

## Nicaragua: 'contras' defeated at Bluefields

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) suffered a stinging defeat May 16 when an elite unit of up to 200 *contras* failed to take the town of Bluefields, capital of the southern region of the Atlantic Coast half of Nicaragua.

The well-armed counterrevolutionaries attacked the city from three sides at 5 a.m. They were repelled on the outskirts of town by the Sandinista People's Army aided by members of the militia and the Ministry of the Interior.

The contra forces were routed after three hours of fighting, leaving behind 24 dead — including two of their officers — 30 rifles, two M-60 U.S.-made machine guns, and two of the small boats they had used to transport themselves. Sandinista Army officials believe that the fleeing *contras* took with them several more dead as well as a large number of wounded. The Sandinistas suffered two dead and several wounded. Seven civilians were also wounded in the fighting.

According to Capt. Javier Altamirano, commander of the 54th Infantry Brigade, the *contras* wanted to carry out a "propaganda blow."

"But the forceful response of the Sandinista People's Army troops has frustrated their terrorist plans," he said.

Commander Lumberto Campbell, head of the region's Council for Security and Defense, called the attack a "desperate act to try to place obstacles to the climate of peace" that the workers and peasants government has been trying to foster in the region.

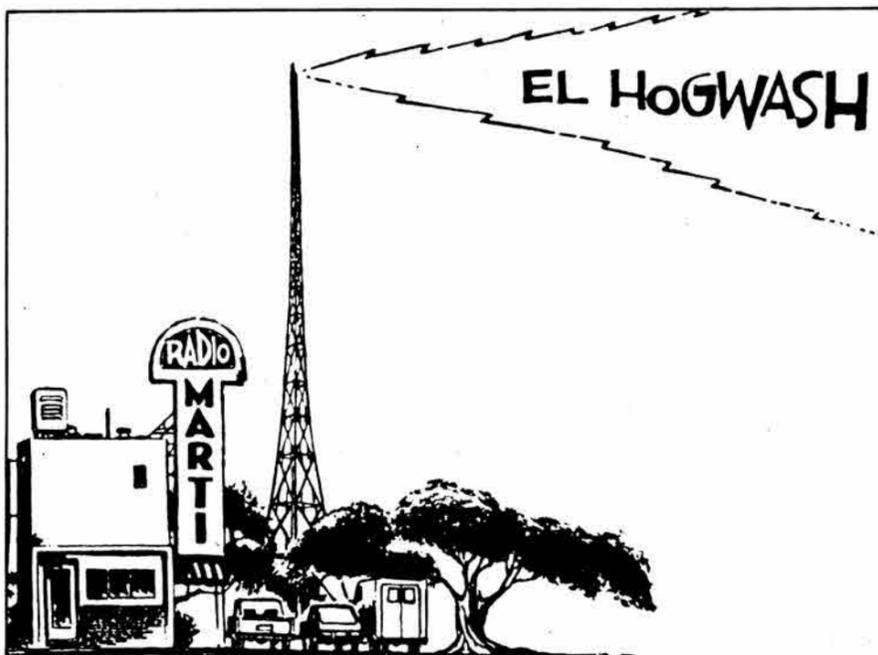
He pointed out that the attack came only two days before the beginning of the "Mayo Ya!" carnival. Nevertheless, the festival was held as scheduled.

"These counterrevolutionary actions take place in the framework of the CIA's overall plan of creating a false climate of alarm which, added to the U.S. blockade [trade embargo] form part of the general strategy of imperialism against our people," Campbell said. The counterrevolutionaries suffered such a crushing defeat, thanks, in part, to the vigilance of residents on the outskirts of town who had detected their movements the night before.

"The people from the coast themselves are aware of the movements of the counter-

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## U.S. Radio Martí: major aggression against Cuba



Don Wright

Washington's Radio Martí is an act of aggression against the people of Cuba. The Cuban government describes the station as a "shameless provocation."

In a major escalation of Washington's permanent war against the Cuban people, U.S. imperialism announced on May 20 a

25 years ago. These gains are particularly important in Latin America.

The Cuban government described Radio Martí as a "shameless provocation."

In response, Cuba announced a series of countermeasures.

These were included in a May 20 communication to the secretary general of the United Nations from Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Cuba's UN ambassador.

The statement declared that Cuba intends to "suspend all proceedings relating to the implementation of the accord on immigration signed by delegations of both governments on December 14, 1984, in New York City."

## EDITORIAL

new broadcasting setup — brazenly called Radio Martí.

This act comes in the context of Washington's escalating dirty war against the people of Nicaragua. It also comes in the wake of the gains the Cuban revolution is making in breaking the U.S.-imposed political and economic blockade first started

## San José: new rightist attacks fail

BY DIANA CANTÚ

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. — Over the weekend of May 17-19, right-wing Vietnamese thugs in San José have escalated their attacks on the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

The target of these attacks has been the socialist bookstore in San José, which also

houses the offices of the SWP and YSA.

But their attempt to disrupt a May 18-19 SWP and YSA educational conference on Vietnam failed. More than 120 people attended, and the socialists and other supporters of democratic rights are stepping up the campaign to defend the right to hold public meetings and discussions about Vietnam without threats or violent disruption by right-wing thugs. They are urging a nationwide campaign demanding that San José officials uphold the democratic rights of those opposing U.S. policy on Vietnam.

The rightist attacks first began on April 27 when the SWP and YSA sponsored a previous educational conference about Vietnam. The attempt to disrupt that conference was prevented. But on the following day 200 of the thugs trapped 17 people attending a staff meeting at the bookstore. They had to be evacuated from the building in police cars.

For the last three weeks the thugs have been on a campaign of intimidation and harassment that has the expressed aim of forcing the socialists to "get out of San José."

During the night of Thursday, May 16, some 17 windows at the bookstore were shattered by large rocks thrown from the street by two carloads of Vietnamese right-wing thugs. This was all witnessed and reported to the police by the building's landlord. The following morning, representatives of the SWP met with Police Chief Joseph McNamara, who assured them that the bookstore was being watched and pro-

Under this accord, Cuba had agreed to the return of some 3,000 Cubans who had come here on the Mariel boatlift in 1980 and were labeled by the U.S. government as criminals or insane.

Cuba also said it was suspending travel to Cuba by people of Cuban origin resident in the United States. Exceptions will be made for humanitarian reasons.

The statement added that Cuba "reserves the right to air medium-wave broadcasts toward the United States."

Radio Martí went on the air May 20. It will broadcast 14½ hours a day from studios in Washington using a 50,000 watt transmitter in the Florida Keys.

Initially proposed by Reagan in 1981, the project was signed into law in October 1983 and was initially slated to begin this past January. It was postponed for undisclosed reasons. Formally a part of the Voice of America, it will be operated by a separate staff.

The aim in creating the station had been bluntly stated in the fall of 1983 when the House of Representatives gave final Congressional approval to the project. Rep. Claude Pepper of Florida, a liberal Democrat, declared the purpose was to "put communism on the defensive in Cuba and Latin America."

The very name of the station is a prime example of Orwellian war propaganda. José Martí, Cuba's celebrated independence fighter, was a resolute foe of the U.S. imperialist plunder of his country. He described his period of residency in the United States as living "in the belly of the monster."

Responding to Cuba's countermeasures, Washington hypocritically asserted that the station would merely present "accurate, balanced and objective news reports," plus sports and entertainment.

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## United pilots need solidarity in fighting two-tier wages

BY JAN GANGEL

CHICAGO — A crowd of over 1,500 United Airlines pilots, family members, International Association of Machinists (IAM) mechanics and ramp service workers, members of the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), and other friends rallied in Villa Park, a suburb of this city, on May 17.

The strike-eve rally was linked up by satellite to 6,000 more pilots and their supporters rallying in other United Airlines base cities around the country.

The attendance of IAM and AFA members at the strike-eve rallies was an important first step in the direction of needed solidarity from all airline unions for the pilots strike.

The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) represents some 95 percent of all cockpit crew members in the country and is chal-

lenging the industry giant — United; which flies to all 50 states and 9 foreign cities — over a management proposal for a two-tier wage system that would take from 19 to 25 years for future United pilots to reach current pay scales. New hires would work for 41 percent less pay and 50 percent less pension for up to 25 years.

Not satisfied with the 1982 contract, which gave United's bosses a 15 percent productivity increase with no increase in pilots' pay, United refused a last-minute union offer of an eight-year, two-tier contract. While the owners of United made a profit of \$546 million in 1984, they point to their competitor, American Airlines, whose independent pilots association was forced to accept a long-term concessions contract.

ALPA spokesperson John LeRoy told

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tected by the police. But when asked about the previous night's attack, the police chief claimed to know nothing about it.

Throughout the meeting McNamara explained that while he was obligated to protect the rights of the socialists, he could not infringe upon the rights of the right-wing Vietnamese either. He said, "It's not illegal to chant, 'Kill the communists.' That's not an illegal act." He went on, "They have a right to express their opinion."

When asked about one of the cars parked in the police employees' parking lot that had a bumper sticker on it that said, "I'd rather be killing communists," McNamara responded, "That's not illegal."

By their actions the police have made it clear that they do not intend to protect the rights of the socialists.

During the week leading up to the May 18-19 conference threats against it were stepped up. A large sign posted around in the Vietnamese community claimed that the "Viet Cong and their supporters" were planning a celebration at the bookstore on the birthday of Ho Chi Minh — Vietnam's revolutionary hero. The poster exhorted Vietnamese in this city to demonstrate and "repudiate" the socialists. This demonstration was to be a contribution to the "liberation of the homeland."

In spite of the renewed threat, the bookstore was open for business as usual on Friday, May 17 as SWP and YSA members held meetings, cleaned up the damage

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BY PETER VERNER

DENVER — We sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at factories and workplaces that are unionized and try to concentrate our sales where Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance members work. This helps us maximize meeting and discussing with radicalizing workers on the job.

Two of the plants where we have regular plant-gate sales are organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW). One is Martin Marietta, a war industry plant. The other is Timpte, which makes refrigeration units for trucks.

We also sell at Gerico and Imperial Cap, two shops organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. And we are able to have sales to rail and airline workers.

We are beginning to regularize our sales more and have enlarged plant-gate sales teams of two to three SWP and YSA members. Most SWP and YSA members regularly participate.

The results from plant-gate sales vary; some articles in the *Militant* get a better response than others. For example, at Martin Marietta, workers are interested in the case of Sally Goodman, an

SWP member working in the plant who is being victimized by the Defense Investigative Service because of her political views.

Sales at Martin Marietta are difficult because of the plant's location. This forces us to sell at a stoplight several miles away. Despite this difficulty, we recently sold several *Militants* there. We are now thinking of making a big sign advertizing the *Militant* to encourage workers to stop more often.

At Gerico some of the workers know sales-team members and will stop to talk or take a leaflet

announcing a Militant Labor Forum. At our last sale, three workers bought copies of the *Young Socialist*, the newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance.

We were also able to sell two *Perspectiva Mundials* to workers at Imperial Cap.

During the campaign to build the April 20 antiwar action in Denver, we were able to have more discussions with UAW members at Timpte. There are some right-wingers in the plant who don't like what we are doing but they are pretty isolated. When they heard that socialist workers in the plant were trying to get the local to en-

dorse April 20, right-wing libertarians and Lyndon LaRouche supporters — some of whom are laid off — went to a union meeting to try to stop the endorsement. But the question of endorsement was never raised.

Outside of that incident, we haven't had any harassment — except from the company. Because of the increasing regularity of our sales, we are more accepted by workers at the plants and not looked upon as some kind of outsiders.

Peter Verner works at Timpte and is a member of UAW Local 1129.

## Seafarers win legal fight defending union contract

BY BAXTER SMITH

BALTIMORE — Members of the Seafarers International Union (SIU) here won a major victory in late April when a judge ruled against a ship towing company that set up a bogus corporation to skirt its union contract.

Administrative Law Judge Marvin Roth ruled that McAllister Brothers had purposely set up the nonunion Outreach Marine Corp. to evade contractual agreements with the Seafarers.

"Wages, hours and other working conditions were drastically altered [by Outreach] from those under McAllister's union con-

tracts," Judge Roth found.

The judge ordered Outreach to rehire 14 workers it had fired, and restore 12 others to their former seniority positions. He ordered the firm to pay the back wages to those it had fired and raise the salaries of those working. The amounts specified were the ones in the SIU contract. Outreach was also ordered to reimburse the union for its loss of dues.

The union victory came out of a futile company maneuver that dated from the fall of 1983. After failing to get a concession contract from the Seafarers, McAllister decided to set up Outreach. McAllister

claimed it was losing \$750,000 a year. It sold four tugboats to Outreach for \$1.9 million.

The rump outfit then fired nearly 40 McAllister workers on the tugs and refused to rehire most of them, even at much lower wages. Outreach reportedly was paying as low as \$48 for a 24-hour day.

Outreach president Alcide Mann argued in the complaint brought by the Seafarers and the National Labor Relations Board that he had no obligation to honor the union contract because his company was unrelated to McAllister. But Judge Roth saw through that.

"I find that [McAllister president Anthony McAllister] and Mann understood at all times that Mann would repudiate the union contracts, and that such action was essential to the success of their arrangement," Roth said.

McAllister, moreover, even continued to advertise that it was operating in Baltimore.

"Outreach existed almost exclusively for the purpose of servicing McAllister's customers in Baltimore," Judge Roth found.

The ruling affects not only the Outreach-McAllister crews, but other union crews as well.

Seafarers members who work for Curtis Bay Towing, the largest tug firm in Baltimore harbor, spoke highly of the decision. Curtis Bay management was hoping for a success story at Outreach so they could pull a similar maneuver, one crew member said, adding, "We would have been next."

## Gov't uses 'terrorist' label to deny rights

On May 16, Judge John M. Cannella of the Manhattan Federal District Court denied bail to Marilyn Jean Buck, who is accused of being involved in the 1981 Brink's robbery in Rockland County, New York. Buck had been arrested on May 11.

This represents another attack on democratic rights. It comes on the heels of the generalized assault on the rights of all the suspects in the Brink's case. During Kathy Boudin's 1984 trial in connection with that robbery, for example, she was denied bail;

the court refused to separate her trial from that of another defendant who had turned government informer; she was kept for three months in solitary confinement; and she was not allowed to touch her 15-month-old child on the pretext of "security" considerations.

Boudin's trial, as with the trials of the other defendants in the case, was marked by a campaign against "terrorists" in the big-business media and a repressive atmosphere in the courtroom — frisking of ob-

servers and the erection of a concrete wall around the courthouse. This was all designed to intimidate both jurors and witnesses and to bolster the prosecutor's argument that the defendants were dangerous and violent criminals.

After the government's blow against democratic rights in the Brink's trials, the cops and FBI organized a midnight raid Oct. 18, 1984, of homes in Brooklyn and Queens to arrest eight people who the cops claimed were "radicals." These individuals, known today as the New York Eight, were charged with "plotting" and "conspiring" to free one of the Brink's defendants.

The government hopes that by branding individuals or groups as "radicals" or "terrorists," they will be isolated politically and therefore can be denied their democratic rights.

The logic of this was seen most recently and dramatically in West Philadelphia. On Monday, May 13, the city administration and the cops branded the Black countercultural group MOVE as "radical" and then murdered 11 people, including four children, by bombing the Black community there.

Everyone who believes in democratic rights has a stake in protesting all of these attacks and demanding justice for the victims and fair treatment for those arrested, including the right to bail and protection of all their democratic rights.

## E. Harlem: no food or money for food

This year more people will go hungry than last year in New York City's East Harlem, one of the largest Puerto Rican neighborhoods in the country.

According to a survey by the East Harlem Interfaith Welfare Committee, a coalition of religious and other voluntary organizations, hunger is a growing problem.

The committee's survey showed the number of East Harlem households that experience "food emergencies," that is "no food or money for food," is increasing. In 1979, there were 90 cases reported. Since then the figures have risen steadily to 130 in 1980, 1,056 in 1981, 2,330 in 1982, 3,405 in 1983 and a whopping 4,290 in 1984.

More than 1,600 households reported having had to borrow, beg, or steal to obtain food, the survey said.

The report pointed to the local practice of removing people from welfare for alleged failure to comply with administrative procedures, such as failure to file a needed form promptly or completely, as one reason for the growing hunger.

The study also found that the cutbacks in social services on a national level, including food stamps, "have put families whose primary wage earner is without or unable to work at serious risk of hunger, homelessness and poor health."

The city administration has not commented on the study.



Militant/Steven Fuchs  
Baltimore Seafarers — shown here at anti-apartheid demonstration.

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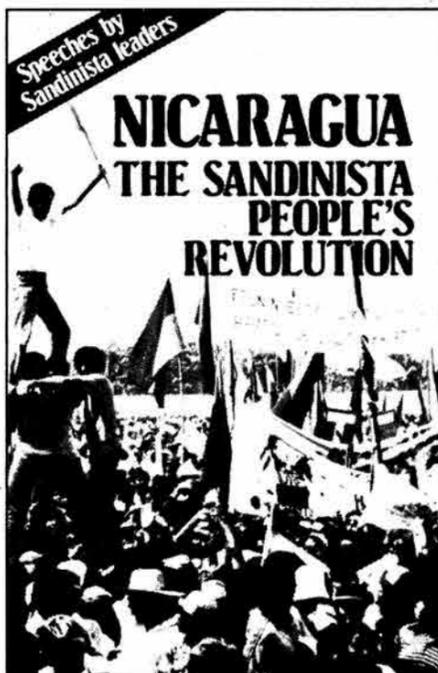
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## The Militant

Closing news date: May 22, 1985

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

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

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

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

# War-industry worker victim of new attack

BY TIM HERR

DENVER — In a major assault on political rights, the Defense Department has suspended the security clearance of Sally Goodman, an electrician at Martin Marietta, a major war-industry corporation here. She is a member of United Auto Workers Local 766 which organizes the company's plant where she works.

The government's action came April 17 just as Goodman was beginning a six-month to one-year medical leave to recover from major back surgery.

The Directorate for Industrial Security Clearance Review lifted Goodman's clearance despite their admitted inability to prove any wrong-doing or illegal activity on her part. Instead, they used the pretext of her alleged "noncooperation" with their investigation.

What this really means is that Goodman, while answering all relevant and legal questions put to her, sought to maintain her constitutional rights by refusing to answer questions about her political beliefs or her personal life.

The government's move is especially vicious since it means that every day Goodman worked in the plant — since 1980 — she had a clearance; however, now that she is on medical leave she is without one. The

suspension thus clearly threatens her ability to keep her job.

Although company officials say Goodman will have a job when she comes off medical leave, they will legally be able to fire her if they cannot find "suitable work" in a nonclassified area. Ominously, Martin Marietta has reportedly begun to require all maintenance workers to get security clearances.

The joint company-government harassment of Goodman has been going on for nearly three years. It was initiated not because she broke any laws or even company rules, but because she is an activist in her union, an opponent of the government's war in Central America, and a fighter against race and sex discrimination. Its purpose was to intimidate her and to weaken the union by dividing the workers from each other.

In 1982 the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) launched an investigation of Goodman, charging that she is 1. a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, 2. "at least an associate of known members of the Socialist Workers Party," and 3. a lesbian.

While none of these are illegal, the DIS investigation has been patently illegal from the beginning. The DIS's own guidelines prohibit its agents from inquiring into the

political affiliation and personal lives of workers.

Goodman has twice been interrogated by DIS agents. They have tracked down former neighbors, employers, and friends. Her coworkers have been interrogated in a hostile manner while on the job.

And all this has produced not even an unpaid parking ticket. The DIS investigation file, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, confirms this.

The next legal step that Sally Goodman and her attorney will be taking is an administrative appeal within the Defense Department.

More important, however, is the public protest campaign launched by the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) which is coordinating publicity and fundraising work in Goodman's case.

The American Civil Liberties Union has provided legal counsel from the start.

Throughout her fight, Goodman has been supported by her union, which filed grievances on her behalf demanding an end to government and company harassment. Other union officials have joined in her support as well.

Goodman has received the backing of the Central Denver and Colorado State National Organization for Women, as well as NOW chapters in three other states. Additional supporters include the Colorado American Agriculture Movement, Francisco "Kiko" Martinez, and George Naylor of the North American Farm Alliance.

Also, many demonstrators at an April 20 antiwar action in Denver signed petitions and took literature on the Goodman case. And at a recent Colorado AFL-CIO educa-



Sally Goodman

Militant

tional conference, several unionists became supporters of the case.

In stepping up its work, PRDF in Denver has produced a new brochure and petition on the case.

Protest messages demanding that Goodman's clearance be reinstated and that all harassment against her be stopped should be sent to: James P. Brown, Director, Directorate for Industrial Security Clearance Review, P.O. Box 3656, Arlington, Va. 22203 and Martin Marietta Corp., P.O. Box 179, Denver, Colo. 80201. Copies of the messages, as well as contributions and requests for brochures and petitions, should be sent to PRDF, 25 W 3rd Ave., Denver, Colo. 80223.

## Goodman defense wins support

A good example of the kind of support needed in Sally Goodman's case comes from Peter Fisher. Four years ago Fisher was the victim of a similar investigation while he was working at the General Dynamics-Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. Because of his work with the American Friends Service Committee and his opposition to Washington's foreign policy — which he discussed in his union, Boilermakers Local 614 — Fisher's clearance was suspended and he lost his job.

After a bitter two-year battle, Fisher won back his clearance and his right to a job.

Reprinted below is Fisher's letter to DIS protesting its harassment of Goodman. In sending a copy of this letter to PRDF, he wrote: "I learned of the Goodman case while reading my roommate's copy of the *Militant*, and not wanting to pass up a good fight — one I'm all too familiar with — I thought I'd join the fray."

\* \* \*

Mr. Dale L. Hartig  
Lt. Col., USA  
Chief, Office of Information  
and Legal Affairs  
Defense Investigative Service  
1900 Half St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20324

Dear Mr. Hartig:

I vigorously protest the continued policy of targeting employees in military-related facilities for security clearance investigations and revocations because of lawful

trade union and political activities. Of immediate concern is the case of Sally Goodman, an electrician at the Martin Marietta facility in Denver, Colorado, whose security clearance the DIS has recommended for suspension, apparently for the crime of being a socialist and a lesbian.

It sounds frighteningly familiar. In 1981, my security clearance at the General Dynamics-Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, was likewise suspended pending appeal. The crime? Attending church meetings on peace and disarmament issues, and being associated with the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization that a General Dynamics industrial security investigator labeled "a communist organization." During the appeal hearing, the DIS tried to smear me by using an informant's testimony questioning my sexual activities. It is of little consolation that an administrative judge saw through the DIS-GD maneuvering, discredited the informant, and eventually awarded me a higher security clearance after an appeal hearing. [T]he DIS and its corporate allies believe they can continue their abuse of authority and get away with it.

The DIS and major military contractors are trying to weaken trade union militancy in the military sector through the kind of action directed at workers like Sally Goodman. Those of us committed to the motto "an injury to one is an injury to all" will never allow it to happen.

Stop harassing Sally Goodman and restore her security clearance.

## SWP mayoral candidate demands cops investigate campaign office attack

BY JANE HARRIS

NEW YORK — On May 18, socialist campaigners arrived at their headquarters, shared with Socialist Books, to find one of their 6- by 14-foot storefront windows shattered.

Upon entering, the socialists found the brick that had been thrown through the window. They immediately called the New York City cops, who initially refused to come to investigate the case.

Four hours later, after further pressure, the cops decided to show up. They filled out a brief report, then left, claiming they could do nothing unless a "pattern" was established.

Regarding a pattern, in a telephone interview with Socialist Workers mayoral candidate Andrea González who is in West Philadelphia investigating unprecedented cop terror, she pointed out, "The brick through the window of my campaign headquarters comes in the context of threats and attacks on meetings celebrating the 10th

anniversary of the Vietnamese revolution — including meetings at Socialist Workers campaign headquarters in San José [California] and St. Paul, Minnesota."

And, while the socialist mayoral candidate pointed out that at this point it was impossible to pin the attack on any specific individual or right-wing group, "it's not our job to know," she said. "The cops should investigate this attack immediately. If it had been [New York Mayor] Koch's or [City Council President and mayoral candidate] Bellamy's headquarters, you can bet there'd be cops buzzing all over the place five minutes after the crime."

The New York Socialist campaign organized a press conference May 20 to protest this attack.

New York socialists are urging campaign supporters to call the New York City police in protest and to urge them to take action.

Send messages to Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward, One Police Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10013.

## Socialist Fund needs your help

BY FRED FELDMAN

General Dynamics Corp. came in for a tongue-lashing May 22 from the Secretary of the Navy because of its massive swindling on arms contracts. In this case, the corporate lust for profits even took precedence over the capitalist class' interest in maximizing the number and efficiency of the weapons of mass murder they use to terrorize the working people of the world.

A General Dynamics worker in Detroit set a very different example recently. He walked into the Detroit offices of the Socialist Workers Party and donated \$500 to the Socialist Publication Fund.

We also received the following note from two socialist workers in San Diego: "As a result of our reinstatement to our jobs at Teledyne Ryan [an aerospace/military manufacturer], we are able to make the following pledges to the Publication Fund: \$1,000 and \$500."

We also received a donation from Gail Schenkeman and Sam Chetta of New Paltz, New York. Sam included a note with their contribution.

"Since we couldn't afford to go to April 20th, we gathered what we could afford and are putting it toward the Socialist Publication Fund," he wrote.

"We recognize the immense value of mass demonstrations, and we will be there

next time, but we also recognize the necessity of building socialism and drawing in masses of people to fight against U.S. imperialism.

"Socialist literature is a greatly necessary tool in that fight.

"I feel our money is going toward a worthwhile and necessary project."

In addition to helping publish the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, our Spanish-language sister publication, the fund will help Pathfinder Press distribute more books in the series on the founding and development of the Communist International under Lenin's leadership.

Pathfinder recently published an invaluable new book, *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*. The 412-page book includes major speeches and articles by leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The money we raise will also aid other socialist publications, such as the *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory; and the international news magazine, *Intercontinental Press*.

As the *Militant* goes to press, the amount collected stands at \$35,828. That's almost halfway to the \$74,000 goal. The amount pledged has reached \$91,252.

Progress is continuing toward completing this fundraising effort — in full and on time.

In the March 22 issue of the *Militant*, we launched the Socialist Publication 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 Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.

Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\$75,000

Collected: \$35,828

# U.S. military, ideological war on Nicaragua

## Tomás Borge speaks to CDS rally

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In a speech at an April 26 rally here commemorating the fourth anniversary of revolutionary vigilance (see story below), Commander of the Revolution Tomás Borge discussed the military and ideological aspects of Washington's war against Nicaragua.

The rally took place right after the U.S. Congress voted down Pres. Ronald Reagan's request for \$14 million for the CIA mercenaries known as the *contras*. The U.S. trade embargo would be announced a week later.

"We must have no illusions, fellow Nicaraguans. The war continues," declared Borge.

"The counterrevolutionaries won't be short of money. They won't lack political, moral, or material support from the Reagan administration."

Borge roundly denounced the U.S. Congress. "American congressmen had no right and have no right to discuss whether or not to give aid to the counterrevolution."

In a speech repeatedly interrupted by laughter, applause, cheering, and slogans like "People's power! People's power!" Borge warned that "it would go against common sense to develop illusions" about the intentions of the U.S. government.

### 'They are preparing to invade'

He pointed to the Universal Trek maneuvers Washington is currently carrying out in Honduras, quoting one of the commanders of the maneuvers who said, "The objective is to perfect the technical and logistical preparation for a possible operation similar to the 1983 invasion of Grenada."

"Who are they going to invade?" Borge asked. "Honduras? It is already invaded."

"Panama, Mexico . . . the Soviet Union? Of course not!"

"They are preparing to invade Nicaragua, but no maneuver, no practice can pre-

pare them for the response they will receive from this people.

"Of course we don't want them to invade Nicaragua," Borge continued. "But if they come they will have to mix their blood with ours, they will have to kill us, they will have to die!" Borge exclaimed to thunderous applause and shouts of "Here or there, the yankee will die!"

"We must be distrusting, we must be realistic," Borge said. "We must expect economic and diplomatic aggressions," he added, "and above all, a powerful ideological offensive."

Borge devoted the bulk of the speech to discussing four aspects of this ideological offensive:

- The attacks against the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDSs), neighborhood associations whose principal task is revolutionary vigilance.

- The demand that the Nicaraguan government negotiate with the CIA-sponsored counterrevolutionaries.

- Lying campaigns about supposed divisions within the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), many of which have focused around alleged divergences between the supposed "hard-liner" Tomás Borge and the other eight members of the FSLN National Directorate.

- The charge that the policies of the workers and peasants government — and not imperialist exploitation and the U.S. aggression — are responsible for the sharp economic crisis that Nicaragua is now going through.

### CDSs: eyes of the revolution

On the CDSs, Borge asked "Do you think the implacable hatred that the enemies of the revolution feel toward this mass organization is just coincidence? Do you think it is just coincidence that hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans joined the CDSs?"

## Revolutionary vigilance rally

BY BILL GRETTNER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Sandinista government of Nicaragua is moving to increase community participation in local security patrols, known as revolutionary vigilance. Vigilance is organized in each neighborhood by the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDSs).

At a rally here April 26 commemorating the fourth anniversary of revolutionary vigilance, Commander of the Revolution Tomás Borge emphasized that vigilance is part of the country's defense against the U.S.-sponsored war.

"Who but the people carry out vigilance; who but the people benefit from it," he said. "And who is hurt by revolutionary vigilance?" he asked.

"Terrorists and saboteurs, speculators and corrupt administrators," he answered, "and those who dream uselessly of a return to the exploitation of the past. These are the aristocratic few who condemn the CDS 'mobs.'" The crowd of 30,000 CDS volunteers responded with laughter and applause, shouting "People's power! People's power!"

Also speaking at the rally, Commander Leticia Herrera, general secretary of the CDS, recounted the history of the CDSs. The Sandinista Defense Committees were formed out of the Civil Defense Committees which arose during the insurrection that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979. Today, vigilance is their primary task. The CDSs also carry out the important tasks of monitoring the distribution of goods and implementing government health and education campaigns. They were largely responsible, for example, for the success of a national effort the previous

week-end to vaccinate 500,000 children against polio.

Recently, Herrera said, participation in vigilance has been slipping. She noted various causes of this. Thousands of young men and women, the most enthusiastic revolutionary activists, have been mobilized to the battlefield or have participated as volunteers in the vital coffee and cotton harvests.

Other factors cited by Herrera were the country's difficult economic situation; the fact that the war is less visible in the cities, which encourages a certain complacency; and organizational inadequacies.

She stressed the need to continue to confront the enemies of the revolution, both outside the country and within. "We cannot stand by with our arms folded," she said, "while our enemies are sharpening their weapons against the revolution." The rally itself, she pointed out, is a demonstration to the world of the Nicaraguan people's determination to defend their revolution.

Referring to the decline in revolutionary vigilance, Borge denied that there has been a decline in political consciousness. The mass participation in the national elections last year, the vaccination campaign, and the coffee and cotton harvests show that the people of the country intend to continue to defend and advance their revolution.

"We ask these people here, a fair cross section of the population, if the revolution has the support of the people," Borge said. "Yes," the crowd shouted, "we're with you."

"But," said Borge, "the question is not well phrased. The people don't 'support' the revolution. The people *are* the revolution."



Militant/Michael Baumann

"Hatred against the people and the instincts of the people contradict each other and clash," he said.

Borge also referred to some problems that have emerged in the functioning of some local CDSs — arbitrary actions, cronyism, and politically or religiously motivated reprisals.

"The CDSs are for defending the homeland and for finding answers to the different problems of the community. The CDSs are — should be — a clear-sighted organization, an immense family that shares everyone's pain, an outburst of song, a refuge of tenderness and human solidarity," said Borge.

"The CDSs are eyes and ears, shield, trenches, clenched fists, but they are also — they should be — a helping hand toward anyone who needs help, without discrimination."

The "immense majority" of the committees, he added, "bring together the best, most selfless and enthusiastic sons and daughters of the people. . . . But the isolated cases of abuses and incorrect attitudes have been manipulated with savage joy by the enemies of the organized people."

### FSLN united

Turning to the campaigns about alleged divisions in the FSLN, he said, "Just like they did in Grenada, they try, through all means, using all maneuvers, and they aim their lying teletypes, their news from 'well-informed sources,' inventing divisions in the ranks of the revolution."

"Let these fly-by-night visitors harbor no illusions: The FSLN is united like flesh to bone, like the son to the mother, around the principles of the revolution."

Departing from his prepared text, Borge made a point he has mentioned frequently in other speeches over the past year.

Referring to the lessons of Grenada, he said, "Revolutions are invincible, are indestructible. The only ones who can kill a revolution are the revolutionaries themselves. In Grenada, the Grenadian revolutionaries themselves took care of killing the

revolution."

He said as long as the Nicaraguans maintained "the development, the purity, and the rectitude of this process" the revolution will go on.

"There will be revolution as long as the people are united around its vanguard," he said. "Here there will be revolution today, tomorrow, forever."

### Economic crisis

Referring to recent price hikes and other measures to deal with Nicaragua's economic crisis, Borge said, "Nobody can deny that the economic measures affect the people. It would be absurd to claim that the hikes in the prices of buses, of the basic products, of gasoline and electricity, of construction material, do not affect the standard of living of the people."

"These measures mean sacrifices," he continued, "and those sacrifices cannot always be distributed equally among all social sectors."

"It was necessary to confront the serious problems that were taking place in an economy on which all the plagues were falling: the destruction of the war, the cost of confronting it, the international economic crisis, the sabotage of the U.S. government to Nicaraguan credits and exports."

Contributing to the problems, said Borge, was the revolutionary government's "underestimating the objective limitations imposed upon us by underdevelopment and our feeble economic apparatus."

"We wanted to do everything at once," he said.

All these factors, he explained, had led to grave economic distortions. "For example, buying a new tractor is cheaper than repairing a used one," because spare parts had to be bought on the black market at astronomical prices, whereas a new tractor, (if available) is sold at the low government-controlled prices. Due to shortages and scarcity, and the myriad plague of petty speculators, "someone who waits in line at a supermarket for an hour and then resells

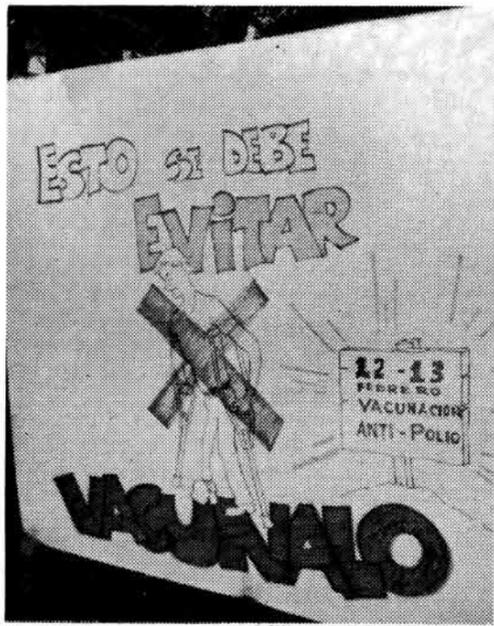
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Militant/Michael Baumann



Militant/José G. Pérez

Sign on facing page by the Sandinista Defense Committee in Granada explains revolutionary vigilance: 'Counterrevolutionary, thousands of eyes are watching you 24 hours a day.' CDSs also play big role in carrying out health campaigns like polio vaccination effort (above left). CDS general secretary Commander Leticia Herrera and Commander of the Revolution Tomás Borge at rally marking 4th anniversary of CDS-organized revolutionary vigilance, held in Managua on April 26.

the product makes more than a worker during an entire working day.

"Inflation, speculation, and low labor productivity were becoming strategic problems," Borge said. "If the government had not taken these measures now, the damage to the standard of living of the people would have been infinitely greater." Nevertheless, he added, "these measures, for now, cannot resolve the economic problems. They limit the wounds and the lesions produced by the crisis and the aggression."

"Now, if the U.S. government weren't organizing the war against Nicaragua, these measures would not have been necessary, or they would have been less harsh. The day the war is liquidated we will

barely have the right to begin a real reconstruction. For now, development plans are complementary" to the defense effort.

"The economy is another battlefield. The U.S. president knows it, our enemies know it, and the entire people of Nicaragua should know it, in order to be able to resist and to win there also," he said.

On Reagan's ultimatum that the Nicaraguan government negotiate with the counterrevolutionaries, Borge commented wryly that Reagan seems to want to go down in history "as the 'peacemaker' of our times."

"Everything that he touches, does, or says is preceded by the word, 'peace.' The MX missiles are the 'peace makers,' the U.S. Marines that invaded Lebanon were

presented as a 'peace-keeping force,' the plan to do away with the revolution and immerse Nicaragua in darkness and blood he calls a 'peace plan.'

"Peace to Reagan means death, peace to Reagan means humiliation."

But for the Nicaraguan people, Borge continued, "Peace means respecting our national dignity, peace means respect, peace means an end to the aggression."

As part of the U.S. imperialist "peace" plan, Borge said, they had carried out "costly publicity campaigns trying to show the impossible, that the FDN has nothing to do with the *somocista* guards." The FDN — Nicaraguan Democratic Force — was founded by former officers of the National Guard of overthrown dictator Anastasio Somoza. It is the main contra group waging war against Nicaragua.

"Of the seven members of the FDN general staff," Borge asked, "how many do you think were *somocista* guards?" "Seven," people in the crowd shouted back.

Borge then went through, one by one, the top leaders of the FDN, giving resumés on each one.

"With these hangmen responsible for copious rivers of tears and blood, they want us to have a dialogue."

To negotiate with them, Borge said, "would mean to give them a legitimacy that they don't have, to recognize them as a national political force, to forget who they are, and to lose sight of their strategic political objective of destroying the Sandinista People's Revolution and returning Nicaragua to semicolonial status."

"If we were to accept the dialogue, it would be the beginning of a series of concessions that would lead us, in the last analysis, to hand over the revolutionary

power, the power of the people.

"No dialogue is possible with these people," Borge said. "They knew what they did, they had plenty of time to think about their actions. They even had time to have a change of heart. They chose to enslave, to murder and to oppress. With them, no dialogue is possible."

"It is true," Borge explained, "that in the ranks of the FDN there are peasants, recruited by force or persuaded by deceptions. But it is undeniable that the brains and the spinal column, the central axis of the FDN, is the *somocista* National Guard."

But for confused peasants, "for those who have not yet succeeded in understanding the principles of our revolution, who haven't realized that this revolution is also theirs, for these humble persons of the people, there will always be forgiveness and a place for them in the heart of the Nicaraguans."

#### Resume negotiations

At the same time, Borge called on the U.S. government to resume the negotiations with Nicaragua in Manzanillo, Mexico, which were unilaterally broken off by Reagan.

"Reagan wants us to have a dialogue. We, too, want to have a dialogue. But we want to talk with those who really can stop the aggression, and not with those who obey their orders. We want to talk with him who gives the order, not with those who receive them."

As proof of Nicaragua's "desire for dialogue," Borge cited the agreement reached only a few days earlier between the Nicaraguan government and the armed Miskito opposition group MISURASATA, which had been fighting alongside the contras. The agreement provided for an end to offensive military operations by both sides.

As a first step in implementing the various aspects of this preliminary accord, Borge announced that the Nicaraguan government would immediately release from prison all Miskitos, Sumos, Ramas, and English-speaking Blacks — the historically oppressed nationalities that live in the Atlantic Coast half of the country — imprisoned for counterrevolutionary activity. This amnesty will cover all such persons, even those who belong to the FDN.

## Contras suffer defeat

Continued from front page

revolutionaries and help the authorities to find them and wipe them out," said Lt. Commander Francisco Cuadra. Cuadra is head of the Ministry of the Interior of the region.

"The mercenaries ... found an organized people who are willing to defend their freedom and they could not advance thanks to the high combat morale of the *costeños*, he said, referring to the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast.

The defeat of the attack on Bluefields came only 24 hours after a similar attack against the settlement of Laguna de Perlas was also beaten back. The attackers at Laguna de Perlas suffered 20 casualties before withdrawing. Both the forces that attacked Bluefields and those that attacked Laguna de Perlas are being actively pursued by Sandinista troops.

Many of the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast half of Nicaragua are either Indians or English-speaking Blacks. The region was totally neglected during the 50-year reign of the U.S.-imposed Somoza dynasty. The language, culture, and way of life of most of the inhabitants is distinctly different from those of the Spanish-speaking mestizo majority of Nicaragua.

Enemies of the 1979 Sandinista revolution have tried to use these differences, the

isolation and backwardness of the zone, and what Sandinista authorities call some initial errors on their own part, to try to create a social base for the counterrevolution.

Despite the obstacles, the revolution has been advancing and consolidating itself on the Coast. The population has benefited from conquests of the revolution in health care and education. Sandinista initiatives to begin bilingual-bicultural education programs and other moves have opened the door to ameliorating the divisions between Nicaraguans of different nationalities.

One especially significant part of this advance is the government's plan to grant autonomy to the Coast and the setting up of a national commission — with a broad layer of *costeños* on it — to draft a detailed law to put this plan into effect.

The advance of the revolution has even found a reflection among those who had been part of the CIA-sponsored aggression. The armed Miskito Indian group MISURASATA, which took up arms against the Sandinista revolution several years ago, has publicly called for an end to U.S. government backing for the war, initiated negotiations with the Sandinistas, and recently signed an agreement with the government to end "armed offensive actions."

## Latin American nations hit embargo

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Reflecting the deep opposition of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean to Washington's aggression against their sister country of Nicaragua, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), which includes 25 countries in the region, called on the U.S. government to lift its trade embargo against Nicaragua. They also resolved to take action to aid Nicaragua and counter the effects of the embargo.

This leaves the U.S.-backed governments of El Salvador and Honduras as the only countries in the region openly backing Washington's latest racist, arrogant move against Nicaragua.

The special meeting of SELA was held in Caracas, Venezuela, at Nicaragua's request in order to respond to the commercial embargo.

Joaquín Cuadra Chamorro, president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, warned the assembled delegates that the move to cut off trade with Nicaragua is a prelude to direct U.S. military intervention. The U.S. government is practicing "systematic economic aggression" against his country, declared Cuadra Chamorro. "Reagan is looking for the unconditional surrender of Nicaragua," he said.

"SELA adopted a resolution on May 15

condemning the "coercive economic measures that threaten the sovereignty" of a member nation.

SELA agreed to "facilitate the adoption of concrete acts of cooperation in the economic and technical fields to counteract the effects of the coercive measures decreed against Nicaragua."

## Ernesto Cardenal hails new Nicaragua book

During his recent speaking tour in the United States, well-known Nicaraguan poet and minister of culture Ernesto Cardenal received a copy of the new Pathfinder Press book *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*. A few days later Cardenal sent Pathfinder Press the following comment to help in its efforts to gain the widest possible readership for this important tool in the fight against the U.S.-sponsored *contra* war:

"Among the many changes the revolution has made in Nicaragua is the change in political oratory. Now it is without rhetoric, without demagoguery, and without banality. It is straightforward, direct, simple, and often poetic. Anyone who reads this book will become convinced of this."



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) office in Bluefields on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. It was the 'high combat morale' of the Coast people, who are being increasingly integrated into the revolution, that enabled them to defeat latest contra attack.

# Who is guilty for crimes of Nazism?

## German workers stubbornly fought against rise of fascism

BY HARRY RING

The 40th anniversary of the end of World War II is producing a welter of articles designed to whip up patriotic sentiment as part of Washington's stepped-up military intervention in Central America and its aggression in Asia, Africa, and the Mideast.

A central theme of much of this imperialist propaganda, particularly in articles by many liberals, has been the claim of "collective" German guilt for the war.

This claim, unfortunately, has also gotten an echo among many radicals. One of the most explicit is a cartoon that has appeared twice in the Communist Party's *Daily World*. Captioned, "Road to reconciliation," it depicts President Reagan walking through a U.S. cemetery stepping on the graves of U.S. GIs as he heads toward the German cemetery in Bitburg. The message is clear: German soldiers lying buried in Bitburg were the enemy against whom U.S. GIs fought a just war.

This notion that German workers in uniform — and by extension most German workers — share responsibility for World War II and the atrocities committed by German imperialism, is false and reactionary. It serves to perpetuate divisions among the workers and oppressed of the world at a time when unity and solidarity against imperialism and its wars are crucial.

The truth is that the German working class stubbornly fought against the rise of fascism. There is no greater vilification than the claim that the German workers, who were a big majority, supported or were in any way responsible for fascism. The somber fact is that the false policies of a treacherous leadership prevented the German workers from taking power from the capitalists and smashing fascism — one of the most insidious forms of capitalist dictatorship.

The history of the struggle of the German workers against fascism is a rich, instructive one. This article will sketch in outline some of the principal events — the defeated German revolution of 1918-19, the aborted revolution of 1923, and the events leading up to the fascist victory in 1933 and its aftermath.

### World War I

Prior to the first world war, Germany had emerged as the most powerful capitalist country in Europe. It had a highly developed industrial complex and a skilled, productive working class.

At the same time, the German trade unions were strong and won significant gains.

For decades, the German workers had a mass socialist party. The German Social

Democratic Party had a big bloc in the Reichstag, the German legislature, and had the credit for major social legislation.

But the German workers also faced an overwhelming problem. The leadership of the Social Democratic Party was in the grip of hardened reformists. They gave lip service to the goal of socialism, but argued for the utopian notion that it could be achieved "gradually."

Capitalism, the bureaucrats claimed, was on an overall course toward ever higher productivity and greater democracy. In due time it would be possible to simply vote socialism in at the ballot box.

In practice, their perspective of trying to reform capitalism led them to implacable hostility toward any action that went in a revolutionary direction, that mobilized the workers to challenge capitalist rule.

Their counterrevolutionary political line played a decisive role in the revolutionary events of 1918-19.

Although Germany had entered the 20th century as a major capitalist power, German imperialism was blocked from access to key areas of the colonial world by its rivals — U.S., British, and French imperialism. This unfavorable situation for Germany's ruling families was made worse by its costly defeat in World War I.

Germany emerged from that first inter-imperialist world war in a catastrophic condition. It had suffered a huge number of dead and wounded in the war. A million people perished from hunger as a result of the blockade imposed by the Allied powers' armies, which were France, Britain, Italy, and the United States. Under the Versailles Treaty, drawn up by the victors, a chunk of Germany's territory, including major coal and iron deposits, was taken away.

Its overseas colonies were seized. It was

stripped of 80 percent of its merchant fleet. In addition to monetary reparations, much of its railroad stock was taken, as well as hundreds of thousands of head of cattle. Even flocks of chickens were appropriated by the victors. Runaway inflation gripped the country.

In November 1918, German workers, soldiers, and sailors responded to the devastating crisis with a revolutionary uprising. Inspired by the victorious Russian revolution of October 1917, they established workers and soldiers councils. Within a week, they forced the abdication of the kaiser.

The threatened capitalist rulers responded quickly by making a secret deal with the right-wing bureaucratic leaders of the Social Democratic Party who counseled the workers to leave the streets and respect "law and order."

The Social Democratic officials were given key government posts. While working to preserve capitalism by any means necessary, they crookedly declared themselves a "Council of People's Commissars" — a "socialist" government.

On orders from this so-called socialist but in fact imperialist government, troops and cops systematically murdered workers who tried to continue the revolutionary struggle.

In January 1919, the two most prominent revolutionary leaders of the German workers, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, were murdered by the police.

In November of 1918, Liebknecht and Luxemburg had broken from the reformist Social Democratic Party to build a revolutionary socialist alternative. They established the Spartacus League, which provided the nucleus of the German Communist Party.

Despite the terrible blows directed

against the workers, uprisings and attempts to establish soviets continued in various parts of Germany. In the first nine months of 1919, 15,000 German workers died at the hands of the troops of the sellout socialist government. The revolution was drowned in blood.

The economic situation stabilized briefly, and then grew worse. By 1923, the German mark was over a million to the dollar. In this ruinous situation, a new revolutionary upsurge erupted.

The young Communist Party grew quickly. By 1923, it had half a million members and enjoyed major influence among the workers, exploited peasants, and those sections of the middle class ready for a revolutionary solution.

But in the heat of this revolutionary situation, a largely inexperienced Communist Party leadership wavered badly. It took no steps to organize the seizure of power, which the struggles of workers and their allies pointed to.

This critical problem was compounded by the consolidation of a privileged bureaucratic caste that had usurped political power in the Soviet Union. This caste's position toward the German revolution was summed up in an August 1923 letter by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin in which he declared, "The Germans must be curbed, not spurred on."

The revolutionary opportunity was lost. It was a heavy new setback for the workers.

The capitalists opened an antilabor offensive. The eight-hour day and other gains were wiped out.

Sections of the middle class, which had traditionally voted socialist in large numbers, began to turn against the mass workers' parties.

It was during this period of the '20s that

## González hits aid to Kampuchean rightists

The Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos is calling on all opponents of U.S. military intervention to protest a move, approved by the House Foreign Relations Committee, to provide \$5 million in open military aid to counter-revolutionary forces in Thailand seeking to overthrow the government of Kampuchea.

The measure is an amendment to HR 1555, the U.S. "foreign assistance" package.

The following protest to Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill was sent by Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York

City.

Letters or telegrams of protest should be sent to Thomas P. O'Neill, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

I and my campaign supporters are unalterably opposed to the House of Representatives' passage of the amendment to HR 1555 that will give \$5 million in arms to counterrevolutionary murder gangs trying to topple the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea.

The U.S. government has never stopped

funneling covert aid to rightist forces in Southeast Asia, as part of its unceasing effort to place roadblocks in the way of reconstruction efforts by the Indochinese peoples following the long U.S. war against them.

Adoption of this bill, however, would mark the first open U.S. military intervention in Indochina since the bombing of Kampuchea during the so-called *Mayaguez* incident in 1975.

The measure is intended to set a precedent for other steps in the future. This is in defiance of the will of the big majority of the U.S. people, who opposed the Indochina war and don't want another one — either there or in Central America.

The counterrevolutionary Kampuchean groups that make up the coalition based in Thailand are all remnants of ousted regimes that have been rejected by the Kampuchean people.

The largest and dominant force in the coalition is the Khmer Rouge army, led by Pol Pot, which brought death to millions when it ruled Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979.

Another component is made up of remnants of the Lon Nol regime, which was brought to power by a U.S.-organized coup in 1970, and was kept in power by massive U.S. bombing that devastated Kampuchea.

The third element is the former monarch Norodom Sihanouk. He has been discredited in Kampuchea by his support to this coalition of enemies of the people.

Proponents of the amendment say that they seek the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, falsely portraying them as oppressive occupiers. This ignores the will of the big majority of Kampuchean people, who want Vietnamese troops to stay as long as there is any danger that this coalition could return to power.

The amendment to HR 1555 is an attack on the sovereignty of the Kampuchean people, a reflection of the same struggle for U.S. domination that produced the economic embargo against Nicaragua.

Hands off Indochina!  
Sincerely,  
Andrea González

## 'IP' on Burkina's agrarian reform

In the West African country of Burkina, the anti-imperialist revolution that began in August 1983 has brought the start of a major agrarian reform. With more than 90 percent of the people living and working on the land, this is central to the entire revolutionary process.

The upcoming, June 10, *Intercontinental Press* features a background article on Burkina's agrarian relations and land reform. It is just one of several recent *IP* articles on the revolution in Burkina by managing editor Ernest Harsch, following a visit there in March.

Burkina's countryside is marked by extreme poverty and social backwardness. Before the revolution, there had been very little development of capitalist relations on the land. Most was communally owned and farming was on a subsistence basis. This underdevelopment, reinforced by imperialist domination, poses particular challenges to revolutionaries in Burkina, different from those in many other semicolonial countries.

The same issue includes the text

of Burkina's agrarian reform law, declaring all land state property and codifying the peasants' role in carrying out the reform.

Featured in the current, May 27, *IP* is a report from Senegal on the economic crisis there and the growing ferment among Senegalese workers and peasants.

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**U.S. Embargo: Act of War Against Nicaragua**

FSLN Vows They Will Never Bring Us to Our Knees

Speech by Fidel Castro  
**Women in the Cuban Revolution Today**

U.S. Rally Hails Vietnam Victory      Report From Senegal: Cracks in Neocolonial Bastion

Hitler's Nazi movement emerged. It combined fake anticapitalist demogogy with German nationalism and vile antisemitism. In practice, the Nazi group served as an antilabor militia for big business, which was attempting to reverse the concessions it had been forced to make to workers following the big labor upsurge at the end of the war.

#### 1929 crash

With the world economic crash of 1929, Germany was gripped by a deep new capitalist crisis.

The German capitalists feared that this crisis, with its devastating effects on workers and peasants, could lead to an explosion that would threaten their rule. Some of them poured money into Hitler's coffers. Ruined small businesspeople, professionals, and others began to respond to the fascist demagogy. From the ranks of the declassed elements and now permanently jobless youths, recruits were won for the brown-shirted storm troopers.

The Nazis gained ground rapidly and began to poll alarmingly big votes.

But, it's important to note, the Nazis drew their mounting votes from the other capitalist parties, not from the workers parties.

Within the labor movement, "National socialist shop cells," the Nazi alternative to the legitimate unions, never won more than 5 percent of the vote in shop-committee elections.

And in the last nationwide parliamentary elections held before Hitler won power, those of November 1932, the Nazis polled 11.7 million votes while the Communist Party won 6 million and the Social Democrats, 7 million.

But Hitler was not relying on the ballot box to win power. Early on his Brown Shirts took to the streets. During a single election, in July 1932, 25 workers were murdered in political assassinations.

The Brown Shirts began to beat up or kill workers coming home from meetings. That escalated to the invasion of union halls and the headquarters of other workers' organizations, breaking up meetings and beating those attending.

Protected by the cops, the Nazis staged provocative demonstrations in working-class neighborhoods. The murders increased.

The workers responded, sometimes with guns in hand. Independent of the leaderships of the Social Democratic and Communist parties, which refused to form a united workers front to counter the Nazi attacks, workers initiated united defense guards.

#### Lesser-evil politics

Clinging blindly to their perspective of "reforming" capitalism, the Social Democratic leaders tried to stop Hitler from coming to power by supporting a series of "lesser evil" capitalist politicians. The last "lesser evil" they helped install in office was General von Hindenburg. He appointed Hitler chancellor of Germany.

Meanwhile, in the crucial period before the Nazi government was installed, the Communist Party leadership was following an insanely ultraleft course. It was under the direct tutelage of Stalin's bureaucratically dominated Communist International.

The Communist Party misleaders argued that the Social Democrats were more dangerous than the fascists and were in fact a variety of fascists — what they called "social fascists." They were more dangerous, the false argument went, because they were a disguised version of fascism.

With this fatally reactionary characterization, the party leadership rejected what was so urgently needed — a fight to achieve a united front with the Social Democratic Party, which many workers still looked to, to crush the Nazi menace. Such a fight would have been part of organizing the working class and its allies in the city and countryside to take state power.

The Stalinist and Social Democratic misleaders also failed to put forward a perspective of winning the exploited peasants and urban middle classes being ruined by the capitalist crisis. A fighting alliance of the workers and peasants was essential if a



Members of the Social Democratic Party — largest workers party in Germany — being checked by Nazi guards at German concentration camp in 1933.

revolutionary struggle to throw out the capitalist rulers and beat back the fascist threat was to be waged. The failure to forge such an alliance led some peasants and many in the urban middle class to be attracted to the radical, anticapitalist demagogy of the Nazis.

Between the reformist electoral politics of the Social Democratic leadership and the irresponsible adventurism of the Communist leaders, the workers were politically disarmed and in effect stood helpless as the capitalists established a fascist regime, headed by Hitler.

The defeat was all the more terrible because German working people had both the will and the strength to crush the capitalists and their Nazi servants and take power in their own hands.

The 13 million votes they gave to the Social Democratic and Communist Parties in 1932 were a clear mandate to fight the German rulers and their fascist hooligans. Moreover, that massive vote was but a partial reflection of their actual strength.

The German workers were a conscious, powerfully cohesive social force. Their well-organized unions were deeply rooted in Germany's basic industries, giving them a potentially vital grip on the nation's economy. If their leaders had organized a united

response to the Hitlerite challenge, the workers would have proven indomitable.

The bankruptcy of their leaderships paved the way for the victory of fascism and the crushing defeat of the working class.

In office, the Hitler government's initial strategy bore testimony to the inherent power of the workers' movement.

#### Crushing of unions

The unions were not smashed overnight, but instead, they were chopped away at a step at a time. Brown Shirts occupied various union headquarters. But while heavily restricted, the right to strike was not declared illegal until almost four months after the Nazi victory. And the process of wiping out the unions was conducted over a period of nearly two years.

But while it moved in a considered way, the capitalist Nazi regime pressed resolutely in crushing the workers' movement.

Employers were authorized to fire workers suspected of being "hostile to the state."

A system of "labor passports" was created under which the boss offered his estimate of a worker leaving a job. Without the "passport," the worker couldn't get a new job. It was an effective blacklist.

Later came labor conscription. Workers were compelled to accept job reassignments with no guarantee of a wage equivalent to that of the past job.

On top of this was the brute terror.

Workers were killed by the thousands. By the hundreds of thousands they were savagely beaten and thrown into the barbed-wired concentration camps.

The Social Democratic and Communist Parties were outlawed.

Some of the party and union officials escaped into exile. Others ended in the camps. Many were executed outright.

With the organized workers movement crushed, the capitalist rulers faced no restraints. The Nazi's social demagogy aimed at attracting the middle class was dropped and the iron fist fell on all sections of the population except the big capitalist magnates.

Earlier, the strength of the workers movement had inhibited and curbed the most reactionary aspects of capitalist rule. Now that wall was gone.

The genocidal drive against the Jews was fully unleashed.

The gypsy population and homosexuals were targeted.

Church leaders, Catholic and Protestant, were incarcerated as well.

Now a nationwide prison camp, the German imperialists prepared to war against their imperialist rivals and the workers state in the Soviet Union.

Military and industrial conscription were expanded. The workers were not given the choice of accepting the draft or going to jail. It was accept the draft or be executed.

#### Heroic resistance

Many German revolutionary workers and others worked heroically to continue the struggle underground. To the extent they could, they cooperated with revolutionary militants in other European countries in circulating clandestine propaganda addressed to the German workers, including those in uniforms. Countless of these revolutionists paid with their lives before and during the war.

The victory of fascism was a bitter defeat for the German working class and for the workers of the world.

But, the German workers were not the enemy of U.S., French, British, or Russian workers. They had a common enemy — the global handful of ruling families that carried out the second worldwide imperialist slaughter to advance their own profits.

## UAW rejects immediate cuts at AMC

BY CHRIS RAYSON

MILWAUKEE — In the face of threats by the owners of the American Motors Corp. (AMC) to close their Milwaukee and Kenosha, Wisconsin, plants, United Auto Workers (UAW) locals 72 and 75 voted overwhelmingly to authorize their union leadership to seek early contract negotiations with the company. The current contract expires September 15.

UAW Local 72 members at the Kenosha plant of 6,000 workers also voted May 18 to reject the company's request for immediate concessions. The vote in Kenosha was 4,451 to 910 in favor of the executive board's recommendation, while 96 percent of the 300 Local 75 members attending a special meeting in Milwaukee supported their leadership's recommendation for early contract negotiations.

In a letter to UAW secretary treasurer Ray Majerus dated May 3, the AMC bosses demanded that the union agree with a contract "competitive" with the cheapest pact involving a U.S.-foreign venture. (AMC is primarily owned by Renault of France.) Specifically, AMC pointed to the contract being implemented by General Motors and Toyota in Fremont, California. AMC set a deadline of May 24 to receive a commitment from the union. Otherwise it would issue formal notice of its intent to close the Kenosha and Milwaukee plants.

In the week that the union membership

was voting, a letter was sent to all Milwaukee and Kenosha employees from Richard Calmes, AMC's vice-president of industrial relations, repeating this threat:

"To continue Kenosha operations, we have asked your local union to bring your labor agreement into line with the UAW agreement of the profitable giants of the U.S. automotive industry. . . .

"If we do not receive these commitments by May 24, we will notify the state and local governments and proceed with the process of terminating Kenosha operations."

AMC is demanding, among other things, drastic cuts in hourly wages from 37 to 60 cents, mandatory overtime, a deeper two-tier wage rate, eliminating one week of yearly vacation and four paid bonus and personal days, and a reduction in the number of union representatives.

The vote to authorize early contract negotiations was not a decision to reject concessions. Many workers made clear that they would give concessions in return for a "guarantee" from AMC to keep the plant open. But there is a widespread sentiment among workers that AMC has already made the decision to close and only wants to use the union as a scapegoat.

Anger at AMC's hard-nosed approach was apparent in the vote. One worker told the *Milwaukee Journal* after he voted: "They own the ball, they own the bat, and

it looks like they own the ballpark. But that doesn't mean that we have to play ball."

A Black Milwaukee AMC worker told this reporter, "I figure if they are going to leave, they are going to leave anyway if we vote yes or no."

In editorials the big business news media in the area have wasted no time in urging the UAW to comply with AMC's demands. At the same time, they have urged AMC to negotiate, reflecting an anxiety in business circles here that AMC's unyielding approach will spark angry protests from the UAW and other area workers.

In recent days, the news media here has also played up divisions AMC has fostered between the Kenosha and Toledo UAW locals. A major sensationalist article appeared on the front page of the May 19 *Milwaukee Journal*. It claimed to report on "violence" directed against Kenosha workers transferred to the Toledo Jeep plant.

The three-page article had headlines that said: "In Toledo it's brother against union brother," "Workers find hostility in Toledo," and "Displaced Kenosha workers find resentment at Toledo plant." The *Journal* even implied that a fire in a Toledo rooming house that killed one Kenosha transfer and mysteriously hurt another may have been deliberately set by Jeep workers. This charge was made despite the arrest of a suspect who had no connection at all with the Jeep plant or the UAW.

# Rail carriers arrogantly demand new conce

## UTU members charge bosses are gutting workers' and public's s

BY LOUISE GOODMAN

SAN FRANCISCO — Like workers everywhere, rail workers are facing fierce attacks on our living standards, safety, and unions. The rail industry has been doing quite well financially — traffic is up, and earnings have shot up dramatically. Class I railroads (major freight carriers) earned over \$2.5 billion in 1984. This was a 39 percent increase over 1983.

Profits are up at the expense of jobs, cutting back on maintenance, and eliminating unprofitable lines.

Class I railroads now employ around 303,690 people in all departments. This is 2 percent less than the year before. Of these workers, only 96,497 are actually involved in train operations. This represents a 40 percent reduction in the work force since 1981 for this category of worker. The only increase in employment has been among managers. As recently as five years ago, there were almost 500,000 rail workers.

In their greed for profits, the owners of the privately owned rail freight carriers are not only driving down wages and conditions of rail workers, they are also slashing the social use of rail and freight transportation for millions of users and potential users.

This drive to put the profits of the banking rich who own the railroads before the social needs of the majority is the bottom line in the attacks on rail workers today.

### Impact of new technology

The introduction of new technology into rail operations at the expense of jobs and workers' safety poses a serious threat to public safety, which rail workers have been pointing out for a number of years.

Advances in technology, which could be used to make the rail industry more efficient and safer for those working, are instead being used to cut jobs. Theoretically the technology exists to run a train with zero crew members. The Burlington Northern (BN) and Norfolk Southern Corp. are exploring a possible joint venture in which the carriers would use satellites to better locate trains and reduce fuel, signal maintenance, and other costs. There are track machines that can do more with fewer people. Some locomotives have talking computerized boxes telling the engineer things like the train is going too fast. Even the carriers realize they need workers to make their railroads run. They just want to get by with fewer workers that they can squeeze more out of.

### Conrail leads attacks

Conrail is in the forefront of the industry's offensive against the rail workers' wages and jobs. In an interview that appeared in *Railway Age*, the industry's publication, Conrail chairman Stanley Crane said, "It has been demonstrated, for example, that you can run with less than full crews. . . . There are even trains running without a locomotive engineer. Now I'm not suggesting we get rid of the engineer. What I am suggesting is that we don't need all of the people that we have on those trains today."

A more recent article that appeared in the March issue of *Modern Railroads*, quotes a report from the Association of American Railroads titled, "Railroads and Productivity: A Matter of Survival." The report bluntly states that major improvements in productivity will have to come from labor-cost reductions. It makes a pitch for rail-union support for more concessions saying, "Clearly, only if labor cooperatively joins with the railroads in a partnership to reduce costs can America's freight railroads — their stockholders, managers, and workers — hope to survive in an environment of greatly reduced future expectations and greatly increased competitive pressures."

"Rail management," the report continues, "seeks to convince labor that excessive gains in compensation reduce rail employment and market share; that restrictive work rules cut employment rather than preserve it."

Following this gloomy prediction and threat to rail jobs, the report spells out the concessions it will demand in negotiations:

- Rate of pay for new employees set at least 20 percent below rates for present employees;
- Phased-in conversion of the mileage/speed basis of pay for operating employees to at least 20 mph (from 12.5 mph now) and a freeze of mileage rates for miles run in excess of 100;
- Elimination of all arbitrations [Arbitrations are payments to employees for work other than regular duties.] and special allowances for new workers and a freeze of existing allowances so that future wage increases or cost-of-living adjustments will not be applied, and reduction or elimination of certain arbitrations over a three-year period;
- Require road crews to handle their own switches, make multiple setouts and pickups within the same switching limits, and spot and uncouple cars within switching limits;
- Grant management the right to make operational changes irrespective of pre-existing road/yard restrictions in response to needs of shippers if the purpose is to preserve specific and imminently endangered traffic, to improve transit time, to accommodate a shipper's request for particularized handling, or to capture new traffic;
- Permit yard crews to do certain work now restricted to road crews.

The report stresses it would also like to see a further extension of the option to eliminate cabooses.

### Working without a contract

These demands for more concessions come at a time when rail workers have been working without a new national contract since last July.

It's pretty standard in the rail industry to work six months or more under the old agreement. Under the Railway Labor Act, it's a continuous contract that the company can't change until the new one is settled. According to Tom Matthews, ex-vice-president of employee relations on the BN and formerly of Continental Airlines, this

is something the BN wants to break after this contract is settled. That would leave workers with no protection when the contract expires.

The present contract is now in mediation. The National Mediation Board, created by Congress, acts as a "neutral" party to the dispute. In reality, it ties up the railroad unions in legal red tape for months and prevents them from striking. With no time limit on how long the contract can stay in mediation, no one knows how long it will be before an agreement is reached.

### No vote on contract

Not being allowed to vote on the contract, and getting very little word about how negotiations are going, most railroad workers are very nervous about the outcome. They used to always look forward to the back pay they would get when the contract was signed. Now workers are just hoping to stay even.

The Dec. 15, 1984, *UTU News* (the United Transportation Union is the major union organizing employees in train operations) had this to say about the companies' stance in the negotiations: "President Hardin is convinced that the NRLC [National Railway Labor Conference] will ultimately try to force the dispute to a Presidential Emergency Board, the next step under the act if no settlement is reached and if the unsettled dispute threatens to deprive a section of the country of essential transportation service. Hardin accused the railroads of adopting a position where they would 'welcome a strike, taking the position that while a strike is in progress, they can continue making far greater profits.'"

### Threat to public safety

If the railroad bosses continue to get their way, more jobs will be lost and working conditions will worsen. For example, the days of the caboose may soon be over. The carriers try to claim that the caboose is an anachronism from the past that is no longer needed for safe, cost-efficient train service. They even try to claim that trains can run more safely without them. There are an estimated 1,000 trains, some on runs of 2,000 miles or more, without cabooses. Instead, there is an inexpensive electronic monitoring device at the end of the train.

The only claim the managements make that is true is on the amount of money they will save. What they save on costs, rail workers will pay for with their jobs. Even more important is the risk of a major train derailment that could harm thousands. So far the general public has been lucky. A major chemical spill in a densely populated area involving a cabooseless train hasn't happened yet. There have been plenty of smaller-scale accidents that should be taken note of.

The *UTU News* reports on tragic and near-tragic accidents of cabooseless trains every month: Sometimes they are "minor" accidents where a truck hits a train near the end and goes undetected by the monitor. Sometimes brush fires start from sparks from the train. A monitor at the end can't see that and radio for help. There have been many cases of the rear-end crew spotting such fires and reporting them in time to save thousands of acres of farmland from destruction.

A letter to the Oct. 20, 1984, *UTU News* underlines the absolute need for the caboose. A conductor describes what happened after a truck hit his train. "Two cars near the caboose were damaged; lucky we weren't knocked right off the track. We could have been. We had 51 cars. We had chlorine tanks in the train, three total. That could have been a bad scene, a deadly one. Escaping chlorine vapors can kill for miles around. When I saw we were hit, I stopped the train. I did this by opening a valve on the caboose. The valve is there for such emergencies. On the engine, men could not have known we were struck. Now if we did not have the caboose the train would have kept right on going. . . . Somebody has to be kidding in telling the public that we don't need cabooses."

The October 1982 agreement signed by

the UTU granted rail owners the right to begin gradually removing cabooses. Each road negotiates separately the caboose-removal agreement subject to safety and work-rule considerations. The union agreed to this expecting to get "arbitrariness" in exchange for acceptance of caboose removal. That would mean extra payments awarded as compensation for changes in work rules and procedures. While the arbitrations were not explicitly part of the national agreement, the UTU has sought them in each caboose case that has gone to arbitration. The union hasn't been very successful in getting the unwritten part of the agreement fulfilled.

But in almost every case that's gone to arbitration, the so-called neutral member of the arbitration panel has determined that Article X of the agreement forbids the awarding of arbitrations.

### Mandatory caboose laws

Getting nothing in return for this major concession to the carriers, which the union said was only to apply to short trains such as locals, the UTU is now working toward mandatory caboose laws in over 40 states. Such legislation has already passed in four states, including Nebraska. Whether other states will be able to enact such laws, which benefit railroad workers and any community that has trains running through it, depends in large part on the outcome of a Burlington Northern lawsuit in Nebraska.

L. Lee Lane, executive-director of the American Association of Railroads' (AAR) intermodal policy studies group, has the nerve to say mandatory caboose laws threaten the integrity of the collective bargaining process. Apparently he doesn't think government interference in the ability of railroad workers to strike after their contract runs out is a threat to that integrity. Lane also asserts, without a single shred of evidence, that cabooses create severe safety hazards at times.

One of the BN's vice-presidents, Donald E. Baker, feigns concern for railroad workers' safety by claiming that without the caboose, there will be fewer personal injuries from slack run-in. That's like saying there would be fewer cases of whiplash if automobiles were eliminated.

The railroad's final phony argument to bolster their position is that getting rid of the caboose and moving the conductor up front promotes crew-togetherness. What that really means, according to the AAR's Lane, is that "the more employees in the front of the train, the smaller the chance that the negligent behavior of one of them will go unnoticed."

The only reason the carriers are fighting so hard to maintain and extend the running of cabooseless trains is the immense profits involved. All their other arguments are



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# Concessions from workers

## Safety by eliminating cabooses

fake. The extra money that can be added to their already large profits is ample incentive to push as far as they can in eliminating the caboose and its crew. The industry is seeking 100 percent of through trains as part of current negotiations on a new UTU agreement. The concessions the UTU made in 1982 weren't enough to satisfy the carriers. That only whetted their appetite for more. They want the right to remove the rear-end crew on all trains regardless of safety.

In addition to getting rid of the caboose, many railroads have signed crew-consist agreements eliminating one of the trainmen from the crew. On the Southern Pacific, every time a crew works short handed, \$4 goes into a productivity fund. At the end of the year this is divided up among those switchmen who worked. Depending on seniority, some switchmen get several hundred dollars at the end of the year. Most workers get very little back, and the ones whose jobs have been eliminated get nothing. At \$4 for a person's job, the company got off pretty cheap. While most people were glad to get a few hundred dollars at the end of the year, very few thought it was worth what had been given up in exchange.

The rail bosses are confident in their attacks because major takeback contracts have been negotiated in other industries, such as the airline and trucking industries, to name only a couple.

The last contract negotiated in the rail industry in 1982 started new hires at 70 percent of top pay. Bosses on the Southern Pacific are now openly threatening to get rid of workers and hire new ones for 30 percent less. Among rail workers, those on Conrail have never reached the same wage level as the rest of the industry. The massive concessions and wage deferrals made by unions when Conrail was in trouble haven't been reversed. The Conrail bosses have more than recovered with government help, but rail workers haven't.

### Mega-mergers

Mega-mergers have also contributed to the profits of the rail bosses. *Railway Age's* labor writer, Gus Welty, had this to say about the number of mergers being consummated, "It's hard to believe, sometimes, the tremendous restructuring of the U.S. railroad system that has taken place in less than 15 years, starting with the merger that created the Burlington Northern. Since that time, a whole bunch of losers came together to make a winner, Conrail. BN expanded, folding Frisco into the system. Chessie System and Seaboard System were joined in CSX. Norfolk and Western and Southern were brought together in Norfolk Southern. Union Pacific, Missouri Pacific and Western Pacific combined to create a new Union Pacific System."

Most hurt by this consolidation into a few super railroads have been workers whose jobs have been eliminated, and communities, especially farming areas, that have had service cut.

*Railway Age* boasts of the benefits to the new mega-railroads. "Equipment utilization has been improved, across the board. With the mega-mergers, there are fewer interchanges, cars have to be classified fewer times, schedules have had hours cut from them. And of course, there have been economies in the work force, contract and exempt, because with consolidation fewer people are needed to get the job done."

As one of the last big mergers in the West, the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe merger is one to watch closely. This is one of the biggest topics of discussion on the SP where I work, since it will affect everybody's job. There have been plenty of wild rumors, but no one, including the union or most company officials, knows what's going to happen. The only thing certain is that more jobs will be lost and speedup will intensify.

### Rail deterioration and profits

A by-product of the increasing effort to drive up profits is a deterioration of the entire infrastructure of the country's railroads. Going by the name of "deferred

maintenance," nothing gets repaired until it breaks or hurts someone, and not always then. Instead of hiring more workers for the much needed job of repairing and laying down tracks, the SP laid off 900 people in the Maintenance of Way department last fall. Over 1,000 trackworkers on the BN in Colorado and Nebraska were laid off over the last few years. Besides only minimal upkeep of the tracks, much of the rolling stock is in bad shape.

Always one of the most hazardous industrial jobs, life on the railroad is getting worse. Smaller crews add to the danger of the job. There's no substitute for a full crew to insure the safety of everyone working. When there were full switching crews, several switchmen could pass hand signals to the engineer. Oftentimes now the engineer and the switchmen are forced to rely only on radio communication. There's no question that the walkie-talkie pac sets can be a big advantage to the crew, but often voices get garbled when too many people are on the air. Even where the radios could be used as an added tool for those working, companies like the SP are too cheap to provide them. They will let you sign one out if you agree to be liable for up to \$700 if the radio is damaged, lost, or stolen. Many refuse to sign and are forced to work without one.

If you're unlucky enough to have an accident at work, that's only the beginning of your troubles. Workers are intimidated either into not filing accident reports, or being coerced into "light duty." This way the railroads can cover up any lost time. Railroad claims departments are famous for harassing and spying on workers who've had accidents and report them. It's not uncommon to hear stories of people being watched at home, or having their doctor bought off to give a diagnosis to suit the company's version of what happened.

Beside the risk to rail workers' own well-being, the railroads endanger the lives of millions every day. Last month 5,000 people were evacuated just in time as a Conrail tank car leaked toxic hydrofluoric acid. Clouds of fumes spread over Elkhart, Indiana. The leak, discovered by a crew member, was on a tank car labeled empty that had a faulty valve. A listing of empty does not necessarily mean a car is completely void of any substance, and there may have been as much as 1,800 gallons of acid in the car when the leak began.

Not only can a tank car be labeled empty when it isn't, but piggyback shippers often don't list hazardous materials at all. The shippers often use FAK (freight all kinds) rates to ship unidentified hazardous materials because the freight rates are below rates for other commodities. This lack of labeling could be a disaster to the emergency crews responding to leaking trailers or to spills.

### Nuclear weapons and waste

The biggest potential killers the railroads carry are nuclear weapons and waste. The Dec. 15, 1984, *UTU News* ran an article headlined, "White nuclear train repainted." The article exposed the U.S. Energy Department's attempt to deceive the public about what type of material the trains are carrying. "The government's specially designed white train that hauls nuclear weapons to military bases has been repainted to blend in with the typical colors of a 'normal freight train,'" according to David G. Jackson, a spokesman for the U.S. Energy Department.

The train recently pulled out of a plant in Amarillo, Texas, sporting repainted cars — green, brown, navy blue, maroon, cream, and other colors usually seen on regular freight trains. The tops are still white. The train was originally painted white 20 years ago to reflect sunlight and reduce heat in its cargo area.

Peace activists, community groups, and others have traced the white train and launched protests along its route for the last two years. They claim the government is trying to camouflage the train. They have had to track the train themselves because the Energy Department and rail officials



UTU News



Militant/Lou Howort

Top photo: last fall a train with no caboose was hit by truck without crew's knowledge and train continued to run. UTU members (bottom photo) protested hauling nuclear waste at 1981 antinukes demonstration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

would not reveal its whereabouts. They are forbidden by a recent amendment to the Atomic Energy Act to reveal the schedule of the sensitive, though unclassified, nuclear shipments. Jackson said the Energy Department was not trying to hide the train but painted the cars in colors that would be easier to maintain.

As far as the public has been allowed to know, there hasn't been a derailment of one of the nuke trains yet. No one knows how many close calls there have been.

### Fatal accidents

Last summer there were a number of big railroad accidents in which crew members were killed. On the BN in 1984, for instance, 11 crew members were killed. All have been blamed on employee error, drugs, and drunkenness. All of the companies' propaganda is aimed at whipping up public sentiment against rail workers for being unsafe and causing their own accidents. It has also given the companies a big handle to go after the workers' civil liberties on the job. They are now testing for 17 different types of drugs on the Southern Pacific.

Rule G, the rule dealing with alcohol and drugs that most railroads have, has been revised on the SP. It now allows the railroad to go after people who possess illegal substances even when they're not on company time. The BN had sniff dogs going around trying to find drugs on employees, until they were temporarily restrained by a court injunction.

The April 27 *UTU News* reports the latest in harassment of rail workers around alcohol testing. Burlington Northern has issued a notice requiring head-end crews "to submit to blood alcohol tests if requested by local law enforcement agencies following grade crossing accidents."

Posting of the notice on BN's Fort Worth Division led UTU general chairman J.W. Reynolds to charge that BN management was "now relying on local law enforcement agencies to do their dirty work."

In Tennessee, the UTU is opposing legislation that would empower railroad companies to test their employees involved in train operations for drug and alcohol use. If passed, it would subject employees to harassment by these tests prior to, during, and following a tour of duty.

The top union leadership's response to the carriers' sweeping attacks on the democratic rights of the membership has been minimal. Unfortunately, the UTU offi-

cial's starting point has been the same as the companies' — that workers are at fault. Fred Hardin, UTU president, told union members at the September regional conference in Los Angeles last year that they should clean up their act or get out of the industry.

Part of getting rail workers to "clean up their act" is Operation Red Block. This is a voluntary program initiated by the UTU and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers officialdom for curbing alcohol and drug abuse on the job in collaboration with management. None of this does anything to place the blame where it really belongs — on the companies who create unsafe working conditions.

### Union heads back profit drive

The response of union officials to the carriers' offensive has been no different than any of the other big industrial unions. The UTU and other rail unions' officialdoms accept the carriers' framework for the negotiations — what's profitable for the industry is good for us.

Even though most of the country's railroads are doing quite well, their owners claim they need even more concessions to shelter the industry for when the bad times come again. Almost every issue of *Railway Age* points to all the givebacks by auto workers, the Teamsters, and airline workers. The rail bosses use these examples to pressure the UTU into giving up even more if the rail industry is to stay competitive.

The UTU has supported deregulation of the industry, signed crew-consist agreements, signed the caboose-off agreement, and made other givebacks — all in the name of helping the rail industry back to profitability. Having already given up all this with nothing in return except fewer jobs, top union officials are telling their members to expect more cuts in the new contract. That's exactly what rail workers are going to get as long as the interests of the rail bosses come first.

Our unions must put the jobs, working conditions, and long-term interests of the members first if we are to effectively fight back against the carriers' attacks. That perspective is the only one that can unite all rail workers and our unions, and win solidarity from other working people today.

*Louise Goodman works for the Southern Pacific in Northern California and is a member of UTU Local 100.*

# Hormel pay cut provokes union fightback

BY JIM ALTENBERG

ST. PAUL, MINN. — The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 is in the midst of a determined battle with the owners of George A. Hormel Co. Local P-9, which organizes 1,700 workers at the giant Hormel pork processing plant in Austin, Minnesota, has been fighting a 23 percent wage cut that was unilaterally imposed by the company's owners in October 1984.

Wages at Hormel were reduced from the former industry standard of \$10.69 an hour to \$8.25. Workers have demanded that wages be restored in full.

Last October, Hormel and Oscar Mayer, two industry giants that have made tens of millions of dollars in profits yearly, took advantage of the concessions won by other packers to cut wages unilaterally.

Local P-9 has sought to restore wages through negotiations with Hormel. The Hormel owners' refusal to seriously negotiate has led the local to use varied tactics to advance its fight. This includes the decision it made last fall to work with Corporate Campaign, Inc.

This corporate campaign has not been aimed directly at Hormel but at one of its major stockholders and creditors, First Bank Systems. Based in Minneapolis, First Bank is one of the ten largest U.S. banks. Hormel itself is listed by *Fortune* magazine as the 240th largest industrial corporation in the country.

Local P-9 and Corporate Campaign seek to pressure the bank into forcing its partner to raise wages back to \$10.69 an hour.

Meanwhile, Hormel made \$29.4 million in profits in 1984. The company bought a nonunion pork processor and is preparing to purchase another low-wage packing operation.

Local P-9 has won the support of many working people across Minnesota. They are watching the struggle in Austin closely. The local has received substantial coverage in the labor press and won some official backing from Minnesota unions.

A spirited rally of 1,600, for example, was held March 24. It included over 100 unionists from Minneapolis-St. Paul,

Duluth, and Rochester, Minnesota. Members and some officials of the United Auto Workers (UAW), United Steelworkers (USWA), and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) participated, as well as UFCW workers from Hormel's Fremont, Nebraska, plant.

Speakers included Tom Laney, president of UAW Local 879 at the St. Paul Ford plant; Dick Blin, editor of the *Duluth Labor World*, and Austin Mayor Tom Kough, a Hormel worker.

The local's campaign also took them to First Bank's stockholders' meeting April 24. Though it was a workday, 150 P-9 members and supporters from Austin, along with 50 unionists from elsewhere in the state, picketed and passed out leaflets in downtown St. Paul.

One hundred P-9 members had purchased a share each of First Bank stock and were able to attend the meeting. Wearing "P-9 and Proud" hats and pins, they questioned bank officials about their relationship to Hormel, their handling of farm foreclosures, and their business ties to South Africa. The protest was widely covered by the news media.

First Bank has responded by claiming it has nothing to do with the company's decisions and has raised the threat of a suit against the union for conducting an illegal secondary boycott of the bank.

Solidarity with and from working farmers has been another important part of P-9's campaign. Jim Langman, a Minnesota farmer fighting foreclosure and a leader of Minnesota's American Agriculture Movement, explained at the March 24 rally that workers and farmers are both victims of the government and corporations. "We need to forge unity between labor and the American farmer," he said.

A letter publicizing the stockholders-meeting protest read in part, "First Bank calls for mass foreclosure of family farmers, even when the farmer has missed no principle or interest payments. It appears to be a form of legalized stealing."

P-9 president Guyette was a featured speaker at a rally against the sale of the



Militant/Susan Apstein  
UFCW Local P-9 president Jim Guyette speaking at April 1 rally protesting Langman farm foreclosure in Minnesota.

Langman's farm, and the local had organized buses from Austin to the protest prior to the cancellation of the sale.

Hormel has also tried to head off the union's demands by raising wages to \$8.75 per hour. The company has offered to pay \$9.00 an hour now and \$10.00 in September. But at the same time, workers are being forced to repay the company for certain benefits, running as high as \$50.00 per week for some workers. A few hundred P-9 members filed a petition calling for a meeting to discuss accepting the proposal if Hormel would drop the back-benefits demand. The meeting will take place soon, though the proposal is opposed by the local's officers.

The union's contract expires in September, and negotiations will open in June or July.

Hormel has also stepped up its pressure on the whole community of Austin. In addition to a steady stream of procompany editorials in the daily big-business press, the Austin City Council passed a resolution May 6 calling on Local P-9 to end its corporate campaign against Hormel. Mayor Kough stated his opposition to the resolution, but said he would allow it to pass without his signature because he agreed that P-9 was hurting business in the town.

Local P-9 president Guyette responded that he was not surprised at the resolution. He said it was Hormel and First Bank that were to blame for business problems.

Local P-9's stand against the wage cut has also come under sharp attack from the UFCW international officialdom. "We think it is in the best interest of our membership in general for Local P-9 to join with the rest of the chain and settle with Hormel. The market place today simply doesn't dictate being paid \$10.69 an hour," Al Vincent, UFCW assistant to the director, told the *St. Paul Union Advocate*.

And in his first meeting with P-9's membership since 1981, Lewie Anderson, UFCW packinghouse director, continued

the attack on the local. He repeated Hormel's threat that higher wages will result in job losses in Austin; that the fight was futile.

Anderson went on to charge that by demanding higher wages, P-9 was breaking down labor solidarity and undermining the UFCW's effort to win a national contract with the packers. But it was precisely the national contract that had been ripped up by Hormel and the others, while the UFCW tops joined the packers in selling concessions to the membership.

In the face of Anderson's attack, as well as those that have followed, the majority of P-9's members continue to express their determination to fight the company and win their demands. "If you roll over and play dead, all you get is contempt," Jim Guyette told union members.

## New victim of government draft crackdown

In a further escalation of the government's campaign to enforce draft registration, Phetsamay Maokham Phio was recently indicted. Unlike previous indictments, Maokham Phio had not publicly opposed draft registration. He also did not receive a final registered letter from his local U.S. attorney warning him of an impending indictment unless he registered.

Maokham Phio's indictment flies in the face of the U.S. government's policy as presented before the Supreme Court in the case of David Wayte. Wayte had been indicted for nonregistration but had successfully argued in a California court that he had been targeted for prosecution because he was a public opponent of draft registration. The government appealed the lower court's decision to the Supreme Court. They argued that there was no selective prosecution involved since the federal government through letters and visits by FBI agents carried out a "beg" policy — warning the nonregistrant of impending indictment.

Local U.S. attorneys in Tennessee and Louisiana (both involved in the prosecution) told Maokham Phio's attorney that they considered the "beg" policy to be only a guideline.

In further developments in the government's attempt to enforce draft registration, Ben Sasway began serving a two-and-one-half year sentence April 29 for refusing to register for the draft. Sasway, one of 18 nonregistrants to be indicted, was convicted in March 1982.

Another nonregistrant, Gary Eckland, was scheduled to begin serving a two year sentence on May 10.

Both Sasway and Eckland are eligible for parole at any time.

Rusty Martin, who was also convicted for refusing to register, was sentenced to three years' probation. The conditions of probation include registering for the draft, paying a \$10,000 fine, and attending two naturalization ceremonies (events where immigrants are granted citizenship).

## 'Victory of July' sugar mill in Nicaragua starts up

Nicaragua's largest sugar mill, called "Victory of July," began operations at the beginning of April, processing the first of the sugar harvest that is projected to yield 7,690 tons of sugar and 655,000 gallons of molasses.

Jorge Ramirez, director of the mill, said that production of this harvest of over 247,000 acres of sugar cane is only a trial run that will serve to calibrate the machinery, test the training of the mill's 2,000 employees, and establish appropriate labor standards. He stressed that for those reasons, the projected yield is modest; the mill is capable of processing 125,000 tons

of sugar from a normal 25-day harvest.

This makes the Victory of July mill one of the five largest in Latin America. In addition, it has the equipment needed to process by-products of the cane.

The agro-industrial complex took two years to build; the Cuban government donated U.S.\$73 million toward its construction. The mill was inaugurated three months ago by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Jaime Wheelock.

— from *Barricada Internacional*

## 'PM' reports on Cuban women's congress

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? *Perspectiva Mundial* is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that tells the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the United States and around the world. It is the only magazine published in Spanish in the United States that regularly carries statements, interviews, and speeches by revolutionary leaders such as Fidel Castro, the Sandinistas, and freedom fighters from El Salvador to South Africa.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features an article reporting on the recent Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, which discussed the advances made by women in revolutionary Cuba and the challenges they face today. An important part of their discussion centered on the increased participation of women in industrial production and defense of the revolution, as well as on their contribution to

Cuba's active solidarity with international struggles.

In this issue *PM* prints a review of *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks), a recently published pamphlet that for the first time makes the ideas of this Black revolutionary leader available in Spanish in this country.

This issue also covers developments in the U.S., Nicaragua, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, and Burkina.

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## Explosion in Japanese coal mine kills 61; injures 22

Sixty-one coal miners were killed in a mine shaft explosion one half mile below sea level on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido on May 16. There were also 22 miners injured, seven of them seriously. The rest of the 336 miners working at the time of the explosion managed to escape.

This is the second mine disaster in Japan in three weeks. On April 25, 11 miners were killed and four injured in a gas explosion on the island of Takashima in southwestern Japan. Both mines are owned by the Mitsubishi Coal Mining Co.

In the Hokkaido explosion, faulty safety equipment delayed rescue operations for over two hours when a machine used to send fresh air into the mine shafts refused to function. It is not yet clear from reports of the disaster whether the fresh-air machine broke down at the start of rescue operations or was not functioning during a buildup of methane gas prior to the explosion.

# Phila: protest set as gov't lies unravel

Continued from back page

first floor. Everyone saw smoke coming from the roof tops. Every newspaper account said the fire started on the roof [where the bomb was dropped] and spread."

Africa said that the cops had deliberately murdered the children in the house. The cops, he said, "knew that the children left the house everyday in the morning . . . to go on activities. All the cops had to do was wait until the children left the house. In fact what the city did was wait until the children were in the house, knowing the children were in the house, and set up barricades."

Africa told the *Militant* that MOVE's demand on May 13 was to get the city administration to "look into the handling of MOVE members who were imprisoned unlawfully and win their release."

## Justifies attacking anyone

"We are not violent people," Africa said. "We have said it over and over again, we're not criminals . . . we're not terrorists. We don't subscribe to those approaches . . . we use a nonviolent approach."

But, Africa added, when Goode says he fears that MOVE members continue to be a threat to the city he is "laying the foundation to say guns and weapons are being stored in any MOVE house, including this one, and any other house outside of MOVE. So they could use this justification to run into anybody's house and say they're looking for guns that belong to MOVE."

Since the murderous attack on MOVE, the cops have in fact done just that.

On Wednesday, May 15, ten cops raided a house in Southwest Philadelphia without a warrant. Why? Because the residents were Black and building an addition on their roof. The cops claimed they thought this was a bunker.

A neighbor told reporters, "The police had no reason to just burst into the house with no warning, acting on hearsay. It's like people have no civil rights at all."

On Friday, May 17, police armed with M-16 rifles, 12-gauge shotguns and tear gas sealed off another section of the Black community for three hours because two men wearing dreadlocks, who cops claimed could be MOVE members, were seen in the area. A crowd of 200 gathered during the police assault. A voice shouted, "Here comes the bomb."

## Condemn 'barbaric' act

Civil rights leaders, community activists, and supporters of civil liberties have come forward to protest the attacks.

William Kunstler, a prominent attorney, denounced the attack at a press conference

May 21 and called for a grand jury to investigate.

Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, issued a statement that accused the Philadelphia Police Department of a "mentality still very much pervaded by the ghost of [former mayor] Frank Rizzo [whose administration was marked by notorious racist police violence]. City officials, Low-

## Militant Forum hits cop and gov't terror

BY LYNN ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — More than 70 people participated in the Militant Labor Forum here May 18. The forum was organized to protest the murder of 11 members of MOVE in a cop bombing and subsequent fire in West Philadelphia's Black community.

Forum participants were predominantly Black. Many were community residents, including activists in the fight for housing and members of the Committee for Social Responsibility. There were also activists from the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP).

Most heard about the meeting earlier on Saturday from *Militant* sales teams that fanned out across the city throughout the day.

Tyrone Williams of Philadelphia NBIPP and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, were featured speakers.

González explained that the entire city administration was responsible for the attack. But, she said, Philadelphia mayor Goode had a special role in the attack and its aftermath.

The Black community, González explained, elected Goode because Blacks believed that he would represent them and win a degree of control over the city administration. "The living conditions of Blacks haven't changed; police violence certainly hasn't changed," González said. "Why? Because Goode represents the same rich who have always ruled this city. While the conditions haven't changed, reactions are beginning to. When the siege began against MOVE, most people believed Goode when he said he 'was trying to save lives.'"

"But," she continued, "we didn't mobilize to protect our brothers and sisters. Since the murders, no leader of the Black community has come forward in protest. Goode's election hasn't advanced the struggle of Blacks. It has acted as an obstacle to the self-organization, self-mobilization of the Black community, which is the

only way we have ever defended ourselves," González said to sustained applause.

Benjamin Ramos, president of the Puerto Rican Alliance, an umbrella organization of community groups in Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community, told the *Militant* that the attack was a "barbaric act" on the part of the city administration. . . . The issue is not whether you agree with

ery said, must show "more sensibility for the well-being of citizens, including children."

Benjamin Ramos, president of the Puerto Rican Alliance, an umbrella organization of community groups in Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community, told the *Militant* that the attack was a "barbaric act" on the part of the city administration. . . . The issue is not whether you agree with

only way we have ever defended ourselves," González said to sustained applause.

During the discussion period that followed, a number of people in the audience spoke.

A man who identified himself as a Muslim and socialist commented, "When I saw that happening to MOVE, I could see that happening to my family."

A woman who had heard about the meeting on the radio stated, "No one in this room worked harder to elect Wilson Goode. But I promise I will work twice as hard to get him tried for first-degree murder."

Ken Morgan, a leader of the Baltimore NBIPP, spoke from the audience. "Philadelphia is known as a Democratic city. What does that mean for us? Poverty. Many places in South Philadelphia and North Philly already look like Osage Ave. We don't have to wait for leaders. We're all leaders. Every Black person here is as good as Jesse Jackson. In fact, more progressive."

A woman identifying herself as a Christian asked what should be done. González replied, "They were betting on the fact that since MOVE was different, no one would do anything. We have to prove them wrong. We have to organize protests, demonstrations, community inquiries."

BY SUE ADLEY

PHOENIX — A clear-cut case of vindictive prosecution against Chicano rights activist Francisco "Kiko" Martínez has been dismissed.

Martínez, a Chicano activist since the early 1970s, has been under federal indictment on two false-statement charges and one of perjury. U.S. District Judge William Browning dismissed the indictment May 9 in Tucson.

The dismissed charges had stemmed from an incident in September 1980. However, Martínez was not indicted until January 1985. The defense demonstrated before Browning that the delayed indictment was politically motivated.

In 1973 a Colorado grand jury charged Martínez with mailing three letter bombs, none of which had exploded. This was at a time of powerful mobilizations of Chicanos against racist discrimination and against the U.S. war in Vietnam. A young lawyer and activist, Martínez was part of the Chicano movement, which was met with police violence, frame-ups, and slanders in the capitalist media.

As the letter-bomb indictments were made public, hysterical headlines in the Denver paper condemned Martínez without trial. He learned of a shoot-to-kill order put out by the chief of police.

Convinced that his life was in danger, Martínez fled the state. Seven years later as he was trying to cross into Arizona from Mexico he was arrested by *la migrá*. When the Immigration and Naturalization Service discovered his identity — Martínez had used a pseudonym — he was extradited to Colorado. He faced a total of more than 400 years imprisonment for the letter-bomb charges.

One set of letter-bomb charges was dropped after an appeals court found judicial and prosecutorial misconduct following a mistrial.

A jury acquitted Martínez of charges around the second letter bomb. The third set of charges was dismissed in December 1984.

Only after the final letter-bomb charges

MOVE. The city does not have the right to burn people to death and destroy the whole neighborhood. People who are conscious should speak out. Somebody has got to be held responsible for this."

The May 30 protest demonstration is an important way for all supporters of democratic rights to add their voices to demand justice for the 11 victims of the assault and an end to government-cop terror.



Militant/Lynn Allen  
Ruth Robinett chaired Militant Labor Forum called to protest cop bombing of Philadelphia's Black community.

The meeting closed with Ken Morgan commenting, "We should be outraged; not just to be outraged but to organize. This sends a message to the world that Black people will not be intimidated."

## Selling 'Militant,' answering attack

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

PHILADELPHIA — "It's about time someone did something to speak out." This was the response of many people who bought the *Militant* with the headline "Protest the cop bombing of the Philadelphia Black community."

In the wake of this murderous assault, members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance here sold almost 200 copies of the *Militant* in two days. Along with sales of the *Militant* socialist workers also built a protest meeting called by the Militant Labor Forum (see accompanying article).

A number of people who bought the paper asked for protest meeting leaflets to distribute to their friends. After one person bought a *Militant*, he offered to help the salespeople. He sold two papers and distributed a number of leaflets.

Not everyone was happy to see the *Militant*. On a West Philadelphia street corner, near the site of the bombing and fire, a Democratic Party ward boss tried to drive a salesperson out of the neighborhood. She accused him of trying to divide the Black community by calling for protest against the city administration. A number of Black youth, after seeing the *Militant* headline and the protest leaflet, gathered around and began arguing with the ward boss. The salesperson continued to sell unharassed.

During the lunch hour outside two gar-

ment shops organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), eight workers bought *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials*. A Black woman felt her union should speak out against the attack. A Puerto Rican worker told the salespeople that the attack in West Philadelphia was like the U.S. Navy target bombings of the islands Culebra and Vieques in his homeland.

Salespeople reported that while almost everyone they spoke to was shocked by the devastation, opinions ranged from those who charged the mayor and the cops with murder, to those who thought it was an unavoidable tragedy or who blamed MOVE for the bombing.

One salesperson, Doug Cooper, said some people were confused about who was responsible for the bombing. "After I talked to them about the fact that this was a racist attack and was aimed at the rights of all Blacks and working people, most of them bought a paper or took a leaflet. I felt the political discussions I had really made an impact," he said.

Although many of salesperson Lynn Allen's coworkers in an ACTWU-organized garment shop were confused by the media propaganda against MOVE, she was able to sell 10 *Militants* during her Friday lunch break.

Socialist workers plan to continue their efforts to get out the *Militant*.

### Revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean

Don't go looking in the capitalist press for the truth about Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada. It isn't there. It is, however, in the *Militant*. See the ad on page 2 for subscription rates.

# Article contradicts lies about undocumented

BY HARRY RING

It's not every day that you can pick up the *Wall Street Journal* and get some of the truth about the issue of undocumented workers — an issue that the capitalist media, including the *Journal*, invariably lies like hell about.

But a major front-page article in the May 7 *Journal*, prepared by a team of four reporters, flatly contradicts the endlessly repeated lie that the undocumented contribute to unemployment in this country by taking "good" jobs from "American" workers.

The article is saturated with racism. The undocumented, we're told, are "illegals" who "happily" do dirty, dangerous work for next to nothing. They're also "docile."

None of this racism, of course, is new. But the story itself is — for the *Journal*.

It opens: "If you are like most Americans, you probably think of illegal immigrants as the anonymous brown-faced people who stoop in California farm fields, clear tables in New York restaurants or mop up the men's rooms in Houston.

"They do all that, but they also do a lot more. . . ."

"Undocumented" Hispanic workers, in fact, are the backbone of the Southwest economy. So dependent has this region's business become on these cheap, docile and abundant laborers that some industries would collapse without them.

"Illegals also improve the quality of life for millions of Southwesterners by keeping their offices spotless, by making home improvements affordable and by watching the kids so mom can hold a job."

According to the *Journal* reporting team, "Undocumented workers have come to dominate the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs because citizens have long since deemed such work beneath themselves."

The report cites a subcontractor for the Houston Light & Power Co. who says they "happily dangle in branches and power

lines for the minimum wage: 'They get up and do the work and they don't complain.'"

A cement-work contractor adds: "Whenever there's an accident on the site, the Chicanos . . . will stay home and ask for workers' compensation. The Mexicans, they work."

Underlining why many smaller employers haven't been happy with the Simpson-Mazzoli bill which could curb immigration, one Washington economist told the *Journal*, "It's like a drug. If you withdrew it at this point, the effects would be severe."

Some examples:

"In Los Angeles, center of the \$3-billion-a-year California apparel industry, two-thirds of the garment labor is estimated to consist of illegals. 'Without these people from south of the border, we wouldn't have an industry,' says Bernard Brown, the regional vice-president of a Levi Strauss unit that makes ladies' sportswear. 'It would be a catastrophe.'"

In Houston, "one-third of all construction workers are estimated to be illegals, doing jobs that nowadays most citizens refuse: lugging pots of hot tar to rooftops, pulling nails from concrete forms and clearing debris."

In Brownsville, Texas, undocumented workers on fishing boats "are helping to keep the shrimp industry afloat in its battle against cheap imports."

"They're what make this impoverished economy tick," said a shrimp-industry spokesperson.

From California, the *Journal* reports on the electronics industry: "The 10,000 illegals estimated to be manufacturing printed-circuit boards in Silicon Valley, often at below the minimum wage, give companies there a chance to compete against firms in the Far East. . . ."

About those "big" wages that we're so often told the undocumented command.

The *Journal* reports on a unit of the Pfizer drug company in Irvine, California, which assertedly pays its undocumented workers \$9 an hour and includes them in a savings plan. This, the *Journal* states, makes the company "a noteworthy exception in a region where labor-relations policies usually confine illegals to the bottom rungs of pay scales."

Indeed, the report continues, the "willingness" of the undocumented to "work for the minimum wage or less" is what makes the Sun Belt so attractive to owners of nonunion shops.

In Los Angeles, "where Mexicans hold 47 percent of the jobs in lumber, furniture, leather and other low-pay industries, wages in the 1970s rose about 25 percent less than the U.S. average."

Such data underlines the urgent need for the union movement to get on the case and begin a serious drive to organize these superexploited workers. (And union experience in this area has confirmed that the undocumented are neither "docile" nor "happy" and are, in fact, courageous fighters.)

The *Journal* reports that some unions, notably the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, are making a start in this direction.

It cites the example of a contract negotiated by the ILGWU with Hollander Home Fashions, a Los Angeles maker of bedspreads and pillows. The paper reports

that the contract "requires the company to rehire any worker who is deported and comes back to work with a new name or Social Security number."

Such an article in a major big-business daily obviously didn't sit well with some people, especially those at the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which apparently demanded a response.

Two days later, the *Journal* gave equal space and prominence to a rehash of the customary racist crock about a beleaguered, understaffed, much abused INS fighting to stem the flood of alien hordes.

The May 9 *Journal* reported that "INS troops are rapidly being overrun by a swelling tide of illegal immigrants. At any one time, there are fewer border patrol officers along the 2,000-mile Mexican-American border than there are policemen on the day shift in Philadelphia."

If that isn't enough to make you weep in your beer, read this:

"In recent years, officers in the Dallas district have at times been told not to arrest illegal immigrants because there hasn't been enough money left in the budget to pay for the gasoline needed to drive them back to the border."

Perhaps unaware of the desperate plight of the troops, Immigration Commissioner Alan Nelson testified before Congress this March that in 1984, INS agents had captured a record 1,138,566 people, and expected to surpass that figure this year.

## ALPA needs solidarity in strike

Continued from front page

the *Militant* that United wanted to hire 1,500 new pilots. This would mean 30 percent of the new seniority list would stand on the low tier of the new contract, if the pilots were to accept United's offer.

"This is naked economic warfare," said George Hopkins, a historian at Western Illinois University. "It is the union's strongest group up against the industry's toughest airline. If the pilots are defeated at United, the union's units at other airlines may in the long run be through."

On the first day of the strike, the 10,000-member flight attendants union vowed to honor the pilots' picket lines. To date, none of its members have crossed picket lines here in Chicago.

At a Chicago-area rally of 500 attendants, Linda Puchala, AFA president, explained that her union had accepted a two-tier contract, but they are finding out now that "it's a violation of equal work for equal pay. We will all go back to work together when United pilots have a fair and equitable agreement."

In several cities, pilots from other airlines are walking the picket lines with United pilots. Delta pilots soon face their own contract expiration. Already Delta has offered them a two-tiered scheme.

Locals from other unions have shown their support through temporary work stoppages, including Teamsters in Honolulu who refused to refuel planes.

IAM machinists at United have already accepted a two-tier contract and were not honoring the pilots' picket lines in the first

days of the strike, even though LeRoy reported strong support from IAM members. In Seattle, for example, an IAM striker from Alaska Airlines joined pilots at their rally. This is important because pilots have been crossing IAM picket lines in that strike.

United recently hired 500 new pilots. A group of 125 of them were flown into Chicago to start work on the first day of the strike. Upon landing, the rookie pilots boarded a bus that ferried them to a strike-eve union rally to show solidarity and to pledge that they would not cross picket lines.

Company officials insist that they can continue their operations with the newly hired pilots and 750 supervisory personnel. But already 30 management pilots have refused to cross picket lines.

The management has also threatened to hire "permanent replacements for striking employees" — scabs — while claiming it is getting 14 percent of its normal flights in the air. The pilots, however, say it is less than 5 or 6 percent.

The pilots question whether United can promise safe flights, even with the severely limited number of flights. While the Federal Aviation Administration says they "do not anticipate any safety problems," the pilots union disagrees. The 500 new pilots are not adequately trained, a fact admitted by many of the new pilots.

A victory for the United bosses would be a further blow to all airline unions. The entire labor movement needs to rally to the support of the striking pilots.

## CALENDAR

### FLORIDA

#### Tallahassee

**Maurice** A Cuban documentary film on the life of slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop and the Grenada revolution. Thurs., May 30, 8 p.m. Unitarian Church, 2810 N. Meridian. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (904) 222-4434.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Defend Central American Refugees!** Speakers: Representative from First Universalist Church; Tom Jaax, representative Socialist Workers Party and member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 2, 4 p.m. 508 N. Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**The Black Liberation Struggle Today and the Fight Against Racism and Anti-Semitism.** Speakers: Odell Winfield, Malcolm X Study Network; representative of Capital Dis-

trict Committee for Palestinian Rights; George Kontanis, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 31, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

#### Manhattan

**An Evening Dedicated to the Salvadoran Women.** Event will include four videotapes, poetry, and serving of typical Salvadoran foods. Sat., May 25, 7 p.m. Casa de Las Americas, 104 W 14th St., 3rd floor. Ausp: El Salvador Media Project. For more information call (212) 989-0541.

**Memorial Tribute to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.** Wed., June 19, 7 p.m. Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 W 68th St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. For more information and reservations call (212) 228-4500.

### OREGON

#### Portland

**Nicaragua Under Siege.** A slideshow and eyewitness report on Nicaragua's fightback against the trade embargo and *contra* attacks. Speakers: John Cramer and Amy Robinson, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

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**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) 222-4434.

**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 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. 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 Ave., Zip: 75203. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Almeda. 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.

**Buy now, die later** — Burial entrepreneurs have already accumulated \$4 billion on prepaid funeral plans. (Spare survivors the chore.) There are occasional draw-



Harry Ring

backs. Like the fine print in some agreements which doesn't preclude the funeral home from folding. Or the ones that cancel if the buyer relocates, or doesn't complete payment before checking

out.

**Sounds reasonable** — "Man Who Left Fortune to U.S. Is Ruled Insane" — News headline.

**Nonpartners** — "CAMBRIDGE — Prompted by an increase in campus political protests and sit-ins, Harvard University is reactivating a Vietnam War-era committee that disciplines students accused of disrupting 'the essential processes of the university.' The committee, created in 1970 ... includes seven faculty members and six students, but students have boycotted it since 1970." — News item.

**Did he say above?** — Frank Ricci, a New York landlord lobbyist,

complains tenants and media are giving landlords a reputation "one notch above a child molestor."

**Theology dep't** — Each year, at the beginning of the biking season, the Catholic Church in Litchfield, Conn., blesses several hundred motorcycles. The head father says that he hopes to do the same with autos some day, but the shrine isn't big enough. Why not rent the local car wash and follow the holy water with wax?

**Great with hot fudge and marshmallow** — A California shop offers saffron gelato. \$49.95 a pint.

**ADB (Aid to Dependent Billionaires)** — "What we're seeing is the same kind of backlash against the defense buildup that occurred earlier against social spending. The horror stories about \$600 toilet seats are the equivalent of earlier stories about welfare cheaters." — A Washington researcher, cited in the *Wall Street Journal*.

**The march of science** — To save jeansmakers the cost of pre-washing, Burlington has come up with a denim that looks pre-washed. This will save up to a dollar a pair which, theoretically, can be passed on to the consumer.

**Sleep well** — Twelve of 17 nu-

clear reactor operators at Florida Power's nuke plant flunked a federal test to determine if they could run the generator safely in an emergency. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which administered the test, previously left it to the company to test and score the operators. This, however, apparently got a bit thick.

**And he should know** — Tim Curry, a Fort Worth D.A., said in a secretly taped conversation that he did two cops a favor by seeing they weren't indicted for shooting a Black youth, and that he allowed a special monitor into the grand jury proceedings only to "shut up the Black community." Advised of the taping, he declared it "highly unethical."

## Attacks on socialists by right-wing Vietnamese fail

Continued from front page

from the night before, and prepared for the Saturday conference. About 100 of the right-wing thugs gathered outside to chants of, "Socialist bookstore, go back to Russia."

### An ominous note

An ominous note in their escalating attack was the appearance of several signs that said, "Socialists have no right to live." Various reporters and camera crews visited the bookstore throughout the day, documenting the damage of the night before and the menacing character of the mob outside. The gang finally had to disperse, having failed to close down the bookstore.

Despite the threats to prevent the meeting from taking place, on the following day, May 18, the conference opened. It featured two classes given by *Militant* reporter Diane Wang based on her travels to Vietnam and Kampuchea in 1984.

Of the 120 people attending the conference, many of them were visiting the bookstore for the first time. During the day, others dropped by to see for themselves exactly what the socialists were all about. Over \$200 worth of literature was sold.

### Conference to get out truth

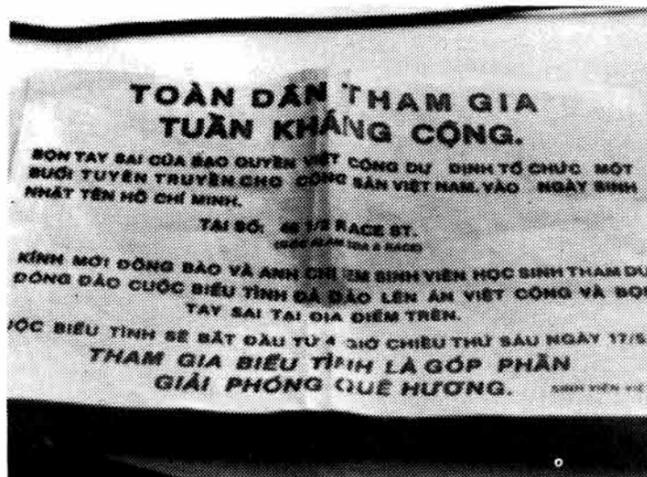
The conference began with an introduction by Tom Margrave, chairperson of the San José YSA, who explained that this educational conference is part of an ongoing series to get out the truth around several issues. He said that the YSA was sponsoring these classes, to counteract a recent campaign to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War in order to justify the new Vietnam-style war already being waged in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

During the discussion period following Wang's presentation, a young Filipino from the Philippine Resource Center in Berkeley talked about how the struggle in Vietnam was an inspiration for those fighting for the liberation of his homeland. Andre Elliott from the All-African People's Revolutionary Party and the San José State University Mandela Coalition, spoke expressing his solidarity with the meeting and the right of the YSA to sponsor this kind of open forum. He said this kind of discussion is needed and he also announced an upcoming African Liberation Day demonstration taking place in Sacramento, California, on May 24.

### Thugs rush monitors

During the Saturday afternoon session there was a flagrant attempt to provoke a confrontation at the conference. After burning a Vietnamese flag and portraits of Ho Chi Minh, Marx, and Lenin, about 50 of the thugs rushed across the street, charging the conference monitors. Seeing that the monitors did not retreat, but that more appeared, the thugs stopped short.

During this charge they knocked down a Black camerawoman from KSVW channel 8, calling her "a nigger." They were trying to prevent her from filming the attack, which nonetheless was shown on the 11 o'clock news that night. The police did not move during this charge and made no attempt to stop the attack. In fact, when they



Militant/Georges Sayad  
Above poster in Vietnamese called for May 17 protest to "accuse the Viet Cong and their supporters. . . . Participation in the demonstration is a contribution to the liberation of the homeland." At right, right-wing thugs gather outside socialist bookstore. Banner at left says, "Who're behind you? KGB & VC."

finally intervened, it was to order the conference monitors to return inside the building. The thugs were allowed to stand in the street making threatening gestures and yelling epithets at the monitors.

Blacks and women who had volunteered as conference monitors were singled out by the mob. A young, Black ex-GI recently returned from El Salvador, who had volunteered to help defend the conference, was pointed to and yelled at by one of the toughs, "Hey nigger, come here." Several women were called "bitch." None of the monitors responded to these provocations.

These hoodlums do not represent the Vietnamese community as a whole. Their goal is to close down the bookstore, and to date they have consistently failed. In fact, many people are coming around the bookstore to express solidarity and help the socialists defend their democratic rights.

### Will not be intimidated

The conference culminated with a Saturday evening rally to celebrate the publication of the new Pathfinder Press book, *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*, and to raise money for future publications. The rally was chaired by Rick Trujillo who is a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265, a Vietnam War veteran, and recent socialist candidate for San José School Board.

Andrew Hunt spoke for the Young Socialist Alliance and gave a history of the recent right-wing attacks against the bookstore. He explained the political campaign that is being waged to combat these attacks. He stated that the YSA will not be intimidated by these attacks and will continue its fight against imperialist war. Hunt urged those who shared these aims to go to the YSA convention in Chicago May 25-27 and to join the YSA. He ended by quoting Nicaragua's national hero, Augusto César Sandino. In a 1927 telegram to U.S. Marines occupying his country Sandino said, "I will not surrender, I wait for you here. *No pasaran!*"

Laura Harris from the Mandela Coalition at San José State University spoke.



Militant/Larry Lukecart

She reviewed the struggle students there have been waging the past few months to pressure the university to divest its holdings in South Africa. She said that although there is much injustice in the world, the openly racist character of the apartheid system in South Africa made it a special and important target for action. "In South Africa today there is a complete lack of civil rights for Blacks, and the mob outside here seems to want to cut back on civil rights in San José." She said that the Mandela Coalition has succeeded in getting students to start thinking about these issues and how to fight injustice. She also expressed solidarity with the YSA and SWP concerning their right to function politically in San José.

### Break blockades

Diane Wang showed slides from her trip to Vietnam and Kampuchea. She stated, "This conference is not about what the right-wingers outside claim. But it is about blockades: the blockade of the socialist bookstore, the blockade of Nicaragua, and the blockade of Southeast Asia. Tonight we are also trying to break a blockade of the truth." As she showed photo slides of the Vietnamese and Kampuchean people rebuilding their countries after years of war, she pointed out that the real stakes in the Vietnam War were the right of the Vietnamese people to determine the future of their country themselves.

Janice Lynn, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union who had recently returned from a Militant/Perspective Mundial Tours, Inc., tour of Nicaragua, talked about reaction in Nicaragua to Reagan's May 1 embargo announcement.

Also present at the rally and introduced from the audience were Manuel Díaz from La Raza Sí organization, and Carlos Aditia, president of the International Moulders Union Local 164. In a warm address to the rally, Aditia expressed his solidarity with the right of the conference to take place free of harassment.

The rally raised almost \$5,000 to con-

tinue the work of getting out the truth about Nicaragua and Vietnam.

### Mob held back

After the rally as participants attempted to leave the bookstore they were asked by the police to wait because the situation in the streets was "tense." Two of the conference monitors were struck by rocks thrown from the mob. This was reported to the police, who did nothing. Throughout the day the right-wingers could be seen brandishing sticks and two-by-fours. Finally the police moved in, blocking off the street, and formed a line of about 30 officers to hold back the mob as those inside were evacuated without further incident.

Many supporters and members of the SWP and YSA returned on Sunday to assert the right of all political groups to function in San José. The thugs returned as well, brandishing signs reading, "Viva los contras," "Better dead than red," and "No right to be human beings."

### Demands city halt disruption

Meanwhile, inside the bookstore, SWP and YSA members and supporters met to discuss the ongoing political campaign they are planning to carry out nationally to protect and defend democratic rights. As the socialists were evacuated by the police Sunday evening, the thugs screamed insults and made obscene and threatening gestures.

In another act of escalation, they also distributed fliers in Vietnamese threatening to disrupt two other scheduled forums by Diane Wang in San Francisco and Oakland.

This struggle to defend democratic rights is an ongoing one. Messages demanding the city halt the disruption of the socialists' offices and bookstore and demanding prosecution of those responsible for the attacks can be sent to Mayor Thomas McEnery, 801 N 1st St., San José, Calif. 95110; and Joseph McNamara, chief of police, 201 W Mission St., San José, Calif. 95110. Copies should be sent to: SWP, 46 1/2 Race St., San José, Calif. 95126.

## Mayor Goode: no gain for Blacks

The May 13 murderous racist assault on Philadelphia's Black community, which left 11 dead (including four children) and 250 people homeless, was carried out by the cops and City Hall, up to and including the mayor.

At the time of the bombing, Black youths gathered at the scene and shouted "murderers, murderers" at the cops. And while some 100 people have called for a protest May 30 (see story on back page), virtually no community leader, traditional civil rights figure, or trade union official has denounced this vicious attack.

Unlike in Miami in 1980, there was no rebellion or mass outrage to answer the government-cop terror. Why?

Because of the Black community's illusions in the Democratic mayor of Philadelphia, Wilson Goode. The majority of Blacks clearly view any protest against Goode as an attack on "one of our own" — in fact as fuel for fire for racist opponents of Black rights.

This is a dangerous and mistaken view. The lack of outrage only gives encouragement to the handful of ruling families who run Philadelphia and the country to step up their violence against the Black community and other working people.

Goode's election as the city's first mayor who is Black was a reflection of the progress made in this country over the past quarter century in the long-term battle against the use of racism to divide the working class. The Black community's pride and support for Goode reflected —

and still reflects — the desire of Blacks to leave no position in the city for whites only.

That's why the majority of Blacks in Philadelphia believed that Goode would represent them. And why they hoped that as a Black, Goode would help advance their struggle for equal rights.

But Goode is not simply a Black man. He is a capitalist politician. And like other Democrats and Republicans, he does not represent and defend the interests of the Black community or working people as a whole. His job is to administer the city, including the cops, in the interest of big business. He is fundamentally no different than any other big city mayor — white, Latino, or Black — in these racist parties.

Goode's election as a Democratic mayor was and continues to be an obstacle to independent Black and labor political action — that is, to achieving real political power.

The fact that no rebellion or mass protest occurred has not been lost on the ruling class. Leading Republican and Democratic figures have all united behind Goode.

Seeing the rubble in West Philadelphia's Black community makes clear that the election of capitalist politicians who are Black (or Latino or white) is no advance in the struggle for Black equality. They serve — as the attack on MOVE and the local Black community shows — to demobilize and depoliticize the struggle for Black rights.

## U.S. 'antiterrorism' is murder

Recent events throw a bright light on what the U.S. rulers mean when they talk about "fighting terrorism." They mean terrorizing workers and farmers at home and abroad who might dare to oppose exploitation and oppression, assassinating or otherwise suppressing their leaders and potential leaders, and crushing their capacity to resist.

The "terrorist" tag is reserved for anyone who opposes imperialist domination — whether it is a Black youth who stands up to brutal cops, a Nicaraguan peasant who won't say "uncle," a working farmer who protests when bankers steal farms, a worker on strike, or an Arab opposed to Israeli and U.S. domination.

The *Washington Post* and other capitalist publications revealed that a U.S.-trained Lebanese government unit hired killers to bomb an apartment building, killing 92 people and wounding 200 in a Beirut suburb.

In addition to terrorizing the people of Beirut, who have put up a massive struggle against the rulers in Tel Aviv and Washington, the bombers intended to kill Sheik Hussein Fadlallah.

In the U.S. media, Fadlallah is portrayed as a "terrorist." This is the capitalist media's way of setting him up for a hit. Some of the real reasons for the assassination attempt were hinted at in a *Wall Street Journal* description of Fadlallah as the "spiritual leader" of the Lebanese Shiite Muslims, "the largest, most undeveloped and neglected community in Lebanon. He also has come to represent Shiite political and economic aspirations."

Since those aspirations include fighting U.S. and Israeli domination in his country, Fadlallah and the Shiite

Muslims became a target for U.S.-backed terrorism and mass murder.

The "terrorist" tag is also used to smear the entire people of Iran, where the workers and farmers dared to throw out a U.S.-supported tyrant six years ago.

Washington has again repeated its threat to attack Iran. The pretext is that some Shiite resistance groups in Lebanon are said to be holding four U.S. citizens. The threats are intended to terrorize the people of Iran and Lebanon into accepting Washington's dictates.

The "antiterrorism" scam is used to justify mass murder in the United States as well as in other countries.

In Philadelphia, the government dropped a bomb on the Black community. The rulers murdered 11 people, including four children, destroyed three blocks of homes, and left more than 250 people homeless.

Mass murder was justified, we are told, because the MOVE group — the immediate target — was "radical," "antisocial," and "terrorist." Placing those labels on people is the government's way of discrediting dissent and issuing itself a license to kill.

Of course, the rulers have another name for their terrorism — whether it is bombing a tenement building in Beirut, attacking Nicaragua, or slaughtering children in Philadelphia. They call it "law and order."

The real terrorists are the capitalists and their overt and covert death squads, from the *contras* in Nicaragua to the cops in Philadelphia. The U.S. rulers need the weapons of intimidation, terrorism, and mass murder because they are a small minority who monopolize wealth and power at the expense of the great majority of workers and exploited farmers.

## Why U.S. barred Farley Mowat

Even politically aware people can sometimes be a little naive. Farley Mowat, the Canadian writer, might very well say that about his first response to being barred from the United States.

His initial reaction was that he had fallen victim to "a bureaucratic bungle." Later statements indicated he had changed his mind about this, and rightly so.

A naturalist who has written some two dozen books including the best seller, *Never Cry Wolf*, Mowat had planned to come here to promote his latest work, *Sea of Slaughter*, which chronicles the destruction of wildlife in Canada and the northern United States.

At Toronto's international airport in April, a U.S. immigration cop barred Mowat from boarding the flight.

Mowat was told he was listed in the *Lookout Book* which reportedly includes the names of 50,000 people around the world who have been arbitrarily banned from this country.

It was later explained that he was barred for past or present association with those deemed "communists, anarchists or subversives." More precise reasons were strictly "classified."

Mowat recalled that in the early 1960s he had been a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

He added, "As for my so-called leftist affiliations, I've never been a Communist, but I support our New Democratic Party, which is socialist."

Faced with considerable publicity in Canada and here,

plus a protest from the Canadian government, Immigration tried to make a carefully limited retreat. It offered Mowat a "parole" to come here. The author promptly rejected this as "totally unacceptable." He would not, he declared, "go under a shadow."

Immigration's explanation of the offer confirmed Mowat was totally right in rejecting it.

Officials said that while Mowat would be admitted this time, he would still be barred in the future. "When we 'parole' somebody," it was explained, "what we're saying is... you haven't been admitted. You haven't passed inspection. The conditions that we deemed to make him inadmissible have not been resolved."

Meanwhile, Mowat declared he would do everything he could "to bring pressure to change the system" that barred him.

In this country, the American Civil Liberties Union charged that under Reagan there has been a big jump in overtly political exclusions from the United States.

Immigration officials responded, not so. They pointed out that during the past two decades, *tens of thousands* of people have been barred from this country.

Tens of thousands excluded. It surely underlines the determination of the ruling rich of this country to wage war against any and all ideas that go in the direction of progressive social change.

Farley Mowat was definitely not the victim of a bureaucratic bungle.

## Debs on unions and independent political action

Eugene V. Debs was an uncompromising fighter for independent working-class political action. He was also a militant rail union leader, an anticapitalist presidential candidate (running five times: in 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912, and 1920), and was arrested in 1919 and sent to prison for opposing the first imperialist world war. He died on Oct. 20, 1926.

Yet every year some national union bureaucrat — usually the modern image of everything Debs fought against in his day — is awarded the Eugene V. Debs award.

Some of Debs' real opinions about union bureaucrats, industrial unionism, and independent working-class politics were published in a 1910 article called "Working Class Politics," some of which is reprinted below. The article is from the book *Eugene V. Debs Speaks* available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014 for \$7.95 (plus \$.75 postage). Copyright 1970 by Pathfinder Press, Inc.; reprinted by permission of the publisher.

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We live in the capitalist system, so-called because it is dominated by the capitalist class. In this system the capitalists are the rulers and the workers the subjects. The capitalists are in a decided minority and yet they rule because of the ignorance of the working class.

The economic unity of the workers must first be effected before there can be any progress toward emancipation. The interests of the millions of wage workers are identical, regardless of nationality, creed or sex, and if

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they will only open their eyes to this simple, self-evident fact, the greatest obstacle will have been overcome and the day of victory will draw near.

The primary need of the workers is industrial unity and by this I mean their organization in the industries in which they are employed as a whole instead of being separated into more or less impotent unions according to their crafts. Industrial unionism is the only effective means of economic organization and the quicker the workers realize this and unite within one compact body for the good of all, the sooner will they cease to be the victims of ward-heeling labor politicians and accomplish something of actual benefit to themselves and those dependent upon them.

The workers themselves must take the initiative in uniting their forces for effective economic and political action; the leaders will never do it for them. They must no longer suffer themselves to be deceived by the specious arguments of their betrayers, who blatantly boast of their unionism that they may traffic in it and sell out the dupes who blindly follow them. I have very little use for labor leaders in general and none at all for the kind who feel their self-importance and are so impressed by their own wisdom that where they lead, their dupes are expected to blindly follow without a question. Such "leaders" lead their victims to the shambles and deliver them over for a consideration and this is possible only among craft-divided wage slaves who are kept apart for the very purpose that they may feel their economic helplessness and rely upon some "leader" to do something for them.

It is precisely because it is the mission of industrial unionism to unite the workers in harmonious cooperation in the industries in which they are employed, and by their enlightened interdependence and self-imposed discipline prepare them for industrial mastery and self-control when the hour strikes, thereby backing up with their economic power the verdict they render at the ballot box, it is precisely because of this fact that every Socialist, every class-conscious worker should be an industrial unionist and strive by all the means at his command to unify the workers in the all-embracing bonds of industrial unionism.

The Socialist Party is the party of the workers, organized to express in political terms their determination to break their fetters and rise to the dignity of free men. In this party the workers must unite and develop their political power to conquer and abolish the capitalist political state and clear the way for industrial and social democracy.

But the new order can never be established by mere votes alone. This must be the result of industrial development and intelligent economic and political organization, necessitating both the industrial union and the political party of the workers to achieve their emancipation.

In this work, to be successfully accomplished, woman must have an equal part with man. If the revolutionary movement of the workers stands for anything it stands for the absolute equality of the sexes and when this fact is fully realized and the workingwoman takes her place side by side with the workingman all along the battlefield the great struggle will soon be crowned with victory.

# Workers will be victims of GE's crimes

Continued from back page

The air force and the navy periodically conduct audits of GE to make sure the company is complying with government guidelines. The company is usually informed of these audits in advance so it can prepare the work force. At GE, upcoming audits are often used to push workers' production and involve workers in "house-keeping" and other duties which are outside their normal job responsibilities, while pointing to the threat of losing government contracts for noncompliance.

No one believes the government will put GE out of business or that they are even trying. The truth is that the owners of the giant corporations like GE dictate to the government, not the other way around.

The company has already indicated in management policies and propaganda exactly what it expects to gain from all the negative publicity. In a letter addressed to "My fellow employees," Brian Rowe, vice-president of the Aircraft Engine Group (AEG) in Lynn, Massachusetts, complained, "I believe that most employees give us a fair day's work but those who don't are hurting everyone because our cost conscious customers, particularly the military, have made it clear that if we don't shape up they are going to take the business we now have and give it to competitors. . . . Now we can complain about that . . . or threaten to go on strike . . . but that kind of reaction just makes the customer madder."

The letter said that what customers visiting the shop see are "people goofing off, reading papers, gabbing at the vending machines and so forth, and it makes them very mad because they know the government is paying the bill."

Then Rowe explains what the bottom line is for GE workers: "The one major area which absolutely must be improved is productivity."

Workers in GE plants around the country are not happy with this kind of crackdown and have begun to respond. At GE's Evendale, Ohio, plant, for example, GE's poor

performance in a government audit was used as an excuse for increased company harassment of the workers. They were threatened with discipline or firing for not starting work on time, not limiting breaks, stopping work too early — all given as reasons for not meeting 100 percent productivity.

Meetings were called by management where workers were told they had to keep the customer happy, but poor tooling and working conditions were never addressed.

Last February 4,800 Evendale workers went out on strike for one week, the longest strike in the plant's recent history. The United Auto Workers called the strike but other unions representing workers in the plant honored the picket line and only 21 workers crossed the line.

The strike was called to protest work done by outside contractors. But some workers felt that management's harassment of the workers since the government's audit had a lot to do with the walkout.

Workers at the Lynn GE plant are also thinking about these issues and how they are affected as workers in a plant producing military hardware. This was expressed in a column called "Stewards Voice" in the April 12 issue of *IUE 201 News*. It said: "Food for thought. The Pentagon has targeted defense industry workers' wages and benefits as two of the main causes for the soaring defense budget. According to Bill Daly, AEG Plant 1 manager, they've already asked GE for a 20 percent discount on labor costs for a J-85 [jet engine] contract. They say we aren't productive

enough.

"Second sourcing is another way of cutting costs. Who can work the fastest for the lowest wages, the GE worker or the Pratt and Whitney worker?"

"Finally we have the COR [contract operating requirements] audit which according to Bob Ciccarelli [a plant supervisor], will become 'a new way of life, a new discipline.' It's clear the Pentagon and GE want lower labor costs and higher productivity per worker. These are some of the ways they plan to get it.

"Oh, by the way. Our contract with GE is up in three months."

*Ellen Berman is a member of IUE local 201, and works at GE's Lynn plant.*

## U.S. Radio Martí is attack on Cuba

Continued from front page

But Cubans can already get Miami radio stations without trouble, and even some TV. Plus, the Voice of America will continue broadcasting to Cuba 5½ hours a day.

Interviewed by a *New York Times* reporter in Havana, a Cuban who lived in Canada for a period responded:

"I listen to National Public Radio and I hear ABC, CBS, NBC and Radio Canada. Everybody here listens to radio from all over. You can use any antenna you want. I'm sure Radio Martí will be propaganda. What other reason is there to put it on?"

To get a sense of what's really behind this project, it's helpful to consider how it evolved.

The initial idea was to set up a clandestine station — that is to have it operate from an island near Cuba and pretend it was being done by Cubans. That had previously been done until the mid-1960s.

Testifying before Congress in April 1983, Thomas Enders, then an assistant secretary of state, said, "We looked at the possibility of starting up an operation of

that kind and concluded that the best thing to do was bring it out in the open."

Initially, in 1982, Reagan appointed a ten-member commission to oversee the project. The commission included two Cuban counterrevolutionaries and such home-grown ultra-rightists as Joseph Coors, the notorious racist, union-busting beer baron.

Most ominous was the disclosure last June that the administration was ready to consider "surgical strikes" against Cuban installations if efforts to jam Radio Martí interfered with other U.S. radio stations.

The National Association of Broadcasters had been advised that this was one of the options on the list. Enders further assured them that if Cuba did interfere with U.S. broadcasting, Washington would respond with "extreme measures."

Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana, explained why there would be a sharp response by Cuba.

"The fact is," Smith said, "that the Cubans see Radio Martí against a background

of past efforts to get at them — the Bay of Pigs, assassination threats, clandestine CIA radio stations.

"They see it as part of an aggressive destabilization campaign."

And rightly so.

For 25 years Cuba has been the unceasing target of military attack, economic aggression, arson and sabotage, and bellicose military threats. It has survived that unrelenting imperialist aggression precisely because it has resolutely refused to retreat a single inch in the face of such threats.

Cuba's sharp response to the present provocation is totally justified. Moreover, in resisting this latest assault it is contributing to the efforts of the world's exploited and oppressed to stand up to imperialist domination and of all those in this country and elsewhere who are opposed to Washington's war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Working people must condemn Radio Martí for what it is: warlike provocation and act of aggression.

## LETTERS

### 'Frontline'

Your article on the Public Broadcasting Service *Frontline* series, "Crisis in Central America," did a good job. I would like to add a couple of criticisms of my own.

Did you notice that whenever the internal conditions of life for the average Nicaraguan or Cuban were discussed, most often they relied on interviews with those who actually oppose the workers and peasants governments? Alfonso Robelo, one of the political leaders of the CIA's mercenary forces now attacking Nicaragua, and Violetta Chamorro, publisher of *La Prensa* — which openly supports the *contras* — got more air time than any leader of the Sandinistas or any Nicaraguan worker or peasant. The same is true with Cuba. You heard most often from those *gusanos* (counterrevolutionaries) who fled the revolution in the early years, or from the Marielitos, than you heard from any member of the Cuban government or the Cuban people.

Another aspect was the lack of any mention of protest in this country against Washington's adventures in Central America. No mention was made of the Anti-Imperialist League, which [in the 1920s] turned out hundreds of protesters, mostly women, and initiated a massive letter-writing campaign to protest the use of the U.S. Marines against Sandino in Nicaragua. Nor was any mention made of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which opposed the economic blockade and organized protests around the Bay of Pigs invasion.

This last point should remind us how little the big-business press dwells on popular resistance to U.S. imperialism. This is particu-

larly true now when the media is agonizing over the "lessons" of the Vietnam War. The big-business media do not want workers and farmers in this country to realize that their active solidarity with workers and farmers abroad makes a difference.

*J.W.  
Indianapolis, Indiana*

### Legal torture

An article in a recent issue of the *Milwaukee Journal* gives you an idea of the kind of country we live in.

The article was headlined, "Justices Uphold Use of Mace in State Prisons." It reported that the Supreme Court had refused to review the case of two prison inmates who were sprayed with mace by guards while they were locked in their cells.

One was sprayed for refusing to pass a meal tray through the bars of his cell. The other was sprayed for refusing to cooperate in allowing another inmate to be moved into his cell.

So now, with this ruling, officials have a legal way of torturing prisoners.

*D.S.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

### Border Patrol abuse

Three young Latino men, Matias Fuentes, Ricardo Villalta and Cruz Hernández, have been arrested and abused by the Border Patrol in Harlingen, Texas. They were walking down a country road after a fishing trip on April 8 in the Rio Grande Valley, when agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) stopped them, demanding proof of citizenship. The three men refused and insisted

on their right to remain silent.

The INS arrested them and took them to the notorious detention center known as El Corralon, where upwards of 500 refugees are held pending deportation.

According to their lawyer, Lisa Brodyaga, "Because they had the audacity to refuse to answer the Border Patrol's questions, they were treated to endless questioning and abuse by the INS."

Immigration judge Daniel Kahn has denied a motion that the men be remanded to a county facility away from the Border Patrol, as well as requests for an immediate show-cause hearing on the case, and a hearing to release the young men.

Brodyaga pointed out that last year the INS arrested 12,000 Central Americans and perhaps three times that number of Mexicans in the Valley. As she said, "This case is a graphic example of the effects the INS has on all of us in the Rio Grande Valley."

*Steve Warshell  
Houston, Texas*

### Can't reform apartheid

On April 24, in a cold drizzle 200 students at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, demonstrated against apartheid, in solidarity with the sit-in at Columbia University, and demanded that U of M divest itself of the \$5 million it has invested in companies that do business in South Africa. Rally participants carried signs that said, "No more apartheid," "US. out of South Africa," and "Apartheid can't be reformed, it must be eliminated."

Barbara Ramsby, an organizer of the Columbia University protests, told the rally, "We must reject the idea behind Sullivan prin-

ciples: that U.S. corporations are agents of social change in South Africa. How can they be agents of social change in South Africa when they aren't agents of social change in this country? Travel 30 miles east to Detroit and ask Black laid-off GM workers if they believe that!"

A South African student, representing the International Students Union, explained that in South Africa it is a capital crime to speak in favor of divestment.

*Roya Abbassi  
Detroit, Michigan*

### Groundswell

I recently attended a rally of about 200 farmers and supporters at the farm of Bobbi and Alfred Polzine in Worthington, Minnesota. The rally was organized by Groundswell.

What happened to the Polzines happens to thousands of other farmers. The Production Credit Association (PCA) reappraised the land on the Polzines' farm from \$1,500 per acre to \$700 per acre. As a result, the PCA then said the farmland wasn't worth enough to serve as security (collateral) to get a spring operating loan.

When they were denied their spring operating loan — the first time it had ever been denied — they then fell behind on their long-term loans to the Federal Land Bank. The Federal Land Bank then threatened that if they weren't current within 60 days, the loan would be "accelerated." This means higher payments and the threat of foreclosure.

Thousands of farmers in Minnesota and across the Midwest find themselves in the same situation. They are without operating

loans, not because they have fallen behind on previous loans, not because they are bad managers or don't work hard, but because their land value has been slashed by the banks and the credit associations.

*Argiris Malapanis  
St. Paul, Minnesota*

### Sends thanks

I am in receipt of my weekly subscription which I greatly appreciated for keeping me abreast of our international and uncompromising struggle.

At this time I'll have to cancel my subscription due to my release from prison at the end of this month.

I will continue to read the *Militant*. Once again, thank you for keeping me abreast of our struggle and I would like to extend to you all my uncompromising support.

*Abraham Agostini  
Vienna, Illinois*

**The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.**

**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.**

## Phila: gov't, cop lies unravel

### May 30 City Hall march to protest killing of 11 in cop bombing

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ  
AND RUTH ROBINETT

PHILADELPHIA — Some 100 people met May 21 and called a demonstration to protest the cops' May 13 bombing of a MOVE house and the subsequent burning of 61 homes in West Philadelphia's Black community. Eleven people, including four children, died in the assault.

The demonstration will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 30, at Progress Plaza and march to City Hall for a noontime rally. All opponents of government-cop racist violence and supporters of democratic rights should join this protest.

MOVE is a Black countercultural organization that has faced violent cop harassment for more than a decade. This has led to the arrest and imprisonment of a number of MOVE members.

#### Citizens' Committee for Justice

The meeting formed the Citizens' Committee for Humanity and Justice and issued a call for the protest. The call condemned the bombing of the MOVE home. It said the decision to let the house burn was "criminal negligence" on the part of City Manager Brooks, Police Commissioner Sambor, and Fire Commissioner Richmond. This guaranteed that all the people in the MOVE house would be killed and the neighborhood destroyed.

The call also charges the city administration with refusing to seriously negotiate a peaceful solution to the May 13 confrontation. The call condemns the murderous assault as a racist attack. It explains that it "threatens to set a dangerous precedent to give police and law-enforcement authorities nationwide a free hand to violate the civil and constitutional rights of the American people and particularly Black Americans, against whom excessive force is commonplace and has been the focus of years of struggle."

Finally, the call condemns the city administration's disregard for the input of the community in resolving the crisis. It condemns the city officials who orchestrated and directed a media campaign of lies and distortions to cover up what happened on May 13.

There was little criticism of Mayor Wilson Goode at the meeting, despite his obvious role in the assault. This reflects a common view among most of the city's Blacks that Goode, as the city's first mayor who is Black, should not be the focus of criticism. This is why the main targets in the call are the cops, fire fighters, and other city officials.

Nevertheless, the call for a march to City Hall against this racist attack is an important step in the fight against new murderous assaults.

#### Cover-up unravels

The call for a protest comes at a time when the city administration's cover-up of the cop bombing has begun to unwind. The most damaging discovery was the admission by officials that after four days of searching the burned out ruins of the MOVE home, the police found no automatic weapons, no bombs, no tunnels. The city had tried to justify the bombing by claiming that MOVE members were heavily armed and had a tunnel to enable them to escape. But the city was forced to admit on Friday, May 17, that MOVE members had two shotguns, one rifle, and three pistols.

The city administration's claim that they had tried every recourse before bombing the house was also exposed as a lie. Chauncey Campbell, a member of the team that had tried to negotiate a peaceful solution to the confrontation and one of the callers of the May 30 protest, told reporters at a May 21 press conference that the city had never

intended to negotiate a settlement with MOVE.

As the cover-up unraveled, Wilson Goode suddenly produced a letter he claimed was sent by Ramona Johnson Africa, one of only two survivors of the bombed house, to police two days before the cops' murderous attack on MOVE. Goode supposedly only saw the letter two or three days after the attack. He decided to make it public on national television on Sunday, May 19, after no weapons were found in the MOVE house.

The letter was printed in full in the May 20 issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The letter made no threats. It did however state that a military attack on MOVE would "cause yall to get a lot of people hurt and use the example to show how dangerous you politicians are..."

In an interview with the *Militant*, Jerry Africa, a spokesperson for MOVE, answered the city administration's lies about the siege on the MOVE home.

Taking up the city's attempt to blame MOVE for the fire, Africa said, "No one saw smoke from the second floor or the

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Cops, fire fighters removing body from rubble of MOVE home. Eleven people, including four children, were killed in racist bombing of house by cops.

## Workers will pay for GE's crimes

BY ELLEN BERMAN

BOSTON — The General Electric Co. became the largest defense contractor ever to be charged with criminally defrauding the government. This came on March 26 after a five-year investigation into GE's Aerospace Division in Philadelphia where the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile system is produced.

Among other charges, GE was accused of altering employees' time cards to make up \$800,000 worth of overcharges on ICBM production.

Initially GE vehemently denied any criminal action. On May 13, however, GE pleaded guilty to charges of defrauding the air force and must pay at least \$2.6 million in fines and restitution. This change of tune came after one of the former GE employees involved confessed and agreed to testify as a government witness in exchange for having the charges against him dropped.

At the time of the original charges there were a lot of press reports about GE possibly losing the right to do any military business with the government for one to three years. But as one local paper correctly predicted on March 29, "no company as large and as important to the Pentagon could ever be debarred." Sure enough, by April 13 GE had already received a new Pentagon contract for \$4.4 million, and another company it holds an interest in was awarded a \$422.9 million contract. The contracts were awarded even though a "temporary suspension" was declared at the time.

Many working people are wondering what's behind the recent rash of investigations and indictments being leveled against major military contractors such as GE and General Dynamics. These actions seem to contradict the cozy relationship that the government and the war industry have enjoyed for so long. But despite its cries of victimization, companies like GE will most likely profit from the governments' "crackdown" by using it as an excuse to engage in a real crackdown of its own — directed against the workers in its plants.

Many workers in military production, for example, would agree with one report that said, "Pentagon officials and Wall Street defense industry analysts say time card fraud is common and easy to get away with."

Many GE workers also think it is no

coincidence that all this is happening right before the June 30, 1985, expiration of GE's contract with 13 unions including the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE), United Electrical workers, United Auto Workers, and the International Association of Machinists.

Given the skyrocketing profits of an industry geared to military production, it will be difficult for GE to cry poverty in order

to push a takeback contract on the unions. Thus GE points to government attacks as a way to crack down on its workers.

In 1984 GE received \$2.28 billion in profits and an additional \$238 million tax rebate from the government. This was an increase of 13 percent over the previous year, with military contracts accounting for 15 to 20 percent of its profits.

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## Picket hits antiabortion terror

By BARBARA MATSON

HOUSTON — More than 80 people participated in a picket line here May 11 to protest violence against abortion clinics. The picket, which took place in front of the "right to life" headquarters, occurred without any incidents or attempts to disrupt it from opponents of abortion rights. The action was built in support of the National Abortion Rights Action League's national "Silent no more" campaign.

The men, women, and children who participated kept up a spirited singing and chanting of slogans against anti-clinic violence and in support of a woman's right to abortion.

The action was organized by the Houston Coalition to End Clinic Violence, which includes the Texas Abortion Rights Action League, National Organization for Women, American Civil Liberties Union, and various area clinics. The coalition was first formed last fall in response to a wave of clinic bombings, vandalism, and arson attempts against five area clinics in a 20-day period. These violent attacks were followed by weekly gatherings of abortion rights opponents in front of several clinics. These antiabortion pickets try to terrorize and harass women seeking to enter the clinics by confronting them with insults, threats, and gory pictures. At one point, an antiabortion picket placed her baby in a clinic parking lot driveway to prevent staff and patients from entering. The Coalition to End Clinic Violence has been active in organizing and training escort services into the clinics where these antiabortion picket lines were set up.

Another tactic of the antiabortion forces here has been the attempt to intimidate and frighten doctors and staff who work at the clinics. These forms of intimidation have

included the picketing on the front lawn of a local doctor's home, and subtle threats against the families of doctors and staff workers.

These attacks have been accompanied by an assault on abortion rights by the Texas State legislature. Although the legislation has not yet made it out of committee, some of the proposals being discussed would severely limit women's access to abortion in the state. One bill would do this by denying all state funds, as well as federal funds appropriated by the state, to any hospital which performs abortions. This would drastically reduce the number of hospitals willing to perform abortions. This same bill would also make it a felony to perform an abortion after viability (when a fetus could survive outside the womb).

One Texas legislator has suggested that poor women who receive free pre- and post-natal care be made to consent to a "voluntary" sterilization in exchange for these services.

In response to these legislative and terroristic attacks on women's reproductive freedom, more and more Houston-area women are joining the effort to put a stop to these attempts to turn back the clock and return to the days of illegal back-alley abortions. A popular theme of Saturday's picket line was the slogan "No return, no return, no return to the back street butchers!"

The success of the picket line showed the growing determination to protect reproductive freedom. The picketing ended with an appeal to all participants to make themselves available for future activities in support of safe, legal abortions and with a promise on the part of those present that we will indeed be "silent no more."