver cancer.

**Sensitive information?** — We're not one to read the daily paper with a jaundiced eye, but we couldn't help but wonder when we read that Ivor Hughes, chairman and chief executive officer of the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., died at 59 "after several months of an undisclosed illness."

## 200 rally against Goetz and killer cops in N.Y.

BY ANA LÓPEZ

NEW YORK — The indictment of Bernhard Goetz, the racist vigilante, by a second grand jury, "was not a vindication of the system. What Goetz did was an indictment of the system." This is what Héctor Soto of the Puerto Rican Education and Legal Defense Fund told a crowd of 200 people here March 28. They were attending a meeting held to protest racist violence.

Goetz had been indicted by a second grand jury the day before on four charges of attempted murder, four counts of assault, one charge of reckless endangerment, and one count of possession of a weapon with the intention of using it.

The meeting was called by law-student organizations from schools throughout the city. The audience was largely made up of young Blacks and Latinos, with a number of Asian-Americans and whites.

The meeting was opened by law student Mimi Rosenberg, who reminded the audience that while this meeting was focusing on the three recent cases of racist violence in New York City — the cop killings of Eleanor Bumpurs and Michael Stewart and the racist shooting of four Black youth by Bernhard Goetz — racist violence is not new in this city.

Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, an attorney for Darrel Cabey, one of Goetz' victims who is now paralyzed from the waist down, was the first speaker on the panel. McLaughlin put the recent racist attack in the framework of a country with a history of such violence beginning with the African slave trader.

McLaughlin then turned to the three cases that were the focus of the meeting. Eleanor Bumpurs was an elderly Black woman in poor health, McLaughlin said. When at least seven people, many of them

armed with shotguns, burst into her apartment, "she feared for her life." She may have tried to "defend herself against people who she thought were going to take her life," McLaughlin said. But she was killed, after a shotgun blast had blown away her hand. She was killed, he said, because cop Sullivan knew that "no New York cop has ever been convicted for killing a Black."

In the case of Michael Stewart, a young graffiti artist beaten to death by the cops, McLaughlin explained, the district attorney tried to vindicate himself by indicting three of the cops involved. But 11 cops were involved in the murder and the cover-up following it. You have to ask, McLaughlin said, "why weren't all 11 cops indicted for conspiracy?"

The role of the Medical Examiner's office in covering up the Stewart murder, McLaughlin said, points to "corruption at the highest levels" of city government.

As for Goetz, McLaughlin said all witnesses confirmed that "the kids were not threatening." Goetz "deliberately went to their end of the car to confront the youths, he deliberately took aim and fired to kill." This was a lynching, McLaughlin said, and "no white has ever been punished for lynching a Black" in the United States.

McLaughlin's speech which put into words much of the outrage that the audience felt was interrupted repeatedly with applause and shouts of approval.

Héctor Soto concentrated his remarks on the fraud that is New York's "Civilian Complaint Review Board." He told the audience that there are no civilians on the board, just cops and ex-cops. Its purpose is not to solve your complaint, Soto said, but to force you to end your complaint. Its "investigations" are not of the cops but of the victim. This "Civilian Board" works hand

and glove with the district attorney to pressure the victim into dropping his case against the cops or face harassment and harsher penalties in the court, Soto explained.

The final speaker was Jill Nelson, president of the New York Association of Black Journalists. Nelson blasted the press coverage of racist violence as totally biased in favor of the cops.

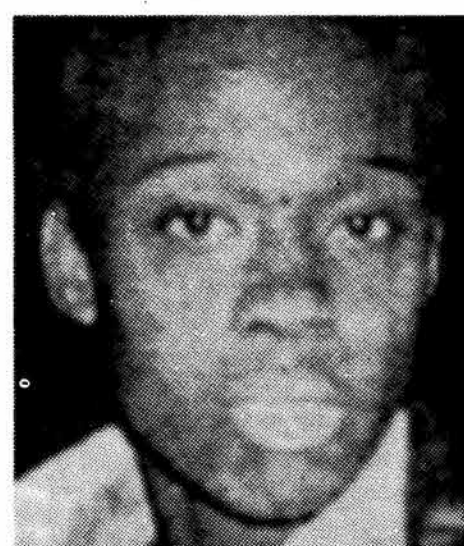
Nelson explained that New York state supposedly didn't have a death penalty, but "we do have a death penalty — the police are licensed to carry it out."

Finally Nelson blasted those city and state elected officials who are Black for saying nothing against Goetz.

The floor was then opened for discussion. One young Asian-American told the audience about the racist violence against his community in the United States. He pointed to the murder of Vincent Chin by a white foreman on layoff from an auto plant in Detroit.

A young woman from the Caribbean who works for one of the television stations explained how the media refuses to cover cases of police abuse.

Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, also spoke in the discussion. She thanked the organizations for calling this important meeting. She explained how the city gov-



Troy Canty, one of Goetz' victims.

ernment has used the Goetz racist shooting to try to get more cops. But the cops, she said, "are only racist vigilantes in uniform." Pointing to the case of a young Puerto Rican in New Jersey murdered in cold blood by the cops, González said, "the only difference between the cop who killed this youth and Goetz is that the cop could force the youth to lie still on the floor and be executed."

## No justice in Agent Orange case

Continued from Page 5

nam vets and their families victimized by Agent Orange. He said that it was a mistake to have accepted the settlement.

Weinstein was hearing none of this, either. After hearing Musslewhite's appeal, he simply announced, again without comment, "Your motion is dismissed in every respect."

Tod Ensign, another Citizen Soldier lawyer, later described to the *Militant* some of the provisions that have soured so many vets to the settlement.

Ensign explained that Kenneth Fineberg, a court-appointed administrator who is devising a distribution plan for the \$180-million fund, has determined that there will be no compensation of any kind in cases of birth defects, miscarriages, and stillbirths. Vets' families have witnessed an astounding rate of birth defects and other birth-related problems.

This alone disqualifies 108,000 of the claims that have been filed.

Ensign said that the death payment was to be a miserable \$5,000 per victim. Half of the 10,000 permanently disabled will receive \$2,500 per year. In order to eliminate the other half of those disabled, vets will be ranked according to the degree of risk or exposure to Agent Orange.

Those fortunate enough to get even this pittance will have a portion of it deducted from any state or federally funded veterans' or Medicare benefits they would otherwise receive.

Of the \$180 million, \$60 million is to be funneled into grants to veterans' and genetic counseling organizations and will not reach those poisoned by Agent Orange and their families at all. The "advisory board"

appointed by Fineberg to distribute the \$60 million, which will meet in private, is staffed by Veterans Administration officials, Wall Street brokers, and the like.

Referring to the \$60-million slush fund, Ensign told the *Militant*, "I believe this is an attempt to purchase vets' silence with 30 pieces of silver."

Citizen Soldier is asking vets to sign a petition supporting their motion, which is being appealed to the 2nd Circuit court. The motion by the Ashcraft and Gerel firm is also being appealed.

## N.Y. socialist: 'Goetz indictment victory for working people'

Continued from front page  
committed: attempted murder.

The city's mayor, Edward Koch, who had hailed Goetz as a hero, became quiet. The big-business media had to retreat from their unabashed hero worship and open encouragement for more Goetz-type vigilante acts.

As the cover-up unraveled, the capitalists were pushed back from their racist assault on the most oppressed section of New York's working people — the oppressed nationalities.

The indictment of Goetz is a victory, our victory. But to guarantee that the four youths get justice and Goetz is prosecuted, we need more meetings like the March 28 protest at New York University. We must let the district attorney and the mayor know that we will fight racist violence; we will not tolerate more cover-ups.

## Miners firm in A.T. Massey strike

Continued from back page

wives, and widows. Strike supporters have suffered injuries requiring hospitalization, bashed-in cars and trucks, and constant company accusations that the union is a law-breaking, violent organization.

In a thinly veiled racist reference to the union's stand for equal rights and its opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa, a Massey official told the legislators here that the UMW was "an equal-opportunity violent organization."

On March 16, U.S. District Judge Robert Staker issued an injunction sought by the National Labor Relations Board. It limits the number of union pickets at each workplace entrance to 10. The union is complying with the ruling, while labeling it "a clear violation of First Amendment rights."

Union mobilizations continue, however, at Massey's nonunion Elk Run mine in Boone County. There a 24-hour-a-day informational picket has been maintained since March 10 by working and laid-off union miners and their families. They have also raised thousands of dollars for their brothers and sisters on strike, and they send a truckload of food every week to them.

On March 27, Mingo County Circuit Judge Elliott Maynard levied a fine of

\$200,000 against the UMW, stating that the money would be "paid to the state to defray the cost of state police." The union is appealing the ruling.

In the latest provocation by authorities, Kentucky state police arrested James Scott, president of UMW Local 2496 in Pike County, Kentucky, on charges of attempted murder.

The stakes in this battle are high for all of labor. Both Joseph Powell, president of the West Virginia Labor Federation, and Rob McCauley of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), pointed to this in their remarks at the March 28 rally. They stressed the historic role of the UMW, its leadership in the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), and its continued commitment to union rights today.

The miners remain determined. Trumka received a standing ovation from union members in the capitol gallery when he told the legislators, "West Virginia came into existence during the great civil war because of the hatred of its people for slavery. Like the state of West Virginia, the Mine Workers was born in struggle."

Joan Radin is a member of UMWA Local 2271 in Sundial, West Virginia.



## Press S. Africa freedom struggle

The scope of mass protests in South Africa is testimony to the determination of the oppressed majority to win self-determination and national liberation.

The wealth of South Africa's capitalist rulers is based on the exploitation and national oppression of the Black majority. Because Blacks refuse to bow to their dictates, the South Africa rulers have always responded in one way: *terror and slaughter*.

This was shown on March 21 when at least 19 Blacks (some eyewitnesses say over 40) were shot down during a funeral procession.

Washington, in the person of Ronald Reagan, quickly praised the cops for their handiwork. "There is," Reagan said, "an element in South Africa wanting trouble in the streets."

Pretoria responded to Washington's support by banning 29 organizations, including the United Democratic Front, on March 29. The UDF, formed in August 1983,

is a broad coalition of labor unions, student organizations, women's groups, and others. Its combined membership totals more than 2 million.

All gatherings in which the government is likely to be criticized are prohibited. The ban is to last for at least three months.

But, as with previous government actions, this ban will not stop the revolt by the Black majority, which is heavily working class in composition and is centered in South Africa's key industries such as gold mining. The rebellion will continue until freedom is won.

We in the United States can play an active role in aiding this liberation struggle by participating in protests against U.S. support to the apartheid regime. The April 20 antiwar actions in Washington, D.C., and other cities are a good place to begin. We can join the thousands in demanding "Stop the U.S. war in Central America," and "End U.S. support to apartheid."

## U.S. hands off Iran!

The U.S. government is renewing its threat to militarily attack Iran. The April 1 Newark *Star Ledger* reported that Washington "secretly warned Iran that it faces military retaliation if Americans recently kidnapped in Lebanon are tried or executed."

"Last week," the *Star Ledger* report continued, "Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security chief, advocated American military action against Iran in a talk to a defense forum in Washington."

"The USS *Texas*, a U.S. guided missile cruiser operating in the Gulf area, is the most likely launching pad for a U.S. strike."

The issue of the U.S. citizens held in Lebanon is a transparent pretext for this new threat. Washington has always claimed that the Lebanese workers and peasants, particularly the Muslims who are standing up to the imperialist domination of their country, are puppets of outside forces.

The kidnap issue is a smoke screen for Washington's nonstop efforts to weaken and ultimately destroy the Iranian revolution.

The latest threat comes at a time when Iraqi planes and missiles — provided by Washington's allies — are bringing death to hundreds in bombing raids against Iran's cities.

Since 1979 when the Iranian people brought down the U.S.-imposed monarchy, Washington has been trying to crush the Iranian revolution, which continues to inspire millions of working people in many Mideast and African countries such as Lebanon and Sudan. As a key part of that effort, Washington wants to topple the Iranian government led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and replace it with one that will do what it's told.

U.S. working people should stand with those millions in saying, "U.S. hands off Iran!"

## An advance for gay rights

On March 26, a divided Supreme Court upheld a favorable gay rights decision by a federal appeals court.

The Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit had struck down a part of an Oklahoma statute which permitted the firing of public school teachers for "advocating" or "encouraging" homosexuality. The appeals court found this a patent violation of free speech guarantees.

The Supreme Court, reviewing this decision, split 4-4. Under its rules, a tie vote upholds a lower court decision but does not constitute a precedent.

The appeals court had upheld another section of the statute barring "public" homosexual activity by teachers. This was not appealed to the high court.

The challenge to the Oklahoma statute was brought by Gay Rights Advocates, Inc., a San Francisco-based legal group, on behalf of the National Gay Task Force.

The Oklahoma statute, the only state law of its kind,

was adopted in 1978 and has never been used.

Leonard Graff, chief counsel for Gay Rights Advocates, Inc., welcomed the Supreme Court decision as a gain.

In Oklahoma City, a lawyer for the board of education, which had brought the Supreme Court appeal, predicted the state legislature would reword the statute to assertedly fit the Constitution.

The response confirms that while the Supreme Court decision does represent progress, a great deal obviously remains to be done.

A continuing fight against the victimization of gays and lesbians is a necessary part of the broader fight for democratic rights. The denial of gay rights is used to help reinforce the second-class status of women and to feed the ruling-class drive to push back the democratic rights of workers, farmers, and oppressed nationalities.

## Reagan: MX vote 'bipartisan' win

It was a victory for a "bipartisan" foreign policy, declared a satisfied Ronald Reagan. That was his assessment of the House of Representatives vote to release another \$1.5 billion for MX nuclear missiles.

Despite declared Democratic opposition, the MX was approved 217-210.

How? Simple enough. The House Democratic majority provided enough votes to assure passage. This time the "great communicator" was telling the truth — the victory was bipartisan.

The rhetoric around the issue was a smokescreen intended to hide the fact that the two parties are in fundamental agreement on foreign policy.

By voting for more MXs, these shysters claimed, the heat would be on the Soviet Union to agree to an arms reduction. Buried under the buckets of verbiage was the fact that the Soviet Union *wants* an arms reduction and Washington does not.

The essence of the matter was plainly and truthfully stated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He declared: "Already now, with the talks started, one gets the impression from statements by high-ranking representatives of the United States that they need the talks as a screen for carrying through their military programs."

Historically this has been the case. After each arms talk or agreement, there's been a sharp escalation in U.S. arms buildup, leading the Soviet Union to do the same in self-defense.

The simple fact is that the MX, like the entire nuclear and conventional arms arsenal, exists to defend im-

perialist interests worldwide.

The self-avowed Democratic opponents of the MX could not state this elementary truth because it lays bare the aggressive, imperialist nature of U.S. foreign policy — a system they support and defend.

The cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy today includes trying to crush the Nicaraguan and Central American revolutions; backing the Israeli drive to ensure imperialist domination in the Arab East; holding back the anti-imperialist struggle in African countries such as Ghana and Burkina; and helping to save the racist South African regime.

*It is these basic objectives of U.S. imperialism that are backed by Democrats and Republicans alike.*

To stay imperialism's hand we must mobilize maximum opposition to its ongoing aggression. That means, in the first instance, building opposition to the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua and U.S. aggression in El Salvador. It means fighting Washington's complicity with South African apartheid and its promotion of the bloody war against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Within this framework, we should demand that Washington stop production of the MX, other nuclear arms, and the development of weapons for outer space.

From such struggles will come the political movement led by working people that will drive the capitalist war-makers from the seats of power. That's how they will finally be disarmed.

## Malcolm X on racist violence, Black self-defense

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

"By violence they only mean when a black man protects himself against the attacks of a white man. This is what they mean by violence. . . . When it comes time for a black man to explode they call it violence. But white people can be exploding against black people all day long, and it's never called violence."

The truth of these words by Malcolm X has been brought home once again after the recent shooting by racist vigilante Bernhard Goetz of four Black youths on a

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

New York City subway. The violent action was not condemned by the big-business media or capitalist politicians. It was covered up and reported as an act of self-defense.

Only after the four victims' story became known did the cover-up begin to unravel. Pressure from the Black and Latino communities for the truth led a second grand jury to indict Goetz (see story on page 13).

Racist violence begins with the employers' and government's attacks on the oppressed nationalities. This inspires groups like the Ku Klux Klan and individuals like Goetz to carry out racist attacks and then cry self-defense.

One revolutionary who spoke extensively about racist violence, the government's responsibility, and the difference between it and self-defense, was Malcolm X. While Malcolm's framework was the discussion in the 1960s on how to respond to the extralegal terror against Blacks, particularly in the South, his political points hold true today.

In his famous 1964 speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet," Malcolm discusses this question. Below are excerpts from this speech.

"Last but not least, I must say this concerning the great controversy over rifles and shotguns. The only thing that I've ever said is that in areas where the government has proven itself either unwilling or unable to defend the lives and the property of Negroes, it's time for the Negroes to defend themselves. Article number two of the constitutional amendments provides you and me the right to own a shotgun or a rifle. It is constitutionally legal to own a shotgun or a rifle. This doesn't mean you're going to get a rifle and form battalions and go looking for white folks. . . . If the white man doesn't want the black man buying rifles and shotguns, then let the government do its job. That's all.

"So, this doesn't mean forming rifle clubs and going out looking for people but it is time, in 1964, if you are a man, to let that man know. If he's not going to do his job in running the government and providing you and me with protection that our taxes are supposed to be for, since he spends all those billions for his defense budget, he certainly can't begrudge you and me spending \$12 or \$15 for a single-shot, or double action. I hope you understand. Don't go out shooting people, but any time, brothers and sisters . . . any time you and I sit around and read where they bomb a church and murder in cold blood . . . four little girls, and you and I see the government go down and can't find who did it.

"Why, this man — he can find [Nazi] Eichmann hiding down in Argentina somewhere. Let two or three American soldiers, who are minding somebody else's business way over in South Vietnam, get killed, and he'll send battleships, sticking his nose in their business. He wanted to send troops down to Cuba to make them have what he calls free elections — this old cracker who doesn't have free elections in his own country."

Malcolm X was continuously charged by the big-business press and capitalist politicians with advocating violence.

In 1965, the French government used this phony charge to bar Malcolm from entering the country. In speaking to the press about this, he explained:

"I do not advocate violence, in fact the violence that exists in the United States is the violence that the Negro in America has been a victim of. . . .

"But I do say that the Negro is a continual victim of the violent actions committed by the organized elements like the Ku Klux Klan and if the United States government has shown itself unwilling or unable to protect us and our lives and our property, I have said that is time for our people to organize and band together and protect ourselves against this violence."

The above excerpts are taken from *Malcolm X, By Any Means Necessary*, Copyright ©1970 by Pathfinder Press, Inc., and Betty Shabazz; and *Malcolm X Speaks*, Copyright ©1965 by Merit Publishers; reprinted by permission of the publishers. Both books are available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., N.Y., NY 10014, for \$3.95 and \$5.95 respectively. Include \$.75 for postage and handling.



# N.J. ITT workers discuss problem of forced overtime

BY MARK SATINOFF

NEWARK, N.J. — A few months ago at a joint meeting of the sheet-metal and machine shops, our boss told us, "Don't plan on seeing your families very often for the next two or three years." The reason is that workers in the fabrication department are now expected to put in a 64-hour, seven-day workweek — 10 hours Monday through Thursday, and eight hours Friday through Sunday.

The company — ITT, Defense Communications Division — tries to justify the long hours by telling us we're

## UNION TALK

behind schedule and have to work overtime to catch up. If we don't, the company complains that the U.S. Defense Department will award future contracts to "our" competitors, who can make the same product cheaper and on time.

This scenario, they claim, will lead to layoffs. They threaten our very jobs if we don't work overtime by trying to get us to compete with workers at a different company who are probably told the same story by their boss.

The company disregards the union contract by forcing massive amounts of overtime on us under the threat of being written up, suspended, or fired.

The union contract says that when asked to work on Saturday or Sunday, a worker is "expected" to comply. The definition of the word "expected" is left open for interpretation. Our boss interprets it by expecting us to work 100 percent of the overtime, and nothing else will do.

The company uses the excuse of "insufficient overtime" the same way it uses "excessive absenteeism" or

"chronic lateness" — to single out workers it doesn't like and then write them up. This arbitrary action has misled some workers to place the blame on the victimized workers rather than the company. This prevents them from seeing these disciplinary moves by the company as an attack on the union.

Overtime, especially when added on to the already abnormal hours of a second or third shift worker, takes a heavy toll on workers' lives. It leads to increased accident rates, ill health, and isolation from family and friends. As one worker put it, long hours at work make "you feel like you are living here."

Another worker protested: "It's like a damn dictatorship in here. They harass you if you don't work it. You get threats. It affects my whole life."

The fact remains that many of my coworkers work overtime because they need the money. Forty-hours' pay is just not enough for a worker with a family to get by on. But most of the workers also feel that eight hours' overtime is enough — and that should be voluntary. The company knows many workers need overtime pay and puts us in a Catch 22 situation. When the overtime dries up, it's hard to make ends meet. Then the company brings back overtime and acts like it's doing us a big favor.

At ITT, it's either a feast or a famine. Now we are back on a forced 64-hour workweek, and everyone agrees it is too much. But the company responds to these protests by badgering the workers and says, "You complain when there's no overtime, and you complain when we bring it back."

This arrogant attitude has led to occasional flareups against the company. Several months ago all the workers in a different department refused the overtime for one day and went home after eight hours.

In an ongoing discussion of this problem one worker pointed out, "You have people on the outside whose un-

employment benefits have run out, they can't find a job, they have families to feed and no money in the bank. Here we are forced to work seven days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day, or we get written up. With these hours people can't sleep or eat right.

"A worker comes to ITT looking for a job and he's told there's no work for him. Why don't we have a 40-hour week and hire the unemployed?"

The latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics says the current workweek for industrial workers is averaging 40.6 hours, but many of these workers suffer from excessive overtime.

The company would rather pay the time and a half for overtime than hire more workers, because it's cheaper for them that way. After all, each new worker not only receives an hourly wage, but is entitled to sick days, vacation, paid holidays, and pension.

Companies use this situation to get the employed and unemployed workers competing against each other. How many times have workers been told, "If you don't like it here, then quit. There's a million people out there who are willing to do your job."

The workers' struggle to eliminate mandatory overtime is linked to the fight for jobs, and is an important issue for the whole labor movement to take up. It cuts across the competition and antiunion sentiment the bosses foster and is part of defending the union against company attacks.

My union, the International Union of Electronic workers (IUE), is already on record for a shorter workweek with no reduction in pay. We could use a lot more discussion and action around this important demand.

Mark Satinoff is a member of IUE Local 447 and is the New Jersey Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor.

# Outrage with ruling allowing N.C. Klan countersuit

BY ROSE HENRY

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Plaintiffs here in a civil suit — filed against members of the Ku Klux Klan, American Nazi Party, the city of Greensboro, North Carolina, and officials of the federal government — have expressed outrage at a recent decision by presiding judge Robert Mahrige. His ruling allows the Klansmen and Nazis to file counter suits under a federal anti-Klan statute. The plaintiffs' protest of the March 12 decision has been joined by members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Lawyers Guild and others.

The plaintiffs are the widows and relatives of those killed in the Nov. 3, 1979, attack by Klansmen and Nazis on an anti-Klan demonstration in Greensboro. A Klan-Nazi caravan opened fire on demonstrators and left five dead. The five were members of the Communist Workers Party.

The \$48 million law suit by the Greensboro Civil Rights Fund charges that the Klan, Nazis, and government agents and agencies conspired to violate the civil rights of the anti-Klan demonstrators. An agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms participated in the Klan-Nazi caravan on the day of the killings. The Klansman leading the caravan was an informer for the Greensboro city police and

had been an FBI informer.

In a classic attempt to turn the victims into the criminals, the Klan, Nazis, and government have consistently charged that it was the demonstrators who conspired to violate the civil rights of the Klansmen and Nazis. Countersuits to this effect have been filed under an 1871 anti-Klan act which makes it a crime for two or more people to conspire "to injure, oppress, or intimidate" anyone in the exercise of any right secured by the Constitution. It also prohibits two or more people going "in disguise" on a highway or onto anyone's premises with the intent to violate a person's civil rights. The law was enacted to control the terrorist activity of the Klan during Reconstruction after the end of the Civil War.

Rep. Mickey Leland, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, charged "the Klan is playing some manipulative gymnastics with the law."

In opening arguments that were heard last week, the attorney for the city of Greensboro charged that the demonstrators had "infiltrated" the unions in the area in order to "stir up trouble." He told the jury of five whites and one Black that communists look for people who have a grievance against the government and seek to provoke confrontations in order to prove that their problems can't be solved without violence.

Several of the victims of the 1979 shooting worked in the textile mills around Greensboro and were active in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

The attorney representing the federal government agents involved admitted that an agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was present at meetings of the Klan leading up to the shooting and participated in the attack itself. The government claims his only role was to look for federal weapons law violations. He stated that since no "illegal" guns were

used during the shooting, the BATF agent bore no responsibility to try to stop the killings.

Meryl Lynn Farber, spokesperson for the Socialist Workers Party in North Carolina, stated, "The U.S. government claims that working people and Blacks fighting for justice in this country are guilty of conspiracy and terrorism while the Klan and Nazis are made to look like heroes."

"The labor movement and the fighters for Black rights have an important stake in the outcome of this trial and in seeing that the real criminals are brought to justice."

## Calif. VFW post takes antiwar stand

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) revoked the charter of Post 5888 in Santa Cruz, California, for publicly opposing the national organization's position on Central America. The VFW adopted a resolution supporting President Reagan's policies in Central America at its national convention in August 1984.

Post 5888, whose 67 members are mainly veterans of the Vietnam War, had passed a resolution in April 1984 that called for "a policy of self-determination and non-intervention in Central America."

The Santa Cruz post came to the atten-

tion of the national VFW when one member, Bill Watkins, met with officials of the Nicaraguan government in December. Richard Anderson, post commander, said that Watkins was sent to deliver the message to the Nicaraguans that "not all veterans agree with the Reagan administration."

The post has filed suit to stop the VFW from revoking its charter and confiscating its money, flags, and other property. Anderson told the press, "We don't believe the law supports the concept of a gag order, and that's the basis of our challenge."

## LETTERS

### Socialist miner on TV

Coal miners at the Monterey #2 mine in southern Illinois recently saw one of our coworkers on television explaining the Socialist Workers Party campaign platform.

Bruce Kimball, who works at the mine and is a member of United Mine Workers Local 2295, is the SWP candidate for mayor of St. Louis. He was interviewed on a March 10 television broadcast from St. Louis.

Miners who saw Kimball on television had many different views on what he said, and how he said it. One miner told Kimball that he should deal with the concrete changes he would make once in office. Another liked points Kimball made in the interview about the government looking for "scapegoats" as it steps up its war in Central America and increases the attacks on immigrant workers, and the rights of Blacks and

women.

Several miners came up to Kimball and congratulated him on a job well done. Another said he liked the way Kimball "stuck to his guns," talking about broader politics instead of letting the interviewer steer him toward "St. Louis only" politics. Greg Relaford  
St. Louis, Missouri

### UAW Women's Committee

The following statement on abortion rights was a project of the Women's Committee of Local 438, UAW:

"We, the Women's Committee of Local 438, UAW, would like to express our concern over the rash of violent attacks made against reproductive health clinics across the country.

"We are dismayed that this violence is not being treated as the serious crime that it is, for the clinic bombings are much more

than terrorism against buildings. They are nothing less than terrorism against the rights of women.

In 1973, the Supreme Court determined that only a woman herself could decide whether or not to bear a child, as a matter of personal privacy. No branch of government could deny her that legal right of choice.

"Protecting the right to control our own bodies is essential for all who believe in women's rights. If we speak out firmly against clinic terrorism, the latest form of violence against women, we can let the perpetrators know they do not have wide public support, and let the authorities know we expect them to act to stop it.

"Women, minorities and working people have suffered countless attacks under the Reagan administration. The president's own verbal attacks on abortion rights have emboldened those attacking the

clinics. We who defend the rights of women, minorities and working people must speak out, too, and embolden each other.

"If we stick together we can turn back this attempted invasion of privacy and personal beliefs. And we can demand that the government uphold and ensure the Constitutional right of a woman to choose abortion, free from intimidation by antiwoman criminals."

We sent it out to all the local media here in Milwaukee, and it was read on at least one television station and printed in the major morning daily, the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. More efforts like this are needed to educate and build support for abortion rights.

Chris Breihan, Chair  
UAW Local 438 Women's Comm.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

### March for Irish freedom

As a sympathizer with the poli-

cies of the Socialist Workers Party, I was glad to see comrades "selling the truth" in the Noraid ranks at the St. Pat's Parade. I want to thank the SWP for its support of self-determination for the oppressed people in Northern Ireland, as well as for all progressive people who are striving to throw off the chains of international imperialism. Let us not forget that Mel Mason was the only presidential nominee to call for an end to the 800 years of imperialist rule by the Brits.

In Solidarity,  
Thomas Hoxie  
Harrisburg, Pa.

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.



## Burkina revolution fights famine

BY ERNEST HARSCH

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina — When morning came here on March 13 in the capital of this West African nation, the sun could not be seen. The *harmattan* — the heavy, dry winds from the north and northeast — filled the sky with a thick, reddish-brown dust that covered everything.

Dust storms like this are quite common in northern Burkina, which borders the Sahara Desert. But never before had one struck Ouagadougou with such intensity, or in the middle of the dry season (rather than toward its end, in late June).

The red dust from the north was a stark reminder to the capital's inhabitants of the intensity of the drought and the steady advance of the desert southward.

According to Marie Dominique Sangaré, the head of the main meteorological center in Ouagadougou, "What concerns us is that because of the lack of rain, the desertification, and the fact that our soil is dry and cracked, these winds whip up and carry the dust, a dust that is becoming permanent." Sangaré also noted that the dust carries many germs, exposing people to all sorts of illnesses.

The water level in the three reservoirs on the northern outskirts of the city is low, while there is only a bare trickle of water in some parts of the Moro Canal, which runs right through Ouagadougou.

The situation to the south is not much better at this time of the year. During a 90-mile drive southward to Pô, near the Ghanaian border, very little green vegetation was evident, and the water level in the reservoirs was also quite low.

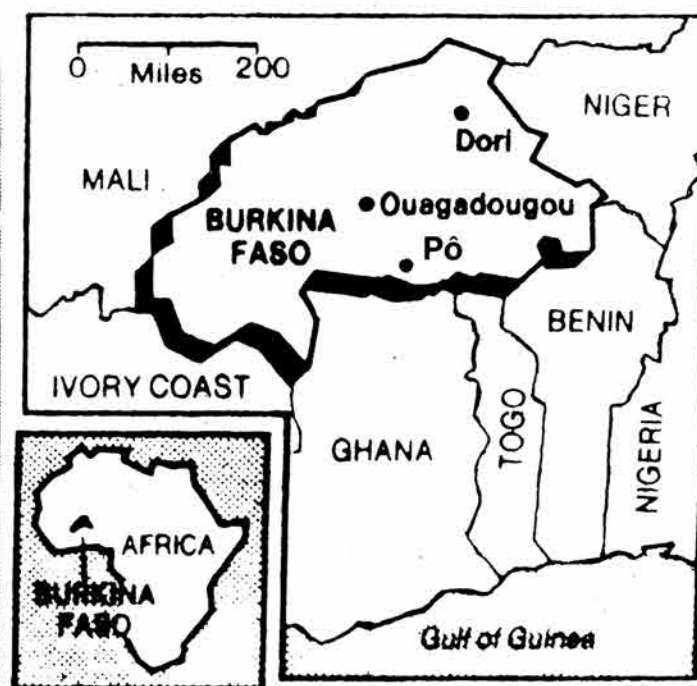
The north, however, has been the hardest hit of all. According to the Ministry of Family Affairs and Solidarity, nearly 1 million Burkinabè (out of Burkina's total population of some 7 million) face grave food shortages in the north and east, especially in the Yatenga and Sahel regions.

At the beginning of the year, Josephine Ouédraogo, the minister of family affairs and solidarity, estimated the grain shortage at 163,000 tons, compared with 120,000 tons last year. But with the influx of refugees from Mali and Niger, she noted, the



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Peasant women in Burkina countryside. Government of West African country (formerly known as Upper Volta) is implementing agrarian reform program to help improve conditions of peasants.



total food requirement stands at 250,000 tons.

The reasons for these famine conditions are only partly related to the drought, however. Droughts, crop and animal diseases, and other natural disasters hit many other countries from time to time, without necessarily leading to famine. Industrialized and economically developed countries can much more easily overcome the impact of such disasters, or avoid them from the outset, through intensive agriculture, irrigation, and the use of pesticides and animal vaccines.

Burkina's basic problem — like that of most other African countries experiencing hunger and famine today — is its poverty. It has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world. Life expectancy is just 40 years, more than 92 percent of the people are illiterate, and the infant mortality rate is a staggering 180 out of every 1,000 live births — one of the world's highest.

Although more than 90 percent of the people live in the countryside and work on

the land, agricultural production methods are primitive. Tractors and other farm machinery are virtually unknown here. Only 10 percent of the peasants use oxen, and the rest must rely on hand tools and their own muscles.

This poverty is a direct consequence of colonial conquest and imperialist domination. Since the subjugation of Upper Volta (as Burkina was called until last year) by French colonialism at the end of the 19th century, it has been exploited and oppressed by imperialist interests. This has disrupted traditional agrarian relations and undermined agricultural productivity. Throughout the past century of colonial and neocolonial rule, the country was kept underdeveloped and dependent on the imperialist powers.

Despite their clear responsibility for the current famine conditions in Burkina, the imperialists have thus far refused to give adequate assistance, either in the form of funds or of emergency food shipments.

The imperialist governments and finan-

cial institutions do not like the Burkinabè government's independent stance and its refusal to bow to their dictates. They are hostile to the revolution that has been underway here since Aug. 4, 1983, when the National Council of the Revolution (CNR) seized power on the crest of a massive popular upsurge. The new government, headed by Capt. Thomas Sankara, has adopted an anti-imperialist course, has enacted numerous progressive social measures, and has encouraged peasants, workers, women, and other oppressed and exploited layers of society to form their own mass organizations and fight for their rights.

The imperialists and their neocolonial allies in the region are worried that a revolutionary advance in Burkina, as poor as it is, could provide an inspiration to other victims of imperialist domination. They would rather let the people of Burkina starve to death, in order to weaken and obstruct the revolutionary process.

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## Striking miners stand firm against Massey

BY JOAN RADIN

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Hundreds of members of the United Mine Workers (UMW) rallied here at the West Virginia state capitol March 28 in support of their union and its six-month-long battle against the A.T. Massey Coal Co.

It was the 39th successive day of UMW mobilizations in support of union members on strike against A.T. Massey. More than 2,500 UMW miners were forced out on strike last Oct. 1, 1984, when dozens of Massey subsidiaries refused to sign the union's national contract negotiated with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The sharpest confrontation in the strike is currently at the Massey operations near Lobata, West Virginia, close to the Kentucky border.

At the capitol here, the UMW president, Richard Trumka, and the union's vice-president, Cecil Roberts, testified before the state legislature, urging passage of a bill outlawing the use of professional strike breakers. These have been used extensively by Massey in an effort to break the strike. The March UMW *Journal* aptly calls these company thugs "a private army of mercenaries."

The union has also faced massive arrests, company harassment and videotaping of its activities, injuries to its members by procompany coal-truck drivers, battalions of cops in riot gear, and, most re-

cently, fines, injunctions against picketing, and even an attempt to frame-up a union member on charges of attempted murder.

Massey is the fifth largest coal producer in the country, and operates both unionized and nonunion mines, primarily in Appalachia. The enemy of workers around the globe, the company is partly owned by Royal Dutch Shell and the Fluor Corp., which has extensive holdings in South Africa and Chile. Fluor's 1982 annual report

states bluntly that it seeks out "countries with favorable economic and political environments." As Trumka told the legislators, "the corporate world's definition of the ideal business climate is South Africa."

The strike reached a critical point on February 18, when Massey's Sprouse Creek Processing Plant near Lobata demanded its 54 employees, members of UMW Local 2248, show up for work without a contract. They showed up at Sprouse

Creek with 800 union brothers and sisters. This was followed by daily, massive, peaceful protests at the mine, some as large as 1,700, from February 18 to March 16. There have also been mass union church services on Sundays in front of the plant.

The answer the miners got for their show of union determination, solidarity, and restraint in the face of company provocation was the arrest of hundreds of unionists.

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## Black, Third World book fair held in London

BY JAMES HARRIS

LONDON — Hundreds of people participated in a predominantly Black gathering of publishing houses, political organizations, defense committees, musicians, and poets from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas here on March 17-24.

The occasion was the Fourth International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books and the Book Fair Festival Week. The week's activities were sponsored by New Beacon Books, Race Today Publications, and Bogle — L'Ouverture Publications — all radical publishing houses and book distributors based in London and specializing in books from and about the Black Caribbean and African reality.

The book fair was both a cultural and a political event — with activities ranging

from poetry reading, music sessions, and an international food fair, to discussions on present-day imperialist domination of India, the overthrow of the Grenadian revolution, and a forum on the legacy of Malcolm X. Lively discussion punctuated the entire gathering.

The events in Grenada received a great deal of discussion throughout the conference. Two events were organized to discuss the revolution and its overthrow.

On Sunday, March 17, two films were shown, *Rue Cases Negres* and *Caribbean in Crisis*, with a discussion afterward. On Wednesday, March 20, a forum with a panel of speakers was held to discuss the events.

At both events many views were expressed. Some participants were critical of the slain prime minister and central leader

of the Grenadian revolution, Maurice Bishop, and of the very idea of building revolutionary parties today. Others saw Bishop and his closest collaborators as revolutionary leaders who could provide an example for the whole Caribbean.

A strong sentiment among many participants was a highly critical attitude of what were called vanguard parties and democratic centralism.

For example, Tim Hector, chairman of the Antigua Liberation Movement and editor of their paper, *Outlet*, was interviewed in the film, *Crisis in the Caribbean*. He expressed the view that the real revolution in Grenada took place on October 19, 1983, when 25,000 Grenadian citizens marched to free Bishop. Hector saw this action as significant because the

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