

## Nicaragua: target of border provocations

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In the wake of the successful Sandinista People's Army (EPS) offensive against U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries operating from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica (see story, page 5), those two countries have created major border provocations.

On May 31, a Costa Rican army patrol just across the border from an area where Sandinista units were operating was ambushed. They suffered at least one dead and several wounded.

The Costa Rican authorities immediately accused Nicaragua of being responsible for the attack, without presenting any proof. Nicaragua denied the charge, showing evidence pointing to the CIA-financed and trained Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) as the perpetrators of the attack.

Nicaragua also asked Costa Rica to permit an immediate investigation of the events by a joint Nicaraguan-Costa Rican commission or by the Prevention and Control Commission of the Contadora countries — Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Costa Rica refused, deciding instead to raise a stink in the Organization of American States (OAS). After many hours of secret negotiations, on June 7 the OAS decided to ask the Contadora nations to look into the incident, precisely as Nicaragua had requested from the outset. As a face-saving sop to Costa Rica, an OAS official will accompany the Contadora commission.

Meanwhile, the Costa Rican capitalist class and its government is using the incident to whip up a war hysteria.

There have been provocative demonstrations in front of the Nicaraguan embassy in the Costa Rican capital of San José, forcing Nicaraguan authorities to demand that

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## Salvador unions protest gov't war, austerity

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The monthlong strike by some 6,000 members of the social security workers union (STISSS) in El Salvador ended June 6 in a victory for the union when the government was forced to free two jailed union leaders.

The STISSS officials had been arrested on June 2 when military police and National Guardsmen stormed 5 hospitals and 20 clinics across the country in an attempt to crush the strike. The strike began on May 6 and hospital personnel had occupied their work places.

At General Hospital in the capital city of San Salvador, soldiers landed at 3 a.m. by helicopter on the hospital roof, while others stormed in through the emergency room and the basement. Troops totalled more than 100 in all. They raced through the hospital, ordering patients, as well as doctors, nurses, and technicians, to lie down on the floor with their hands behind them. Many were then tied up. Eventually all but four of the people were set free, with the two union leaders among those being detained.

One patient died in the operating room during the raid, and four undercover cops were shot to death in the emergency room by their cohorts, in what was apparently an accident.

Two days after the raids, 2,000 workers and students marched in San Salvador to protest the attack and demand freedom for the arrested unionists. Cops carrying automatic weapons were at the scene of the protest, but didn't attack it, despite the government's declaration that the march was illegal under the terms of that country's state of siege. This repressive legislation has been in effect since 1980, and was extended once again by the Legislative Assembly on May 23.

With the release of the two union leaders — Jorge Alberto Albeno and Guillermo Rojas — the workers agreed to return to



Alert! Union banner in El Salvador's May Day march says, "For a new society." Recent strike victories by social security workers and waterworks employees, as well as May 1 march, point to new wave of struggles by Salvadoran labor.

their jobs while their other demands were being negotiated. These include lifting the state of siege and an across-the-board pay raise of \$75 per month. The current minimum monthly wage is \$125. In 1984 real wages dropped by 65 percent and urban public workers have not had a wage increase since 1981.

The military brass praised the hospital and clinic raids, saying "We've tried to do everything with the professionalism that the armed forces now have achieved."

### President Duarte threatens unions

El Salvador's president, José Napoleón Duarte, had threatened the unions the day before the raids. "When the unions are infiltrated and used at the altar of war and de-

stabilization, they lose their social function and their credibility with the people," he said in his June 1 state of the nation address.

The proof that the unions are "infiltrated," according to government mouthpieces, was that in addition to demanding a wage increase, these workers — like thousands of others currently on strike in El Salvador — are demanding the government resume negotiations with the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR), which are waging a popular struggle against the U.S.-backed government.

On May 16, Duarte had invoked a decree banning strikes by public employees. He also fired 49 leaders of SETANDA, the water workers union, whose 4,000 members were on strike against the ANDA water and sewer works at the time.

As Duarte was launching his attack on the strikers, communiqués were read over several San Salvador radio stations, signed by the government-linked death squads, accusing the strikers of being manipulated by the FMLN. The rightist terrorists threatened that if the strikers did not return to work, the death squads would begin to "bring them to justice."

This was no idle threat. In addition to a wage increase, a key issue in the SETANDA strike was the demand for a government investigation into the murders

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## Calif. farm workers fight growers, gov't

BY LYNDIA JOYCE

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — Waving red and black United Farm Workers flags, 500 farm workers and their supporters conducted a June 9 protest march that took them eight miles past vast fields of strawberries, lettuce, beans, cauliflower, and celery here in the Salinas Valley.

This march was one of a series of some 30 marches being organized throughout California this spring and summer. They are protesting the attacks on farm workers and the United Farm Workers (UFW) by growers and the administrations of Reagan and George Deukmejian, the governor of California. Marches have already been held in the Napa Valley, Hollister, Parlier, Dinuba, San Ysidro, the Imperial Valley, and Orange County. These marches are building toward a three-day march to Delano September 6-8 to mark the anniversary of the first farm-workers march to that city in 1965. At that time Delano was the center of historic strikes against vineyard growers in the San Joaquin Valley. These strikes were the beginning of a five-year battle to win union contracts for farm workers.

José Luis Hernández, an unemployed farm worker on the Watsonville march, expressed the sentiment of many farm workers. "Agricultural workers are not going to remain silent," he said. "This is the beginning of our integration into the bigger struggles within the powerful force of labor in this country."

The four-hour-long march was led by César Chávez, president of the UFW. Along the way enthusiastic marchers called out to their brothers and sisters to join the action. One marcher, Robert Gutiérrez, a Watsonville cauliflower cutter for West Coast Farms, succeeded in convincing many to join the protest. He explained that, "this march is a protest against injustice, speed-up, and discrimination on the job. The government," he said, "is trying to take away our union and they also use the fact that some of us are undocumented to

go after us. I started working in the fields at 14 years old when we still had child labor and were forced to use the short-handled hoe. The United Farm Workers union ended those kinds of abuses," he said.

Many of the protesters were children and youth. Twelve-year-old Guillermo Delgado and his seven-year-old sister, María Cruz, explained that they were marching because of the bad treatment their parents received from the growers. Fifteen-year-old José Arvizu, who remembers marching

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## Mass. ACTWU members stand up to boss attack

BY RICHARD THOMAS

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Four thousand members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) went on strike in three Massachusetts cities on June 1 when their contracts expired. Some were part of the national contract between the union and the Clothing Manufacturers Association. Others were covered by independent contracts that expired on the same date. All make tailored clothing for men.

Most of the strikers are in New Bedford and Fall River, Massachusetts, two industrial cities about 45 miles south of Boston. In both cases union and management disagreed on wages, health-care benefits, making Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a

holiday, and contract language that would allow the companies much greater control over setting piece rates for individual workers. Most of the workers covered by the contracts are piece workers. Average wages under the old contract were \$6.64 per hour.

In other cities, workers covered by the national contract stayed on the job while they voted to extend the national contract for four months. The vote was 28,000 to 8,000 in favor of the extension. In this area workers voted against the extension and were anxious to fight back against the bosses and their attacks against the union. The workers in New Bedford and Fall River who were covered by the national contract refused to work until the votes were

counted. The 2,300 workers at Calvin Klein and Cliftex were on strike almost a week. Calvin Klein employees went back to work Friday, June 7, and Cliftex workers were supposed to go back to work on Monday, June 10.

Ed Clark, Joint Board manager for the New Bedford-Fall River region, told the *Militant* in a telephone interview that by staying out until the contract-extension vote was counted, the union had sent a "strong message to the Clothing Manufacturers Association that we will not accept concessions in September." Clark is also a vice-president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

The five shops with 1,400 workers covered by independent contracts remain

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY ALVINO CARRILLO

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Most of our plant-gate sales in this area are to members of the United Auto Workers (UAW). But we are also trying to expand our sales to rail workers who work for the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroads.

At our first Burlington Northern railyard sale I sold two *Militants*. First the workers said they had no money. But after seeing the *Militant* had an article about attacks on rail workers, they bought the paper.

#### GM sales

At the UAW-organized General Motors Fairfax assembly plant we average four *Militant* sales a week by selling at both the walk-in and drive-in gates.

The Leeds General Motors assembly plant is also organized by the UAW and we regularly sell

three *Militants* at the plant gate. At a recent Leeds sale, the *Militant* salesperson was badly harassed by right-wingers who work at the plant. Another UAW member, who is Black, came to the next sale and defended the democratic right of the *Militant* salesperson to sell the paper.

Another plant we sell at is Allis-Chalmers. Until recently the workers had been on longterm layoffs. The plant is organized by the UAW, and when workers were recalled we started to sell there again. We've averaged two *Militants* per sale.

#### Procter and Gamble

We also have sales at Procter & Gamble, where there is now a company union. After a long struggle, the United Steelworkers lost a company-inspired decertification campaign. We have been selling the *Militant* to these work-

ers for a long time, averaging three to six papers a visit. One of the workers there regularly attends *Militant* Forums and went with socialist workers on the bus to the April 20 antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C. Also, another worker from the same plant spoke at a *Militant* Forum here.

Another plant-gate sale is at the Libby Corp., which is near the Leeds plant. We began selling there after learning about a lockout of UAW Local 710 members by Libby last January 31. Two second shift auto workers decided to get up early one Monday morning and go talk to these workers about the reasons for the layoff, and to introduce them to the *Militant*.

#### Sales at Libby

Libby is the third largest war industry contractor in the Kansas City area. The company has been bragging about its government

contracts and don't deny they've made huge profits in 1984.

Libby workers told us that after the expiration of the old contract in November 1984, the company demanded they take a 60 cents an hour pay cut. The bosses insisted on a two-tier wage system that would deny new hires receiving pay parity with older workers. The company also unilaterally imposed new work rules on the workers, ones that had been turned down by union negotiators.

The Libby workers fought back through a series of struggles and on January 31 organized a mass grievance meeting at work. The company responded by calling the cops and locking out the Local 710 members.

On February 8 the company laid off 162 workers and *Militant* salespeople decided to go back to Libby. This time we were armed not only with the paper but re-

prints of a *Militant* article, "The lessons of the UAW [auto] contract." We sold two *Militants* and gave out a lot of the reprints. Many workers wanted extra copies to show to coworkers.

Later at a March Plattsburg, Missouri, farm-foreclosure demonstration, Local 710 was one of the largest labor contingents at the rally. Their local president spoke and they vowed to come back for the next foreclosure protest.

As attacks from the bosses increase many workers are coming to realize that what is needed to fight these attacks is solidarity. Solidarity among workers — and solidarity between workers and small farmers.

*Alvino Carrillo is a member of UAW Local 31 and is an assembler at the General Motors Fairfax plant.*

## Hearings begin in case of 12 sanctuary workers

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — Pretrial hearings began May 21 in the case of 12 activists indicted last January for "conspiring to smuggle" Central American refugees into the United States. The 12 activists are members of the Sanctuary Movement, a nationwide network of over 200 churches that provides shelter to people fleeing U.S.-backed repression in El Salvador and Guatemala. Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, are the starting points for an "underground railroad" that has transported refugees to sanctuary churches all over the country.

Originally, 16 sanctuary workers were named in a 71-count federal grand jury indictment. Two defendants pleaded guilty to misdemeanor counts. The charges against two Catholic nuns were dropped by the government. Currently facing trial are a

nun, two priests, a Presbyterian minister, and eight other activists. Some of the defendants face possible penalties of up to 30 years in prison.

The pretrial hearings will decide what type of evidence can be presented in the actual trial, which is scheduled to begin September 17. U.S. District Court judge Earl Carroll, who is hearing the case, has demonstrated his intention to cover-up the crimes of the U.S. government and its police agencies.

The defense attorneys' motions to dismiss the charges were denied without even hearing their witnesses. Carroll justified this action by stating that the status of human rights in Central America "is not a factual issue to be resolved in these proceedings."

The judge also upheld the "right" of the

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to send informers into churches to spy on and secretly tape record sanctuary meetings, Bible-study classes attended by Salvadorans, and church services. During their testimony, INS agents admitted spying on rallies held by political groups opposing U.S. military intervention in Central America.

On the evening of May 20, 200 people

participated in a candlelight march in defense of the activists. On May 22, 250 people packed Alzona Lutheran Church for a prayer service. It was announced there that the church would become an official sanctuary for Central American refugees.

In an obvious attempt at intimidation, the INS rounded up 556 undocumented workers in Phoenix during the week leading up to the hearing.

## U.S. moves to repossess Culebra

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The U.S. Department of the Interior has announced plans to repossess one-third of the territory of Culebra from the people of Puerto Rico by June 30. According to a U.S. government spokesperson, the land will be sold to private companies at a public auction unless the Puerto Rican government submits a plan to develop it into parks by that date.

Culebra is a 7,000-acre island town belonging to Puerto Rico. Until 1980, some 2,000 acres were used for bombing and strafing target practice by the U.S. Navy.

Throughout the 1970s, Culebra was the focal point of the struggle of the Puerto Rican people against the U.S. government's use of Puerto Rico's national territory as a military staging ground against the workers and farmers of the Caribbean and Latin America. This struggle continues today on Vieques, another small island belonging to Puerto Rico.

For a decade the struggle against the U.S. Navy on Culebra involved tens of thousands of people in Puerto Rico and the United States. Finally in 1980, the Puerto Rican people won an important victory — the U.S. Navy was forced to leave Culebra.

In the agreement between the U.S. government and the colonial government of Puerto Rico, the land was ceded back to Puerto Rico on the condition that the colonial government develop it for parks and recreational facilities. Puerto Rican Secretary of Sports and Recreation announced, however, that there is no money for such development.

Meanwhile, in the years since the U.S. Navy left the island, more and more people, faced with an acute housing shortage, have taken over the land on Culebra and built homes. These people are the target of the U.S. government's attempt to repossess the land today.

In a letter to the colonial government, the U.S. Department of the Interior clearly explains this point. "We understand, moreover, that little has been accomplished in solving the problem of land takeovers in Culebra. If you think that you cannot solve these problems... we recommend that the land be returned to the federal government."

Culebra spotlights the colonial status of Puerto Rico. Only in a colony can a government be ordered by the United States to either clear out squatters or have their national territory repossessed.

## INS raids target Tongans in Hawaii

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has stepped up its attacks on Pacific Islanders, especially Tongans in Hawaii. In February, INS agents raided work places and arrested 63 workers in Maui. In March the INS organized pre-dawn raids of people's homes on the Big Island.

According to an article entitled "INS raids Maui and Big Island," by Helen Toribio that appeared on the commentary page of the April-May issue of *Ka Hui'au*, a bimonthly newspaper published in Hawaii, the INS abused those arrested in the raids as if they were "hardened criminals.... They were handcuffed, fingerprinted and detained overnight in overcrowded jail cells and forced to sleep on the floor."

The INS didn't explain to the un-

documented workers what their rights were. Toribio reports, "Those arrested felt compelled to sign deportation papers with no clear knowledge of what they were signing. Bail was set at an unusually high amount and legal counsel was not available to those arrested."

Toribio points out that the INS has targeted Tongans in these raids. Some 90 percent of those deported this year were Tongans. This, Toribio explains, is because "the Tongan community is small and has only recently begun to settle and establish their roots in Hawaii. They are the easiest group to victimize.... The INS is starting with the Tongan community, but it also plans to broaden its target" to Samoans and Filipinos.

Toribio points to the importance of defending the Tongans and all undocumented workers in the face of this escalated attack.

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### The Militant

Circulating news date: June 12, 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 air-mail rates to all other countries.

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



# British miners fight jailings, firings

## International solidarity is needed

BY PAT GROGAN

An international campaign of solidarity is under way to aid the British miners in their fight to defend themselves and the miners union against victimization, imprisonment, harsh sentencing, and firings. These measures have come in the aftermath of the British miners strike.

For 11½ months, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) waged a heroic strike against mine closures and unemployment. Their struggle inspired working people throughout the world.

The British ruling class was determined to defeat the NUM no matter the cost. The miners were forced to return to work on March 3, but vowed to continue the fight against mine shutdowns and layoffs.

Since the day the strike ended, the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher stepped up its drive to victimize militant miners and deal a blow against the NUM. It is set on teaching a lesson to all working people by making the miners pay a high price for their heroic struggle.

During the course of the miners' strike some 10,000 miners were arrested by police, along with 50 women supporters. Five thousand miners were injured on the picket lines and four have died. More than 700 miners have been fired because of their strike activities, and nearly 100 are now serving prison sentences.

Hundreds more miners will face charges in the next months for their participation in the strike. Those found guilty are automatically fired.

The sentences have been harsh, with miners being sentenced up to five years for strike activities.

In the most serious blow to date, two miners have been sentenced to life imprisonment after having been found guilty of murder. The charges flow from an incident during the strike when a block of concrete was dropped from a bridge on a taxi bringing workers into the mine. The taxi driver was accidentally killed.

But in order to sustain a sentence of life imprisonment the prosecution charged the two miners with premeditated murder.

The severity of the sentence sent shock waves through the coalfields. Spontaneous walkouts protesting the sentence occurred in the two mines where the convicted miners worked. One thousand miners and their wives demonstrated in South Wales against the sentencing.

Llew Smith, Labor member of parliament from Southeast Wales, blasted the conviction and the sentencing, saying, "It was a warning that anyone who decides to take on this government will not be tolerated. It is ironic that not a single policeman has been on trial for the thousands of acts of brutality" they committed during the strike.

A campaign in Britain is being organized by the National Organization for Miners in Prison and Supporters (NOMPAS) to demand a general amnesty for the strikers who have been imprisoned and fired, and to demand an end to all further victimizations. As Doreen Humber, a miner's wife and a founding member of NOMPAS explained, "these are political prisoners... victims of the Tories' [Conservative Party's] drive to smash the unions."

Many unionists from the United States traveled to Britain and organized solidarity and financial help for the strike. This included coal miners who brought back the lessons of the strike to the United Mineworkers of America and to other unions in this country fighting takebacks and union-busting.

It is urgent that solidarity and support for the efforts of the miners to defend themselves and their union be continued.

Messages calling for amnesty for imprisoned miners or those facing trials should be sent to: The Home Secretary, Home Office, 50 Queen Ann's Gate, London, SW1, England.

Messages calling for the reinstatement of miners who have been fired should be sent to: The Chairman, National Coal Board, Head Office, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London, SW1, England, and to: The Minister, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London, SW1, England.

Copies of messages should be sent to: NOMPAS, 5 Caledonian Rd., Kings Cross, London, N1, England, and to: National Union of Mineworkers, St. James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield, England.

A special fund has been set up to aid the imprisoned and fired miners and their families. Contributions may be sent directly to: Co-op Bank plc, West Street, Sheffield, England. Include the following information: Sorting code 08.90.75., Account No. 3000-0009.

land suppressed Solidarity — which at its peak had some 10 million members — in December 1981, because it saw the union's struggle for participation by workers and working farmers in economic planning and decision making as a threat to its substantial material privileges.

The trial is being carried out in an undemocratic and intimidating manner. For example, the defendants were not permitted face-to-face meetings with their attorneys. Moreover, the police barred the public from the courtroom, despite earlier claims that the trial would be open.

According to the Associated Press, "police patrolled the streets around the court building, checked the identity papers of passers-by, and detained about 10 people in an apparent attempt to prevent a crowd from gathering." Among those detained, the dispatch reported, were Andrzej Gwiazda and Jan Rulewski, both activists in the Solidarity trade union before its suppression.

"If they had serious evidence, they would want the public in the courtroom," Gwiazda commented.

Defense attorney Jacek Taylor protested the denial of the defendants' democratic rights. He said they "will refuse to testify

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Massive police violence was used against British miners during strike. Campaign is under way to demand amnesty for miners jailed and fired, and an end to victimizations.

## N.Y. benefit celebrates socialist publications

BY CAROLINE LUND

NEW YORK — An impressive benefit event for the Socialist Publication Fund was held here June 8. Speakers included Maria Meneces, a member of the Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE), who is a garment worker in New York; Joachim Mark, a well-known Grenadian community activist who chaired the 1983 mass rally at Hunter College where Prime Minister Maurice Bishop spoke; and Margaret Jayko, managing editor of the *Militant*.

The fund goes toward financing Pathfinder Press, the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Intercontinental Press*, and *New International*. The focus of the benefit was to celebrate the publication by Pathfinder of *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*, a 400-page book containing the major speeches and writings of Nicaragua's Sandinista leadership. Some 80 people attended the event.

Countering Reagan's claim that the United States needs to finance and supply the mercenaries seeking to overturn the Nicaraguan revolution because of so-called Soviet intervention, Meneces stated, "Nicaragua was first the victim of U.S. aggression in 1855, long before the Bolsheviks took over in the Soviet Union, so who could the U.S. blame for its intervention then?"

Mark pointed out that the big-business media "concentrates all its efforts on preserving big business. When it comes to the business of the people and their concerns and struggles, there is no proper coverage."

"When it is convenient for the big-business media, we hear something about Cuba, or South Africa, or Nicaragua, but the purpose is not to inform but to confuse, to bamboozle, and to make the people more ignorant than they were before."

Mark continued, "In the context of this massive system of disinformation, confusion, and lies, a few people have come up

with the courage to publish some publications to tell us the truth. They are in a constant struggle to expose to us what must be done....

"If you want to read the truth about what's happening in Nicaragua, or to the miners in England, or as far away as New Zealand or Australia, you have to turn to *Intercontinental Press*, the *Militant*, or *Pathfinder Press*."

Summing up the message of the fund, he stated, "It takes money to put out these papers and to keep this system of publications alive and well and kicking. Without them it would be extremely difficult to get the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

He urged each person in the audience to tell another person about the *Militant*, *IP*, and *Pathfinder Press*; to show them some back issues so they can see the serious and truthful approach of these papers; and to leave with the organizers of the benefit some names and addresses of friends they think should be approached to subscribe.

Margaret Jayko explained why all the publications aided by the fund place such importance on the struggle in Central America and the Caribbean. It is because this region is at the center of the battle of our epoch — the battle between the efforts by workers and farmers to establish their own revolutionary governments in new countries, and the imperialists' determination to prevent this in order to defend their private-profit system."

She noted that "we put a high priority on such things as books of speeches by Fidel and the Sandinistas and on reports from Nicaragua because Central America and the Caribbean are not only where the most important revolutionary action is going on in the world today, but also where the most important thinking about revolutionary working-class strategy is going on as well."

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## Trial of former Solidarity leaders held in Poland

BY FRED FELDMAN

The trial of three former leaders of the outlawed Solidarity trade union opened in Gdansk, Poland, on May 23.

The three are Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, a bus driver; Bogdan Lis, a mechanic; and Adam Michnik, an historian.

The three were among those seized February 13 when police raided a meeting to prepare a 15-minute national strike to protest proposed food-price increases.

The meeting was convened by Lech Walesa, the most prominent leader of the union before it was suppressed in December 1981. The strike was later called off.

The three are charged with inciting public unrest and participation in an illegal organization. They face up to five years' imprisonment.

According to the Polish government's news agency, Lis and Frasyniuk pleaded not guilty to the charges. Michnik reportedly told the court he did not understand the charges.

If the charges are permitted to stand, this will be a denial of the democratic right of the Polish workers and working farmers to protest the decisions of Poland's bureaucratic misleaders.

The bureaucratic caste that governs Po-

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.

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# Nicaraguan metal workers: 'We want peace'

BY BUDDY BECK

SALT LAKE CITY — While in Nicaragua last March, I had the opportunity to tour a machine shop and metal fabrication factory, Industrias Metallurgicas del Pueblo (IMEP), outside Managua. Having worked for six years in the Pittsburgh area as a machine operator and tool grinder, this factory tour made a big impression on me.

The work force of around 250 was organized into the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST). The general secretary of the affiliate was a welder and a former Sandinista fighter in the struggle against the former U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship. The manner in which the workers spoke about him showed me he was a well-respected leader. Most of our discussion with these workers concerned the U.S.-backed mercenary war and the conditions in the plant.

Around 20 of the workers had been mobilized for the front, and a large number more were organized into militias. Many were members of or candidates for membership in the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). They have organized their own in-plant defense and maintain a 24-hour armed vigilance against counter-revolutionary attack or sabotage.

The dirty war, as it is called there, is having other effects, too. Material shortages are common simply because you can't have equal distribution, since 40 percent of the Gross National Product has to go for defense. Also, key U.S.-made machinery — like two Cincinnati shears — was down or only partially operational because of the lack of spare parts or repair manuals. Before the pro-Somoza owner fled the country, he burned all the service manuals to the machinery. Also, out of the 29 welding machines, only 2 worked. Most of the Lincoln SA200 Welders were down simply due to the lack of one spare part, the mag-nito.

During our tour of the plant, we visited the engineering and design department. Many of the men who worked there were volunteers from West European countries. Several aspects of the department impressed me. For example, the pride all these workers had in their work. The designs were simply for basic use function. Thus, the finished equipment would be safe and easy to operate and repair.

An addition to the plant was under construction, and by year's end 500 workers will be employed there. The workers were proud of the new lathes and other machines they received from North Korea and were looking forward to the plant expansion and the increased production. Production to them was their contribution to the defense of the revolution. Through imagination and innovation they work through machine breakdown and lack of spare parts to keep production going.

The workers at IMEP had made a number of big and small gains since the revolution. There was a swimming pool on the plant site that before had only been for the boss. Now, it is open on the weekends to the workers and their families. A cafeteria had been established that provided a good meal for about 50 cents. Wages and job classifications had been standardized. A commissary had been established to store hard-to-get supplies that would be sold to the workers at cost. These gains, although they might seem small to us, make a world of difference to them and set them apart from other workers in Central and South America.

A number of these young workers came to a party our Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc. group had at our hotel. We talked for hours. Before we shook hands and said goodbye, I asked them what they wanted me to tell the guys about Nicaragua when I got back to Utah. They replied, tell

them we want peace. We need spare parts for our machines and skilled American workers to help them. "We will defend our revolution at all cost."

When I returned home, I gave a slideshow of my trip to my coworkers on lunch break in my department. I talked about the gains of the revolution, the war, and how the majority of the workers and farmers supported the Sandinistas. The dozen or so workers who saw all or part of the show saw the slides of the young determined faces of the armed militia members at the rally commemorating the fifth anniversary of the militias.

Now my coworkers understand a little better about the revolutionary process in Nicaragua. It cut through some of the lies we are fed daily. Many of my coworkers now know what the young metal workers told me again and again. "We want peace, but will fight to the death to defend our free Nicaragua."

Buddy Beck is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 57 and works at the Gadsby power plant in Salt Lake City.



Workers from IMEP machine shop and metal fabrication factory in Nicaragua with IBEW member Buddy Beck (second from left). Militant

## Workers are rebuilding the railroads

BY LANE SATTERBLOM

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "It was all a big mess. So the union took the initiative to rebuild. Later the government and the Sandinista Front offered support." With these words, Angel Ruiz, a leader of Nicaragua's rail union, summed up a process that included the 1979 overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship (which had destroyed an important part of the country's rail capacity), the formation of the first rail union, and the passing of control and ownership of the railroads into the hands of the revolutionary government. He was speaking at this city's main car shop to a tour of 17 U.S. unionists who support the Nicaraguan revolution.

Felix Mendoza, a rail worker for 34 years, gave the group a brief history of Nicaragua's railroads.

First construction was begun in 1878. In 1951 a rail connection was completed between the Pacific coast and Managua with steamship connection over Lake Managua. In the absence of roads, this rail link helped unify the country economically. The period of 1955-60 saw the introduction of the first diesel locomotives and the employment of 6,000 workers.

But like everything else in Nicaragua, the U.S. Marine-created Somoza dictatorship was bleeding the railroads dry, in this case by using rail workers to work in Somoza family factories while being paid out of railroad funds, allowing rolling stock and roadbeds to deteriorate. (In the United States, rail workers — veterans of the resource diversions engineered by the moguls of the Penn Central, Milwaukee Road, Rock Island, and too many other railroads — will recognize this process.) By the July 19, 1979, victory of the revolution, only 700 workers remained along with nine locomotives, one in good shape. As well, two branch lines were destroyed during the insurrection. A continuing problem is that with so few trains running, motorists often fail to stop at crossings, resulting in accidents and making a bad situation worse.

The revolution has brought many changes for the better, with 220 retired workers returning to work to train younger workers. The production goal for 1985 is simply to defend the existing stock and roadbed against deterioration and counter-revolutionary attack. Next year's goals include the investment of 100,000,000 córdobas (US\$2,000,000) to build a new roadbed and two major bridges. This is crucial for the economy because now there is no direct rail link between Managua and the major Pacific port of Corinto. Heavy freight is being moved by truck over roads not designed for that purpose. Naturally the roads are being destroyed, threatening to leave the country in the pre-1951 transportation situation. The made-in-Washington counterrevolutionary war causes such an economic drain on Nicaragua's resources that a switch from narrow to wide-gauge

railbed cannot be considered.

Under the Somoza dictatorship no rail unions existed. In 1979, only 7 percent of all workers were organized. But now more than 90 percent of all workers are unionized with most united in one of the major mass organizations of Nicaragua, the Sandinista Workers Federation. Rail workers, having fought the dictatorship, were quick to organize their union.

The cooperation between the union and the revolutionary government has resulted in substantial gains in the face of the hardships imposed by the Washington-inspired *contra* (counterrevolutionary) war. Work schedules have been maintained in spite of mobilizations of young workers to fight at the northern front. Retired workers receive 60 percent of their last pay scale, with the remaining 40 percent being made up by social security — 100 percent retirement benefits! And above all, the precipitous decline of the railroads has been halted, again through the cooperation of union and government.

The union members we spoke with gave

us the same message that we heard wherever we went: "Our country wants peace and tranquility." One brother was quite eloquent when he told us, "Our people is brother to yours, and we do not want to inflict another Vietnam on our brothers." Mirroring this determination was a young sister rail worker, a member of the JS-19, the Sandinista Youth. She was dressed in fatigues, a volunteer in the local militia. In addition to her regular job, she has the responsibility of politically organizing and educating the youth of the shop.

Rail workers in the United States should add our voices to those of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters by demanding an immediate end to the U.S. government's organizing and financing of the mercenaries attempting to overturn the Nicaraguan revolution.

Lane Satterblom is a railway carman on AMTRAK in Chicago and is a member of Transportation Workers Union Local 2014.

## Nicaraguans practice civil defense

BY ARACELI MARTÍNEZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — As the CIA-sponsored and armed *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) carry on their attacks on Nicaraguans, the workers and farmers here prepare to defend themselves.

While visiting Nicaragua with a group of North Americans on a tour sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., I saw firsthand how the entire Nicaraguan population is preparing for defense. We visited Ciudad Sandino, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Managua, while the civilian population was conducting a civil-defense drill. It was a simulated air attack by U.S. military forces. These drills are being conducted throughout Nicaragua in all the neighborhoods.

An old house was set on fire to practice fire fighting. The fire-fighting brigade was made up of very young people. A young woman told us how proud she was to participate in the drill. The women of the neighborhood were the most eager to talk to us when they saw us. They told us of the different brigades they have, each assigned to a different task. They have the first-aid brigade, the fire-fighting brigade, and the clean-up brigade. Part of the first-aid brigade is in charge of taking children and old people to safety shelters. The Sandinista Defense Committees organize all the mass organizations to participate in the civil defense. They use eight-by-ten pamphlets with hand-drawn illustrations to instruct the civilian population on how to form civil defense brigades and what the duties of each one are. One pamphlet of the series is called, *What To Do After an Air Attack*. It illustrates in an easy-to-read and easy-to-follow manner the tasks of the

brigades, what tools to have on hand, and so on.

When the drill was over we talked to the crowds of people. We met with a group of women who said they were from AMNLAE, the Sandinista-led women's organization. They said they were in charge of giving first-aid to the injured. They told us that the drill had been a success because it meant that the people were now capable of protecting themselves in the event of an invasion.

Looking all around us we could see that the neighborhood is still a poor one, and most of the people were dressed very simply and looked strictly working class, with no type of sophisticated equipment of any kind. So we asked them if they were afraid of an invasion. They answered, "We do feel a certain fear because an invasion is a reality that we certainly consider possible. Every day we see the damages caused by the counterrevolutionaries. And every day we hear the threats by the U.S. government. But we cannot let ourselves be overcome by fear. Instead, we live preparing ourselves to defend our beloved country."

They welcomed us and told us, "We want you to deliver a message to the North American people. Tell them that we don't want a war with anybody, especially the people of the United States. We consider them our sister people. Tell them also that we know very well that the soldiers who will be sent to shed our blood will not be the sons of the rich; they will be the sons of the working people, like ourselves. But if they come to shed our blood, we will not be waiting for them with a bouquet of flowers in our hand."

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# Nicaragua: target of border provocations

Continued from front page

Costa Rica carry out its obligation of protecting diplomatic premises.

There has also been a tidal wave of jingoistic and anticommunist propaganda along such themes as, "The Nicaraguan communist regime wants to also take control of the Costa Ricans" and, "The aggressions against the soil of the homeland by the criminal Sandinista troops are greater every day."

One reason for the ferocious propaganda blitz is to justify the presence in Costa Rican territory of U.S. military forces, which is a violation of Costa Rica's constitution, as well as the country's alleged neutrality.

Despite Costa Rica's claims that its Civil Guard does not constitute an army, 20 U.S. Army advisers are currently training 400 members of the supposed police force. Costa Rica has also taken advantage of the situation it has created to request from the United States fresh shipments of heavy machine guns and other army equipment.

Even more ominously, Costa Rican president Alberto Monge has threatened to request intervention by "friendly countries" if the outcome of the investigations into the May 31 border incident is not satisfactory to him. Other Costa Rican politicians have raised invoking provisions of the Rio Treaty, a late 1940s anticommunist military pact designed to uphold U.S. imperialist control of Latin America.

At the same time as Costa Rican authorities were launching their slanderous campaign against Nicaragua, the Honduran army of Nicaragua's neighbor to the north also initiated a series of provocations.

On June 3, three U.S.-built military helicopters invaded Nicaraguan airspace in the northeastern part of Nueva Segovia Province. The helicopters attacked a Nicaraguan border observation post at a place known as Arenales.

Nicaraguan forces returned the fire, hitting two of the helicopters. The two craft were able to make it back across the Poteca River, which marks the border in that zone, before having to land.

On June 4 there was a similar incident, with another helicopter making a forced landing just across the border in Honduras after apparently having been hit by Nicaraguan anti-aircraft fire.

On June 7 there was yet another violation of Nicaraguan airspace in this sector, this time by an airplane.

The area of the violations is a sensitive military zone where significant Sandinista forces are based, ready to repel any attempts by the CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries to re-infiltrate the country.

In the past several months the Sandinista People's Army has been able to drive out the *contra* forces that had infiltrated the zone to launch deeper raids into Nicaragua.

In an attempt to dislodge the Sandinista forces in April, batteries firing from Honduras tried to shell strategic points held by the Sandinistas. The EPS returned the fire,

hitting large *contra* camps just across the border. As a result of the artillery duel, reportedly the *contras* have been forced to withdraw some of their camps further into Honduran territory, in the area known as Las Vegas.

Given the military situation created on both borders by U.S.-sponsored mercenary forces, Nicaragua has proposed to both the Honduran and Costa Rican governments fresh initiatives to reduce tensions.

In the case of Costa Rica, Nicaragua has urged the setting up of a demilitarized zone along the border supervised by the four Contadora countries and other nations with whom both Nicaragua and Costa Rica have good relations, such as France.

The reason for this proposal is that, hiding behind its largely fictional neutral and unarmed status, Costa Rican authorities claim they are powerless to prevent *contras* from setting up bases in relatively inaccessible parts of their territory.

So far, Costa Rica has failed to make an official, formal response to the Nicaraguan proposal. But France has indicated it is willing to host talks if both sides agree. There was a round of bilateral Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border talks held in France several months ago.

With regard to Honduras, the Sandinista government has proposed that direct contact be established between the commander in chief of the Nicaraguan armed forces, Humberto Ortega, and Gen. Walter López, his Honduran counterpart. So far the Honduran government has rebuffed all such Nicaraguan requests. Despite the continuing and escalating provocations on its northern and southern frontiers, Nicaraguan military leaders have stressed that they will not allow themselves to be blackmailed into surrendering even one inch of Nicaraguan territory to the mercenary forces.

To make this point unambiguously clear, the Ministry of Defense even took the unprecedented step of publicizing operational orders given by Minister of Defense Humberto Ortega to forces operating along



Victims of U.S.-backed "contras." As Sandinista army has pushed *contra* terrorists back, Honduras and Costa Rica have created border provocations.

the southern border. A June 6 communiqué reported that Ortega "in direct communication with the troops advancing along the San Juan River, has warned them about enemy plans for provocations, and reiterated to our troops the order to con-

tinue their advance in keeping with the plans charted by the general staff of the EPS, maintaining at all times absolute respect for [the inviolability] of Costa Rican territory, which is violated by the mercenaries in keeping with CIA plans."

## Former *contra* leader reports terror

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Mass terror is the policy of the U.S.-financed and trained mercenaries attacking Nicaragua, according to a top counterrevolutionary commander who recently defected.

Efrén Mondragón, who had been commander of the José Dolores Regional Command of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the main CIA-organized mercenary group, returned to Nicaragua May 7. In an extensive interview with *Barricada*, the daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, he described the rapes, torture, and assassinations carried out by Washington's counterrevolution-

aries, called *contras*.

Ten years ago, Mondragón had been recruited to the National Guard of then-Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza. Following Somoza's overthrow in 1979, he joined the ex-guardsmen who regrouped and were organized by the CIA into mercenary bands.

Mondragón planted the explosives that blew up the Río Negro bridge in Nicaragua in 1982. This was one of the first major *contra* attacks.

He watched as hundreds of murdered Nicaraguan peasants were buried in mass graves in Honduras. He saw peasants burned alive in a gold mine in San Judas, Honduras, that belonged to a *contra* sympathizer. He described *contra* troops playing cards to win the right to rape each other's women prisoners.

The *contras* even assassinated those within their own ranks who spoke out against the terror. Disputes over how to divide up the CIA funds flowing to the mercenaries led to more murders. FDN chiefs Adolfo Calero and Enrique Bermúdez or-

dered the murder of Mondragón's own brother, for example.

Mondragón said he once went to Calero to see if the terror and mass murders could be "moderated."

Calero replied, "You're crazy."

Mondragón said that thousands of kidnapped peasants, intended for use as cannon fodder in the *contra* bands, have thrown down their arms and escaped. "The *contra* forces lack the moral principles to triumph," he concluded, "above all due to their abuses, since they are finally earning the repudiation of the peasants."

Meanwhile the June 11 *New York Times* reported, "Two Democratic Congressmen said today that the Government was withholding a visa for a former Nicaraguan rebel leader [Mondragón] to influence the debate in Congress over aid to the insurgents." The White House is asking for \$27 million in nonmilitary aid to the *contras*. Mondragón had been scheduled to appear at a June 10 news conference.

## Sandinista army pushes back *contras*

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Sandinista People's Army (EPS) is waging what is clearly the largest military campaign yet in the four-year war against U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionaries. Relying primarily on its elite Irregular Warfare Battalions (BLIs), the revolutionary armed forces are carrying out sizable offensives in three major theaters of operation: in the north of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega provinces bordering Honduras; in the south of Río San Juan Province, bordering Costa Rica; and in an extensive but scarcely populated region in the center of the country that includes parts of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Boaco, Chontales, and Zelaya provinces, several thousand square miles all told.

The strength of the Sandinista People's Army campaign appears to have thwarted a threatened offensive by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the main *contra* group, which was to have begun in June.

The launching of the coordinated EPS offensive was marked by driving *contras* out of the heights north and northeast of Ocotal, the capital of Nueva Segovia Province, during the second half of March.

Following this defeat, the counterrevolutionaries tried to re-infiltrate further east. There was heavy fighting in the easternmost tip of Nueva Segovia Province bordering Honduras, and further east in Jinotega Province. The CIA forces suffered substantial casualties as they tried to cross into Nicaragua and were surprised by

Continued on Page 11

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# 'No dialogue with criminals'

## Sandinista leader Tomás Borge explains who 'contras' are

The following is an excerpt of a speech given by Sandinista Commander Tomás Borge at an April 26 meeting in Managua to commemorate the fourth anniversary of revolutionary vigilance, the system of community patrols organized in each neighborhood by the Sandinista Defense Committees.

This section of the speech is entitled, "With these criminals they want us to have a dialogue." It is taken from the April 28 issue of *Barricada*, the Sandinista National Liberation Front's (FSLN) daily newspaper published in Managua. The translation is by the *Militant*.

It is clear that Reagan has proposed to enter the annals of history as the "peacemaker" of our times. Just like Somoza, the "peacemaker" of Las Segovias [refers to 1934 massacre of Sandino's army]. Everything he touches, does, and says is preceded by the word "peace." The MX missiles are "Peacekeepers." The U.S. marines that invaded Lebanon were presented as a "peace force." He calls the plan to undo the revolution and plunge Nicaragua into darkness and blood a "peace plan."

Peace, for Reagan, means death. Peace, for Reagan, means humiliation, giving up sovereignty, political submission, callosities on the knees.

For the Nicaraguan people, peace means respect for our national dignity; peace signifies respect; peace signifies stopping the aggression. We are going to defend this peace with our blood, with taut muscles, with eyes open wider than the horizon, grasping guns, and conscious.

These are people who do not know the meaning of fear, who have raised their battle flags, whose only slogan is courage and unwavering defense of their flag, their rivers, their land, their life, their sun, and their stars.

Those who want to humiliate us and enslave us will first have to crush us, all our bones, one by one, and spill our blood drop by drop.

### U.S. imperialists' attacks

Reagan's attack against the revolution is an all-sided plan that fights the revolution on all fronts — the military field, the ideological arena, the economic aspect, the political plane, and the psychological level. It is like the five fingers of a claw crushing what is not to its liking. He has power and sufficient resources to maintain the five fronts.

Why will this small, backward, and poor country cause him such headaches, so many sleepless nights, endless meetings with his advisers, and even confrontations

with his own Congress and allied countries?

As far as I know, we do not have submarines or nuclear missiles, and it is not our intention to invade the United States nor our purpose to cause Reagan migraines. Mr. Reagan calmly goes so far as to compare his counterrevolutionary sons with Simón Bolívar, Lafayette, George Washington, and the fighters of the French resistance. [Bolívar was a leader of the revolutionary upsurge throughout Latin America against Spanish colonialism in the last century. Lafayette was a French fighter in the American revolution against British rule.]

You need guts; you need to be the architect of antihistory to say that CIA agent Adolfo Calero is the liberator Simón Bolívar of the present epoch! What nerve these imperialist gentlemen have!

Is there perhaps something in common between Bermúdez and George Washington? Between General Sucre [one of the liberators of South America] and Benito Bravo [a former National Guardsman who is currently a leader of the *contras*].

What similarities are there between the first president of the United States, who fought against the British crown to obtain independence, and the "cop" López, former lieutenant of the National Guard, the chief of the "Federico" patrol that murdered peasants in the north of the country?

Perhaps if you cannot compare him to the first president of the United States, you could compare him to that country's last president [Ronald Reagan].

Reagan wants us to have a dialogue. That's fine, we also want to have a dialogue. But we want to talk with those who really can stop the aggression, not to those who obey their orders. We want to talk to the one who gives the orders, not those who receive them.

They claim that we should talk with the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force, an armed counterrevolutionary band], a body made up of officials of the Somozaist Guard. Despite the costly publicity campaign they initiated in recent weeks, trying to show what cannot be shown — that the FDN has nothing to do with the Somozaist Guard — the reality of the facts has been more unassailable and categorical than their propaganda.

It is true that in the ranks of the FDN there are peasants, enrolled by force or persuaded by fraud. But it is undeniable that the brain and the spinal cord, the central axis of the FDN, is the Somozaist National Guard.

### Who are the *contras*?

Who is the true leader? Ronald Reagan. Who is the apparent commander-in-

chief? Adolfo Calero, CIA agent since 1961.

Who is head of its high command? Enrique Bermúdez, colonel of the former National Guard, participant in the imperialist invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965. From the moment that Colonel Bermúdez entered the military academy in 1948 as cadet number 380, he renounced his right to be Nicaraguan.

Seven of the seven members of the high command of the FDN are from the National Guards. The person in charge of personnel, the person in charge of intelligence, of operations, of logistics, of transportation, of communications. All of them are ex-officers of the Somozaist Guard. They want us to have a dialogue with these people.

Until a few weeks ago, the head of counterintelligence of the FDN was the former National Guard officer Ricardo Lau Castillo, who had to be rapidly replaced when it became publicly known that he killed Bishop Arnulfo [Oscar] Romero in El Salvador [in 1980]. Now they have replaced him with ex-major Donald Torres. This is who they want us to have a dialogue with.

Eight of the nine regional command units of the FDN are led by ex-members of the National Guard, almost all from the EEBI [Basic Infantry Training School, an elite force in Somoza's National Guard], the majority also decorated or promoted in 1979, before their defeat, for their great "exploits" massacring the people for Somoza. This is who they want us to have a dialogue with.

Pablo Emilio Echaverry, who was in the special services of the command unit of the National Guard and who planned the taking of Jalapa in his operation called "hammer and anvil," and when it failed put into practice operation "exodus" that involved kidnapping peasants and the forced recruitment to the counterrevolutionary ranks. They want us to have a dialogue with this murderer.

Armando López Ibarguen, chief of logistics of the FDN high command. A member of the National Guard since August 1957. He murdered Favio and Laura Urbina, Alfredo Lumbí and Santos Ruíz in 1976. With this heartless one, they want us to have a dialogue.

José Benito Bravo Centeno, head of a regional command unit [of the *contras*]. He joined the National Guard in 1956, and he also participated in the invasion of the Dominican Republic. In 1979, while in the EEBI, as a reward for his crimes, he received the medal of merit. He was the bodyguard of Julio Somoza Portocarrero [one of Anastasio Somoza's sons]. With this guardsman they want us to have a dialogue.



Militant/José G. Pérez  
Commander of the Revolution Tomás Borge

José Francisco Ruíz Castellón (Renato) head of a regional command unit [of the *contras*]. Assigned to the EEBI since joining the National Guard and promoted to lieutenant in 1979 for "services rendered." With this torturer they want us to have a dialogue.

Roger Francisco Sandino Villagra, head of the operations base BL-3 Ariel [a *contra* base]. He joined the National Guard in 1966. In 1976 he operated in Waslala zone. He completed a course in military intelligence at the U.S. military base in the [Panama] Canal Zone. With this cop they want us to have a dialogue.

Ramón Bonifacio Castellón Villalobos, head of a Task Force. He joined that National Guard in 1967. He took courses in the Canal Zone and in El Salvador. He was responsible for many murders in the hills of Bilambí and Varillal Mountain, the Ceiba area north of Jinotega. In 1979, he was promoted to captain and they awarded him the medal of merit. With this brother in crime of Chigüin [nickname for Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, son of the dictator], they want us to have a dialogue.

Walter Saúl Calderón López, head of armaments for tactical operations for the FDN. He joined the National Guard in 1973. Since joining he was assigned to the EEBI. In May 1979 he was promoted to lieutenant and placed in the General Somoza Battalion [an elite battalion of the National Guard].

Félix Alcides Espinoza, also former lieutenant in the National Guard who led the massacre at San Francisco del Norte, where they murdered 17 peasants and kidnapped many others and took them to Honduras.

### With criminals there can't be dialogue

With these killers, who are truly responsible for the tremendous rivers of blood and tears, they want us to have a dialogue.

They want us to sit down and smoke a peace pipe with them and almost ask us to share bread and wine with them.

We are going to talk with them when these gentlemen from COSEP [Executive Council of Private Enterprise] tell us exactly how many grains of sand are in the sea and how many stars there are in the sky, and the day that they finish counting it we will then count two more times and afterwards we will think many times before giving them an answer.

What would we talk with these murderers about when they do not even have their own political blueprint?

A dialogue with Alfonso Callejas Deshón, who during Somoza's dictatorship was vice-president of the republic?

What does Reagan really want when he says we must have talks with the *contras*?

To talk with them would mean giving them a legitimacy that they do not have, recognizing them as a national political force. It would mean that we forget who they are, that we lose sight of their strategic objective — to destroy the Sandinista People's Revolution and return Nicaragua to its neocolonial condition.

If we were to agree to a dialogue, that would be the beginning of a series of concessions that would ultimately lead to handing over the revolutionary power, the people's power.

With these people, there is no possible dialogue. They knew what they were doing, they had plenty of time to reflect upon their actions. They even had time to repent. They chose to subjugate the people, to murder, to oppress. With them there is no possible dialogue.

## 'IP' on Ghana's fight against imperialism

Ghana, the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to win its independence from colonial rule, is again experiencing major political upheavals. Ever since a group of anti-imperialist and left-wing soldiers and political activists seized power on Dec. 31, 1981, Ghana has been swept by the most massive popular mobilizations in its history.

The June 24 *Intercontinental Press* begins a three-part series on the anti-imperialist struggle in Ghana today, written by managing editor Ernest Harsch following a visit to that country in March.

The series describes the intolerable living conditions and intense imperialist oppression that have driven the Ghanaian people to rise up. It examines the progressive steps taken by the new government, headed by Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, including foreign policy measures and the formation of mass-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

But the revolutionary process in

Ghana also faces serious difficulties: an acute economic crisis, imperialist pressures, and attacks by counterrevolutionaries.

This issue of *IP* also includes a major speech by Nicaraguan leader Tomás Borge to the Sandinista Defense Committees.

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# Bosses cry poverty in ILGWU contract talks

BY NAN BAILEY

NEW YORK — Negotiations continue in the contract talks between International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 23-25 and the New York Skirt and Sportswear Association and the National Association of Blouse Manufacturers.

Twenty-six thousand ILGWU 23-25 members have been working without a contract since May 31.

Garment bosses have called the union's demands unreasonable and unrealistic. The union has raised eight demands in the talks: a wage increase; greater employer contributions to the Health and Welfare Benefits Fund; an additional holiday; additional bereavement time off; compensation by employers when workers are on jury duty; changes in the method of calculating cost-of-living adjustments; compensation to shop representatives for attending union meetings; and paid sick leave.

The 23-25 contract is the first of a series of contracts that will be negotiated between the ILGWU and garment bosses nationwide over the next several months.

Eli Elias, president of the New York Skirt and Sportswear Association, voiced the employers' objections to union demands when contract talks opened April 20. "Your demands have to be more realistic," Elias told the union. "I'd like to meet a manufacturer who can afford to give you another holiday."

Many union members are correctly suspicious of the bosses' cry of poverty. Profit figures for many garment manufacturers are hard to come by. However, national industry leader Levi Strauss, for example, reported a 1983 profit (the most recent figures available) of more than \$194 million dollars. This leading sportswear company, which manufactures blue jeans and other garments, is organized by the ILGWU in some parts of the country. Levi Strauss also reported a growth rate of over 32 percent for the period between 1973 and 1983, making it the number three U.S. manufacturer in the United States in terms of growth rate.

In response to the bosses' stand, the ILGWU 23-25 executive council has formed the "Committee to Defend the Union Contract." It is urging local members to join this committee and be prepared to act to fight the bosses to meet the union's demands. A similar committee was formed by the local during the last contract negotiations three years ago. It sponsored a series of mass protests in New York involving thousands of union members to demand that New York contractors in Chinatown sign a contract with the union. The union scored a victory in that fight when the contractors were eventually forced to sign.

Union members are awaiting further word from the executive council on plans for the committee's activities. Most members are getting word on progress of the

contract talks through informal discussions in the shops. The last local membership meeting was held March 27, before the contract negotiations began. It outlined and approved the demands that the union would take into the talks.

A union information center has been opened in New York's Chinatown to answer members' questions about progress of the contract talks. A majority of 23-25 members are concentrated in Chinatown. In a letter to union members announcing formation of the committee, 23-25 manager-secretary Edgar Romney urged members to visit the information center to raise their questions and concerns about the contract talks.

*Nan Bailey is a sewing machine operator in New York City and a member of ILGWU Local 23-25.*



Militant  
ILGWU Local 23-25 members demonstrating during 1982 strike to force garment bosses in Chinatown to sign contract.

## 1,000 workers arrested in INS raids

BY PAM BURCHETT

LOS ANGELES — One thousand workers here were rounded up and arrested the first week of June by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in a series of factory raids code named "Operation Emphor."

In addition to raids at nearly a dozen fac-

tories making everything from door frames to bedspreads, the INS also rounded up workers at a street corner where workers who are available for day labor gather.

Of the thousand arrested, a number were released on bail pending a hearing on their status. But the vast majority found themselves detained for 10 to 20 hours and

dumped in Tijuana, Mexico, with literally only the clothes on their back and the money they had on them at the time of the arrest.

The racist edge to this campaign was obvious in both television and newspaper coverage of the raids. Light-skinned and blond workers were neither stopped nor asked for papers. As one worker put it, "They only ask the 'Mexican-looking' ones." One Chicano worker interviewed expressed outrage at being arrested despite his telling the INS agents he was a citizen. In one of the major Los Angeles dailies, an article blaming increased crime in San Diego County on "illegal aliens" was run side by side with accounts of the daily raids.

Details are not yet available on all of the shops raided, but at least one was union organized. More than half the workers at Manny Industries, one of the largest garment shops organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), were hauled off June 6 after dozens of armed INS agents surrounded the factories and sealed off all exits.

The ILGWU sent its attorney and several business agents to the factory to advise union members of their rights and accompany the workers to the detention center. According to the INS regional commissioner, Harold Ezell, the purpose of the week-long factory sweep was to "see that jobs now being held by illegal aliens are made available to citizens." But like the INS "Project Jobs" three years ago that resulted in the arrest of more than 6,000 workers, the new raids and deportations will not solve the problems of unemployment, nor are they intended to.

The fact is that certain industries in Los Angeles — primarily furniture, electronics, and garment — are consciously based on immigrant labor working in sweatshop conditions that most U.S. workers are not ready to accept. The precarious legal status of immigrant workers puts them in a difficult position to protest chronic violations of minimum-wage, health, and safety laws. The employers and the INS have no intention of changing this.

In response to the raids, officials from the ILGWU will appear at a press conference along with representatives from several other local unions, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Steelworkers, and United Auto Workers, to protest the INS actions. Representatives of several Mexican-American rights organizations and immigrant and refugee groups have also agreed to participate. The press conference will be followed by a picket line at the immigration courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. An ongoing coalition to protest factory raids and deportation is projected.

*Pam Burchett is a member of ILGWU Local 482 and works at Manny Industries.*

## Farm workers protest attacks

Continued from front page

since he was eight years old, said, "it is necessary to be united so that the growers see that we're organized. We'll stop marching when the growers listen to us."

One young worker explained how the growers were attempting to gut the gains the UFW had won. He said the growers are not paying travel time to and from the fields, stand-by time when machinery breaks down, and are not allowing bathroom breaks. The growers are also cutting wages by increasing the amount that must be picked to make piece rate. A crate of broccoli, for example was counted full when it was packed to the top of the crate. Now growers only count crates as full when they are packed eight inches over the top.

Farm workers explained that in addition to these attacks and the drastic unemployment in the fields, many growers are following the lead of Sun Harvest. This farm closed down last year and then reopened under a new name, Sun World, as a nonunion farm.

Former Sun Harvest workers are waging a struggle for the union, including picketing area supermarkets as part of the UFW

boycott of Chiquita Bananas. Chiquita Bananas has been targeted because it is the major product of United Brands, the parent company of Sun World.

Although the march occurred without incident, the growers did harass the protesters and attempted to provoke farm workers and supporters. A helicopter spraying pesticides over the fields buzzed the march several times. Later as the march approached Watsonville, two huge tractor-tillers were driven at high speed and recklessly close to the marchers. One driver, recognized as a local grower, jumped from the tractor and tried to provoke a fight. In answer to these attacks the marchers chanted "Rancheros escucha, el pueblo está de lucha" (growers listen, the people are fighting back.) César Chávez later pointed to these incidents as examples of the hate and racism against the farm workers' struggle.

After the march, Chávez spoke at an outdoor rally at Watsonville High School. He called for support for the UFW's national table-grape boycott as part of their campaign to pressure vineyard growers for decent contracts and counteract the big attacks on the union by California agribusiness.

Chávez also aimed his fire at Governor Deukmejian and the Agriculture Labor Relations Board (ALRB). He cited statistics that showed that the ALRB, formed under the Agriculture Labor Relations Act in 1975 to protect farm workers' collective bargaining rights, was a "fraud and a joke." Seven thousand farm workers, he said, have yet to see a penny of the hundred million dollars owed to them by growers in suits won under the ALRB. These farm workers are either simply never paid or become tied up in an endless appeal process in the courts.

Chávez ended his speech saying, "they abuse us because we are Mexican. But we aren't the same as before. They should be careful," he stated, "if they really want a fight, they've got one."

Within minutes, socialist workers who participated in the farm-workers march sold dozens of *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials*, the Spanish-language biweekly. Farm workers were anxious to discuss the U.S.-organized mercenary war against Nicaragua. Several members of the UFW asked about the possibility of going on tours to Nicaragua.

Some farm workers, when told about the recent attack on the Socialist Bookstore in San Jose, carried out by a group of right-wing Vietnamese thugs, offered to come to help defend the bookstore from further attacks.

## Mass. ACTWU members fight back

Continued from front page

on strike. The union is demanding a \$1.50 per hour raise over three years.

The *Militant* visited the picket lines at Justin Clothing in New Bedford. The 350 workers in the plant make men's suits. About 20 picketers were chanting, "No contract, no work". The picket line has been maintained 24 hours a day, and the plant is completely shut down. Nobody has crossed the line, and members of the Teamsters union who work for United Parcel Service and other trucking firms have refused to make deliveries.

On Sunday, June 2, the workers had authorized the strike by a 265-15 vote. The workers at Justin are members of ACTWU Local 377. While we were on the picket line, a union staffer delivered the daily strike bulletin. The bulletin is printed in both English and Portuguese. Union meetings are held in both languages, too. The workers estimate that 90 percent of the workforce is made up of Portuguese immigrants or Portuguese-Americans.

The bulletin is important in maintaining contact, since the union is picketing five different plants in two cities. It included quotes from various picketers on information about the national and local negotiations, and a summary of the union's de-

mands. From the Portuguese side of the leaflet, "We want a contract that won't vary from day to day and won't turn back wages and won't allow practices that favor the bosses."

On the picket line we were joined by a group of workers who are closely following the ACTWU strike. Next door to Justin's is Manly Manufacturing, a garment shop organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) and covered by the national outerwear contract, which also expired on June 1. It was lunchtime, so the ILGWU members came out to talk to the ACTWU strikers and to show their solidarity. Gil Andrade, president of ILGWU Local 361, told the *Militant* that they had been working on an extension of their contract, but that a strike vote had been set for Wednesday, June 12. We were encouraged to go to that meeting to talk with the ILGWU workers.

Nationally the ACTWU and ILGWU contracts expiring this summer cover some 150,000 workers. These are among the lowest paid factory workers in the country.

The strike bulletin quoted one striker at the Bradley Scott Plant in Fall River, "We have worked hard for what we have and we are not giving up now."

Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$3.00 for 6 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.



# GE contract negotiations: bosses press 13 u

BY DON GUREWITZ

BOSTON — Mid-1985 to mid-1986 is the time for major contract negotiations in the electrical-electronic industry. Negotiations are currently under way in New York between the owners of General Electric Co. and the 13 unions that represent 75,000 GE workers around the country. Negotiations between these same unions — representing 30,000 workers — and Westinghouse Electric Corp. opened June 4 near Pittsburgh. Negotiations with Sperry-Rand, RCA, GTE Sylvania, North American Phillips Lamp Division, and White Westinghouse will follow.

Traditionally, the GE contract, which expires June 30, sets the pace for the entire industry. GE is the largest electrical manufacturing company in the world, with 330,000 employees in 24 countries.

Although GE had made spectacular profits over the life of the last contract — over \$9 billion after taxes between 1981 and 1984 — a barrage of company propaganda has made it clear that GE has every intention of forcing the most unfavorable terms possible down the throats of its work force. As the union relations manager at GE's Lynn, Massachusetts, plant said in a recent issue of the *GE News*, "We must be careful not to get hung up on catch words like takeaways. . . . Both pay and benefits must be periodically adjusted to keep them competitive." Or as GE's chief negotiator William Angel put it in another issue of *GE News*, "The wage package [in the last contract] turned out to be on the high side and has ended our competitive position. . . . In 1985 negotiations, the impact of the 1982-85 contract on our business is a factor that must be considered."

## 50 percent of work force organized

GE workers know exactly what this company propaganda means. They are anxiously following the negotiations and discussing out the same issues as workers in other industries: takebacks, two-tier contracts, plant closings, automation, company intransigence, and the weakness of the unions. As the contract deadline approaches, the discussions will undoubtedly intensify, and they are important for the whole labor movement.

Of GE's 150,000 U.S. workers, just under 50 percent are represented by unions. The largest is the International Union of Electronic workers (IUE) with 50,000 GE members. Next is the United Electrical workers (UE) with about 5,000 GE workers. The UE is not affiliated to the AFL-CIO. The remaining GE union members belong to the International Association of Machinists, United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Firemen and Oilers, Sheet Metal Workers, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, Carpenters, Flint Glass Workers, and Allied Industrial Workers — all affiliated to the AFL-CIO — and the independent Teamsters.

The unions bargain under a system known as the Coordinated Bargaining Council of GE and Westinghouse Unions (CBC). AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland is the chair of CBC, which includes 11

AFL-CIO unions. IUE president William Bywater chairs the CBC Steering Committee, which also includes the independent UE and Teamsters unions.

The CBC is an important tool for electrical-industry workers. Before its inception in 1966, the electrical companies were able to treat the 13 unions with complete contempt and intransigence because the unions were so divided. It took a 101-day strike in 1969 to force the company to bargain seriously with the CBC. Today the CBC unions plan joint demands and strategy, although they still negotiate individually. The IUE and UE conduct the initial pace-setting negotiations with GE, and the IUE, UE, and IBEW do the same with Westinghouse, the other industry giant. Collaboration between unions is maintained by a system of joint planning committees and by sitting in on each others' negotiating committees.

In this year's negotiations, GE is maintaining its traditional approach of refusing to make a serious offer until the last week of negotiations.

The IUE's negotiating committee will meet July 1, one day after the contract expires, to make recommendations to the full IUE GE Conference Board. The Conference Board will meet the next day to prepare recommendations to union locals. The local members have one week — including the July 4 weekend — to discuss and then vote on the contract July 9. All members are entitled to vote, but the national tally is counted local by local. Each local's vote is weighted by its size.

## What the unions are demanding

The unions have targeted the protection of existing jobs — what they call job security — as their number one demand. Between 1981 and 1984, GE reduced its worldwide work force from 404,000 to 330,000 workers. Most of the job losses were in the United States.

One reason for the reduction of union membership is that GE has shifted more and more work to new, smaller, nonunion plants — especially in rural areas and in the South.

Other union-leadership goals include major improvements in wages and benefits based on GE's high profits in the past few years.

In particular, the union leaders have targeted pension plans for major improvements. They feel that substantially higher pensions and an earlier retirement age would help make way for younger workers. They feel that GE is particularly vulnerable on this issue. There is currently over \$11 billion in the company-controlled pension fund, and it pays out annually only one half the interest to retirees. Some retirees get as little as \$69.00 a month because there are no cost-of-living allowances added to their checks.

The union leadership's stance is that there will be no concessions to GE, despite early hints in company propaganda that they will demand them — especially in the area of health benefits. GE, union officials point out, cannot cry poverty as other corporations have done in order to impose a

takeback contract.

The profits of GE's owners have climbed every year since at least 1972, including during recessions. In fact, from 1972 to 1984, GE's profits rose a spectacular 298 percent, reaching \$2.28 billion in 1984. Profits in 1984 were up 13 percent from the year before and big-business analysts predict 1985 profits will be up at least 10 percent. Profits per employee rose from \$4,000 to \$7,000 between 1981 and 1984.

Part of these profits went for salary increases for GE executives. GE board chairman Jack Welch, for example, was paid a cool \$2,831,000 in 1983; \$1,158,000 was his base salary, and the rest was longterm compensation. In 1984, Welch's base salary was raised another 16 percent.

No wonder GE workers feel they're entitled to improvements all across the board.

Most workers are apprehensive about their ability to make gains in these negotiations. They are aware of the antilabor offensive by the bosses and recall that the 1982-85 contract was negotiated under similar circumstances. While there were no major givebacks then, there were also no real gains. Under that contract, GE workers' real wages have eroded somewhat, and GE has been able to pull ahead unhampered in its drive to reduce jobs and speed up the remaining work force.

## GE's vast empire

GE is a multinational corporation. The owners have a long history of hostility to trade unions. They are direct descendants of the J.P. Morgan fortune. Morgan operated a war industry during the American Civil War that sold obsolete rifles to the Northern army at six times their cost.

Today, GE is affiliated with three of the world's largest banks, including the Morgan Guaranty Trust, First National City Bank of New York, and Chase Manhattan. It ranks number 11 in the world in total assets, with a staggering \$24.7 billion — more than that of many countries.

GE is number one in the world as a producer of lighting products, electric motors, steam and gas turbines, drive systems for mining and oil-well drilling, and medical diagnostic imaging equipment. It is also a producer of home appliances, plastics, locomotives, and a host of other commodities. It is a world leader in factory automation, and sells not only the hardware but also the software for computerized factory operations. They also run the largest diversified finance company in the United States.

GE's international operations accounted for over 27 percent of its 1984 revenues of \$27.9 billion. It is one of the top 10 international investors in and beneficiaries from the racist South African apartheid system. It was one of the first U.S. corporations to profit from the CIA's overthrow of the Chilean government of Salvador Allende in 1973. The Pinochet military dictatorship immediately returned to GE the light-bulb factory that the Allende government had taken because of the slave wages and working conditions GE had imposed on the workers.

GE is also this country's fourth largest war contractor, with fully 20 percent of its business in military hardware. It makes aircraft engines, missile-launch systems, guidance systems, and power plants for submarines. It is deeply involved in the nuclear industry — military and commercial. Some 65,000 GE workers work in war production.

## Layoffs and plant closings

GE has been on an aggressive corporate campaign in recent years to reorganize and rationalize its many businesses in order to squeeze more profits from its work force. Board chairman Welch has set the goal of either making GE number one or two in each business it operates, or liquidating the business. This had led to the sale of over 155 properties in over 40 businesses — almost all of them profitable — just in the last three years. It has also led to the shutting down of over 70 additional plants, which helps explain why the GE work force has declined 17 percent in just three years.

The huge GE plants in Louisville, Kentucky, and Schenectady, New York, for instance, have seen their work forces cut almost in half — at the same time that production has increased.

## Factory automation and speedup

Factory automation is the other side of GE's drive to rationalize its operations in order to raise profits. It is developing, manufacturing, and marketing computerized factory-automation systems, and it is using its own factories as laboratories. GE invested \$2.5 billion in upgrading plants and equipment, and another \$2.3 billion for research and development in 1984 alone. The result is that direct computer-driven machine tools, robots, and automated paperwork systems have enabled GE to cut jobs drastically and raise production in the massive Erie, Pennsylvania, locomotive plant and the Louisville appliance plants.

The company also uses automation to speed up and crack down on the workers. In the huge Lynn aircraft plant, for instance, computer hookups to all the machine tools in some areas allow the foremen to monitor the activities of workers on a continuous basis while sitting in their booths. When a worker's machine stops, for example, the computer asks the worker why, and instantaneously flashes the answer on a screen in the foreman's booth.

Recently the Lynn plant got a lot of national attention when members of the IUE local there voted two-to-one to approve work-rule concessions demanded by GE as a precondition for building an experimental, fully automated "factory of the future." The big-business press hailed the agreement as a new sign of union-company cooperation in taking U.S. manufacturing into the 21st century. Local 201 members saw it differently. Their agreement to concessions came only after a tremendous pressure and blackmail campaign by GE, including the threat to build the new plant in some nonunion location and to begin disinvesting in the Lynn plant.

Some union members feel there is not much to be done to fight concessions until the Democrats are reelected to the presidency. But in Massachusetts, Democrats joined Republicans in support of GE. Michael Dukakis, the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, issued GE a special commendation when the company succeeded in forcing Local 201 members in Lynn to accept a 42-hour workweek and other concessions for the "factory of the future." These concessions include:

- Workers in the prototype, experimental factory will work 12 hours a day, 42 hours a week, with no premium pay for Saturdays and Sundays.
- Most job classifications will be eliminated and consolidated into two or three classifications in order to force workers to handle more job operations for less money.
- For the first time in the Lynn plant, workers being paid on an hourly basis (as opposed to piece work) will have to work to company-set productivity standards.

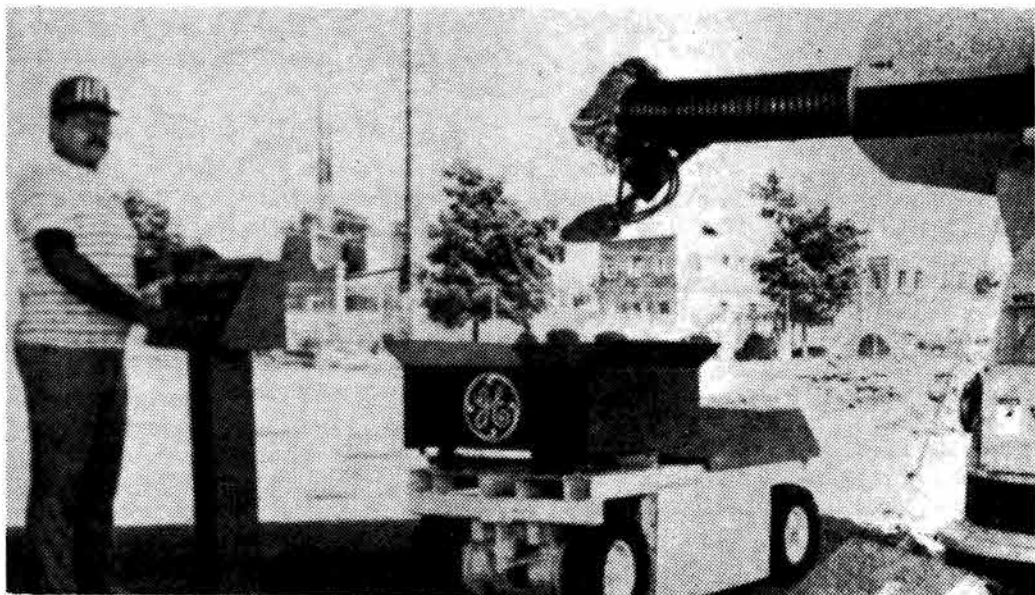
## The GE-Pentagon connection

The Lynn plant also exposes another aspect of GE's power: its connections with the Pentagon. Much of the company's automation is funded by the Pentagon, which pays for a lot of the research and also buys and leases from GE a high percentage of its machinery and tools. And of course, it guarantees GE outrageous profits at tax payers' expense because of padded, multi-billion-dollar military contracts.

Because of GE's ties to the military, workers are constantly bombarded by propaganda extolling the virtues of every new weapons system, while emphasizing "national defense" and the need to stand up to the "communist threat."

GE is notorious for wrapping itself in the American flag as a cover for its antilabor policies at home and abroad. As far back as the 1950s, Ronald Reagan was hired by GE to tour its plants to give phony, patriotic pep talks to workers to try to convince them that unionism was un-American.

GE's patriotic bluster is not just aimed at promoting fat military contracts for itself. It is also aimed at pressuring workers to



IUE News

IUE Local 201 shop steward Kris Czarnecki testing robot for new "factory of the future" in Lynn, Massachusetts. GE used threat to build factory in different area of country to pressure Local 201 members into accepting major concessions.



# nions for takebacks

work harder, be more productive, and accept less as part of the effort to "keep America strong." The truth is that military spending is not intended to protect U.S. workers, but to support the Washington-organized war against the workers and farmers of Nicaragua. It is designed to defend the right of U.S. corporations like GE to make superprofits by investing in emicolonial countries with the full backing of U.S. governmental and military power.

Recently GE has been hit by a rash of indictments and investigations for cheating on government contracts. The most notorious has been the indictment, and subsequent guilty plea by GE, for its Philadelphia ICBM plant having falsified employee time cards to bilk the government out of \$800,000. GE was suspended from bidding on new government contracts for three weeks, during which time they were awarded two new contracts anyway in the name of "overriding national defense needs." Many people see these wrist slaps as nothing more than government moves to convince the public that the bloated defense budget is being trimmed as much as possible. But there is another side. GE is using the phony government crackdown as an excuse for a very real crackdown on GE workers.

The head of GE's Aircraft Engine Group in Lynn, Brian Rowe, recently wrote a letter to company employees blaming workers for high costs. The letter warned workers "Now we can complain about that ... or threaten to go on strike ... but that kind of reaction just makes the customer mad."

## Attacks on workers

All around the country, GE workers are feeling the effects of speedup, increased management harassment, absentee crack-downs, so-called worker-involvement groups designed to undermine union strength, and a host of other antiworker measures that GE claims are dictated by customer demands — especially from the Pentagon.

In Lynn, for example, GE tried to unilaterally institute an Absence Review Board to crack down on absenteeism, even though GE workers receive only two paid sick days a year. One worker died and another was hospitalized when they gave in to the pressure to come to work despite severe medical problems.

Of course GE workers are not passively accepting the company's offensive. Last February, for example, 6,000 UAW members walked off the job at GE's aircraft plant in Evandale, Ohio, to protest the company's farming out of union jobs. Many Evandale workers felt, however, that stepped-up company harassment following the Pentagon audit, which had found serious problems in the plant, had brought matters to a boiling point. The UAW's week-long picket lines were respected by the 1,000 AM members who also work in the plant.

In March, 2,800 workers at GE's Pittsfield, Massachusetts, plant staged two walkouts protesting management pressure on the work force. Walkouts occurred over similar issues in September, 1984, at GE's

Wilmington and Everett, Massachusetts, plants and again last month at GE's Lynn turbine plant.

Also in Lynn, after months of debate during which the company tried to manipulate the vote, IUE Local 201 voted overwhelmingly to suspend its involvement in GE's Quality Circle (worker-involvement group) program because it could be used by the company for propaganda during contract negotiations.

## CBC's approach to contract

IUE officials are trying to utilize growing worker resentment at GE's offensive to prepare for the contract fight. Rallies have been held at all the major IUE-organized GE plants. International union officers, including president Bywater, have come to explain their approach to the contract. At these rallies, Bywater and other national, district, and local officials have hammered away at GE's profits and the union's determination to resist takebacks and push for substantial increases all along the line.

One of the more militant rallies was at the Lynn plant. It took the form of a two-hour strike. All 8,500 union members walked off the job and some 2,000 rallied in front of the plant. When they returned to work, spirits and expectations were running quite high on the shop floor.

It is clear that workers at GE are anxious about the contract. We know we deserve more but are up against a tough company with powerful antiunion supporters backing them up in the Pentagon and government.

The power of our union has been eroding since the end of World War II, when 86 percent of all GE workers in the United States were organized in one union. Today less than 50 percent of GE workers in this country are unionized, and the organized



IUE News  
IUE members protesting against racist apartheid regime in South Africa. General Electric Co. is one of South Africa's largest international investors.

workers are fragmented into 13 different unions. The IUE itself has declined in membership some 12 percent in the last two years due to cutbacks.

Cooperating with the bosses and relying on capitalist politicians in the Democratic Party to save jobs and living conditions will not stop or even slow down the attacks workers are facing.

But IUE workers around the country are showing by anticcompany job actions and contract-support rallies that they are willing to fight for a decent contract.

When contract negotiations began May 14, IUE president Bywater made public what he called a partial list of union demands. It put strong emphasis on the need for early retirement, higher pensions, and other job-security improvements. Also mentioned were wages, cost of living language, insurance, and union security.

These and other issues are being discussed by GE workers as we approach our contract deadline. But if we are to halt takebacks and begin to win some victories, labor needs to develop a fighting strategy based on uniting all working people against employer-government attacks. This includes reaching out to potential allies in the Black and Latino communities, and among working farmers.

Should GE try to force a takeback contract down the throats of the workers, a united response by the 13 unions involved, backed by the active solidarity of the entire union movement and labor's allies, will be essential to turn back the attack. Such unity and solidarity can be organized.

Don Gurewitz is a machinist at GE's Lynn aircraft plant and a member of IUE Local 201.

## Black trade unionists meet in Philadelphia

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

PHILADELPHIA — Close to 900 members and supporters registered here May 24-27 for the 14th national convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). Participants came from 26 local chapters and represented many unions. Most prominent at the meeting were the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Communications Workers; and United Food and Commercial Workers. Women were a large and vocal part of the convention.

William Lucy, president of the CBTU, opened the convention and gave remarks on the problems facing Blacks and working people. "The unhappy fact is that we're dealing with a crisis," Lucy said. "Not just the crisis of a generation of Black youth being carelessly discarded, not just the crisis of a generation of Black adults who are victims of earlier hatreds. A crisis that goes right down to the roots of what this country's supposed to be all about."

Lucy pointed to attacks by the Reagan administration on busing to achieve school desegregation, affirmative action, and civil rights. He announced that the CBTU would be joining the city of Chicago in a court fight against the government's attempt to gut affirmative action quotas in hiring. The convention also passed a strongly worded resolution on the need for the labor movement to defend affirmative action.

## Active in Free South Africa Movement

Lucy also pointed to the very active role the CBTU has played in the efforts of the Free South Africa Movement and their struggle against the policies of the South African government. Many CBTU members have organized and participated in the demonstrations in front of South African consulates protesting apartheid and the U.S. government's support of the racist South Africa regime.

An entire convention session was devoted to the issue of South Africa. The film *Generations of Resistance* was shown, which documents the long struggle of

South African Blacks against the racist apartheid system.

Buzz Palmer, president of the Black Press Institute in Chicago, spoke at the South Africa workshop. He told of an important legal precedent set by anti-apartheid protesters in Chicago last January. After protesters were arrested in front of the South Africa consulate, they asked for and received a public, jury trial.

The jury was 10 whites and 2 Blacks. The five-day trial heard expert testimony from South African poet and activist Dennis Brutus and others on the brutal treatment of Blacks in South Africa.

The jury was convinced of the worthiness of the protest and the right to resist. They decided on a not guilty verdict. One juror even asked to join the next protest.

The main proposal from the CBTU South Africa workshop was to focus on support for a bill before Congress that is sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy and other Democratic senators. The CBTU endorses this bill, titled the Anti-apartheid Act of 1985. It would place limited restrictions on U.S. sales and investment in South Africa.

A second major convention session on political action took up the CBTU's ongoing participation and support for the election campaigns of various Democratic Party politicians.

## Discussion of Philadelphia bombing

With the convention being held in Philadelphia, the recent bombing of a Black community by the cops here was a big focus of informal discussion.

Philadelphia mayor W. Wilson Goode, who took responsibility for the bombing, was a guest speaker the first evening of the convention. Goode asked for understanding of his actions. His remarks provoked much discussion in the hallways and elevators that evening.

The next day, convention speaker Tony Harrison, political consultant from Washington, D.C., ended his remarks by saying, "The bomb was dropped on all of us, whether we want to believe it or not."

Harrison compared the bombing with

"what we saw in Vietnam." "It's a bad example for others," he said.

Harrison received a standing ovation for expressing the sentiments of the vast majority of convention participants.

Following Harrison's remarks, William Lucy presented a resolution from the CBTU Executive Council entitled "Protection of Black Life." The resolution condemned recent killings of Blacks by New York City cops and racist vigilante Bernhard Goetz. And in Philadelphia, the resolution said, "an entire city block was destroyed by fire and 11 Black lives, including four children, were lost when the police bombed a row house."

The resolution concluded that "this administration and this country must be put on notice that we, as a people, are committed to the protection of Black lives."

There was informal debate at the convention on the bombing. Some delegates, often from Philadelphia, continued to defend the bombing, while others, including others from Philadelphia, were angered and spoke out against it.

## NBIPP's participation

Among convention participants was a delegation from the National Black Independent Political Party. NBIPP members distributed more than 200 copies of a special edition of the NBIPP newsletter. The newsletter featured a statement protesting the bombing in Philadelphia and also extended greetings to the convention.

"We urge the African-American community around the country to lift our voices in outrage at the bombing of West Philadelphia. Progressive forces must unite and protest this outrage."

The final convention report came from the Women's Conference. The convention decided to encourage CBTU chapters to sponsor educational conferences on issues facing Black women.

A women's executive council was set up to organize regional committees for regional women's conferences. And a United Nations International Women's Conference paper will be presented in Nairobi, Kenya, under the name of the CBTU.

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# 'Cancel the debt— Crisis is political not technical problem'

## Castro interview on foreign debt

This is the sixth part in a series in the *Militant* in which we reprint the entire text of Cuban president Fidel Castro's major interview on Latin America's foreign debt. The first five parts can be found in the May 10, May 17, May 24, June 7, and June 14 issues of the *Militant*.

The interview with Castro was conducted by Regino Díaz on March 21 of this year for the Mexican daily *Excelsior*. It is entitled, "How Latin America's and the Third World's unpayable foreign debt can and should be canceled and the pressing need for a new economic order," and has been made available in English in a pamphlet published by the Cuban government.

Analyzing the crushing \$360 billion foreign debt saddled on the Latin American countries, Castro shows how the imperialist system works to rob the wealth of the semicolonial, underdeveloped economies, and how at the cost of human suffering and impoverishment, enormous wealth is taken from these countries to finance the advanced industrialized powers.

Castro demonstrates that it is impossible — as well as unjust — to pay the debt. He discusses the social and political impact of demands by the International Monetary Fund to impose austerity measures on the already impoverished and suffering people of Latin America in order to pay the debt. He points to the social upheavals which must occur in response to the crisis.

He proposes that the Latin American countries unite to refuse to pay the debt and that the industrialized capitalist powers assume the debt by cutting their military expenditures. Castro discusses this as a first step in breaking the hold of the advanced industrialized powers over the underdeveloped and Third World economies. Capitalist countries taking on the debt would be a step towards more just and fair economic relations — a "new world economic order."

Bracketed material and subheads are added by the *Militant*.

(Sixth in a series)

Castro. As a result of all these mathematical calculations and moral, historical, political, and economic reflections, I have come to the conclusion that the Latin American debt is unpayable and should be canceled. It has been said that failure to pay the debt would destabilize and sink the international financial system. This isn't necessarily so. I suggest that the industrialized creditor countries can and should make themselves responsible for the debts to their own banks.

As a rule, the public debts of the industrialized countries increase; it is a historic fact that they tend to increase. All that the industrialized states make themselves responsible for is the interest on their increasing public debts.

In 205 years the public debt of the United States has reached \$1 trillion — when I say "trillion," I'm referring to the U.S. trillion, which is equal to the English billion — a million million. The U.S. public debt reached that figure in 1981; but from 1981 to 1984, in just three years, it increased by another \$650 billion; and it is estimated that it will reach or surpass \$2 trillion by 1986. This is almost never mentioned in the United States, however. It doesn't seem to be much cause for concern. Rather, it stresses the growth of the economy — and, as a matter of fact, the economy was reported to have grown by 6.8 percent in 1984. So, if we follow the theories and concepts of official economics, we see that the increase in the public debt hasn't ruined the economy or impeded its growth; nor has it hampered the optimism with which some U.S. economists talk about future economic growth and development. If the federal government of the United States, plus the governments of other industrialized powers, were to make



Militant/G.M. Cookson

**British miners fighting mine closures. Unemployment is big question in imperialist countries. Castro explains that absorbing debt would create jobs in these countries.**

themselves responsible to their private banks for the debts of the Latin American and other Third World countries, this would imply added increases in their public debts.

### Cut military expenditures

Where could they find the resources with which to pay the interest on the increases in their debts without affecting their countries' economies? That's easy: from military expenditures — and not all military expenditures, just a small percentage of them: 10 percent or, if interest rates remain as high as they now are, a maximum of 12 percent.

With this modest percentage of their military expenditures, the industrialized powers could make themselves responsible to their own banks for the foreign debts of the Latin American and other Third World countries — and military spending would still be fabulously high and cause for concern.

Military spending throughout the world now amounts to a million million dollars (a trillion, according to U.S. nomenclature, or a billion in English). And, if the arms race (which world public opinion considers absurd and unacceptable in a world in which there are more than 100 underdeveloped countries and billions of people who lack food, health care, housing, and education) isn't ended, that spending will continue increasing until it unleashes a nuclear catastrophe, which would be more dangerous than the economic catastrophe from which a large part of humanity is suffering. If the former were to take place, talking about the latter would make no sense at all.

### Solve problems of underdevelopment

It would be very sensible and wise if the reduction in military spending were associated with the beginning of a solution for international economic problems. All economists have stated that with a fraction of the money now spent for military purposes the problems of underdevelopment and poverty that beset the world could be solved.

This problem of increased military spending and the danger it poses to mankind was the subject of a recent meeting held in New Delhi, in which individuals of such international prestige and authority as Rajiv Gandhi, Julius Nyerere, Raúl Alfonsín, Miguel de la Madrid, Andreas Papanikolaou, and Olaf Palme participated. [These prime ministers or presidents of India, Tanzania, Argentina, Mexico, Greece, and Sweden held a Jan. 28, 1985, summit calling for a halt to testing of nuclear weapons and a ban on development of space weapons.]

By issuing 10-year treasury notes and treasury bonds, the United States could make itself responsible to its own creditor banks for all the credits given to the Latin American and other Third World countries. This wouldn't affect U.S. citizens' current contributions to the budget. The banks would recover the capital they have invested, U.S. export companies would increase their exports and U.S. investors abroad would increase their profits.

More important, such a solution would create jobs in all the industrialized countries; their industries would use a large percentage of their installed capacities, and international trade would increase.

It should be kept in mind that the main

problem confronting the industrialized countries isn't their domestic public debts or foreign debts. It is rather the scourge of unemployment, which is steadily increasing in most of the Western countries, with figures in the order of 3 million in Britain, despite its new oil resources; 2.6 million in the FRG, a postwar record; 3 million in France; 2.8 million in Spain; and so on.

Solving the problem of the underdeveloped countries' foreign debts could be an important step toward emerging from the prolonged international economic crisis — which is far from over, despite the optimistic forecasts that some would make.

The economy of the European Economic Community grew by a mere 2.4 percent in 1984, and better results aren't expected this year. What is growing — constantly — is unemployment. According to very recent data, the U.S. economy had growth difficulties during the first quarter of this year.

Even though solving the Third World's foreign debt problem would doubtless provide relief for many countries, it would fall far short of solving the problems of development. Within a few years, if unequal terms of trade, protectionist measures, dumping, monetary policies based on the economic clout of a few countries, excessive interest on loans, and the other elements in the unjust system of economic relations and exploitation that is imposed on the countries of the Third World, aren't eliminated once and for all — that is, if a new world economic order isn't firmly established — the situation would be the same as or worse than it is now.

*Question. How should this be handled? Could the pressure that the creditor banks bring to bear on the countries be somehow turned around so that we can demand that they take a series of measures to avoid their own financial crisis?*

*Answer.* Because of their political importance, their political weight in the world, their enormous debts, their terrible economic and social crises and the dangers of a social upheaval of unforeseeable consequences, their deep community of interests and their potential for joint action, the Latin American countries, in my opinion, are in a better position than those of any other region in the world to tackle this problem seriously. Many of their leaders have already set forth the premises concerning the foreign debt, which would be the first step in that struggle, clearly and precisely.

### Debtors' club

Yet, it is inconceivable at this stage that the first thing that is proclaimed and solemnly pledged is that the countries of this hemisphere that are affected by this situation will not form a debtors' club — even though the creditor countries are closely joined in the International Monetary Fund and the Paris Club. A club, a committee, a group, or whatever you want to call it is indispensable. Acting on their own, our countries cannot achieve any kind of lasting solution for our problems; all they can hope for are more palliative formulas that only mitigate their difficulties: a brief grace period on the payment of capital or a small reduction in the percentage of interest paid in addition to the Libor [London interbank] rate.

As I've already said, the problem no  
Continued on next page

## 'PM': Puerto Ricans oppose U.S. war

Some 500 people took part in the third national convention of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights recently held in Philadelphia. The antiwar character of the convention was reflected in the extensive discussion on U.S. intervention in Central America.

The NCPRR also spoke out against the city government's decision to bomb the Black community in Philadelphia, which killed 11 people, and against the cop harassment of Puerto Rican youth there.

The new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* has coverage of this important convention, which focused on the attacks on the rights and living standards of Puerto Ricans in the United States.

Also featured in this issue is the second part of a major interview with Cuban president Fidel Castro, where he describes the desperate economic situation facing the semicolonial countries of the world, analyzes the unpayable debt burden imposed on them by imperialism, and proposes solutions to this crisis.

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# Salvadoran unions protest austerity, war

Continued from front page

of unionists Francisco Fuentes Ayala and Mauricio Alcides Díaz, who were shot to death on May 2 by soldiers of the Arce Battalion.

Paramilitary squads assassinated 7 trade unionists and kidnapped 15 in the first four months of this year.

SETANDA's eight-day strike also ended in a significant victory, with the 49 fired unionists being reinstated and the workers winning a wage increase. In addition, two corrupt managers were fired and others were transferred at the insistence of the union. On May 20, the day before the strike ended, the workers had organized a 1,500-strong protest march against the firings.

The police had cordoned off the waterworks the day after the strike began. In response to this attack, the FMLN's radio station, Radio Venceremos, broadcast a statement denouncing the police action and backing the strike. "This is the government's reply: more repression, more threats, and more intransigence in the face of the workers' demands. The puppet army has already killed two ANDA workers and one is missing. Far from dealing with the urgent demand for wage increases and far from imparting justice in the case of those killed, the government has taken off its mask and has replied like all gorillas, like all the dictatorships that have tried to subjugate the working class. However, they have been unable to do this in the past and they will be unable to achieve their objective now," said the statement.

## May Day

The most dramatic indication of the increased level of fightback by El Salvador's labor movement was this year's May Day march. More than 15,000 workers marched through the streets of San Salvador behind a banner that read, "For a new society." Many other workers who supported the march lined the sidewalks.

Chants of "Yankee invaders — out of El Salvador," "Duarte listen, the people are struggling," and "The people united will never be defeated!" rang out.

The largest contingent came from the FENASTRAS union federation. It included a sewer workers' union truck, with banners that read, "Water for the rich, mud for the poor." Next came a bus brought by transport workers. Teams of workers spray painted the walls along the march route and pasted up posters that said, "The sellout and the yankee intervention increase ... with the new government everything continues the same."

Other contingents included teachers, bank workers, social security workers, and sugar refinery workers. Many of those marching were on strike.

After the urban workers came contingents of farm workers who carried banners that included demands for bank credits for agricultural cooperatives and an end to the air force bombings of their homes.

The demands of the march included wage increases, elimination of repressive governmental decrees, freedom for political prisoners, respect for human rights, and a continuation of the dialogue between the government and the FMLN-FDR.

The newly formed Coordinating Committee of Worker Solidarity (CST) played a leading role in organizing the action. The CST is a coalition of 25 unions grouped together for mutual strike support.

The march ended with a rally held in Liberty Plaza across the street from a church under which is buried the bodies of 18 workers who were assassinated by the government in 1980. The speakers wore baseball hats and sunglasses to protect their identities and none were identified by name

or organization.

To reduce the turnout for the march, the army had ordered bus owners in several cities not to transport workers. Armed forces photographers took pictures of participants, while a U.S.-supplied Huey helicopter flew low over the crowd.

## FENASTRAS May 1 message

In a May Day message to the "workers and people of El Salvador" from Héctor Bernabé Recinos, the exiled secretary general of FENASTRAS, declared, "We cannot continue to support with hands folded the war imposed on us by the Salvadoran oligarchy and the Reagan administration; we cannot permit the presence of the North American advisors in our nation; we cannot remain indifferent before the astronomic economic and military aid which is used to kill people and deny the right of our people to a future of liberty, while it should have been used to build factories, to raise the standard of health, housing, and education."

"Compañeros, on this First of May, in freedom to continue the struggle, we greet our brother workers of the world, extending our profound gratitude and invite them to support the dialogue and negotiations."



Thousands of workers protesting government austerity in San Salvador earlier this year.

# Castro interview on foreign debt

Continued from previous page

longer concerns just the payment of capital. Even if a four-, six-, eight- or ten-year grace period of and a similar — or longer — period after that for payment of the total debt are granted, the problem would still get worse and worse. The current renegotiations will solve absolutely nothing. The problem resides in the enormous amounts of interest that must be paid each year, religiously and punctually, accompanied by inapplicable political measures; exaggerated, unrealistic goals related to inflation; the reduction of the budgetary deficit; the limitation of social expenditures in countries riddled with problems in education, health care, nutrition, housing, unemployment, etc., and other measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund which become impossible to apply when the country is forced to make enormous disbursements simply to pay the unfair interest on its debt. The people don't understand this, nor can they understand it. There is no other message for them but the message of fruitless sacrifices. They've been promised a lot of things for a long time, and they see that things are getting worse and worse. They don't understand the technical aspects. Technical aspects mean nothing to them for they offer them nothing when they get up in the morning to look for work or when they see their wages shrinking while products grow more and more expensive. Remember what Lincoln said: "You can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Membership in the Cartagena group was limited to eleven countries. [Finance and foreign ministers of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela met in Cartagena, Colombia, June 21-22, 1984.]

I met Enrique Iglesias, the director of ECLAC [United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America], who is now minister of foreign affairs of Uruguay. He is an economist who is highly esteemed in our hemisphere and has excellent relations with many heads of state. The prevailing view at that time was that the group shouldn't be increased, because a larger number of countries would make negotiations and analyses more difficult. The principle wasn't at all democratic. No clear explanation was given of why some had the privilege of being members while others didn't. This principle seemed more applicable to a social club than to the idea of how to face a serious, crucial situation involving each and every nation in Latin America. I believe that this criterion doesn't make any sense. All the Latin American countries should be included in the group. Even such countries as Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and others with a lot of weight and long standing as independent nations in the Caribbean could be included if they were ready and willing to cooperate loyally; their debts are also considerable. Probable disloyalties aren't

to be feared. I don't believe that any self-respecting Latin American government would be capable of betraying the feelings and interests of the Latin American family in these critical circumstances. In any circumstances, the dissenters would never be anything more than individual cases or isolated groups. Cuba would be willing to exclude itself from those activities if this were advisable, if the other countries didn't want to displease the United States, as is already traditional. But I don't think it would be good tactics, in this situation, to display excessive caution or cowardice to the "Colossus of the North" — which must, of course, be persuaded to cooperate. Moreover, undignified, irresponsible attitudes (which not even the United States respects) shouldn't be adopted in order to achieve its cooperation.

## Cuba immune to crisis

I'm not saying this so Cuba will be included or to reflect some Cuban problem. Cuba is now the only Latin American or Caribbean country that is immune to the crisis. Its foreign debt in convertible currency is minimal, barely \$300 per inhabitant. We don't have any problems in our financial relations or in our trade with the rest of the socialist community — with

which, as I said, we have 85 percent of our foreign trade. Between 1981 and 1984 our Gross Social Product increased by 24.8 percent, and the per capita GSP grew by 22.6 percent; our economic and social development programs for the next fifteen years are guaranteed — something that is a privilege for any country at a time like this.

If it weren't for the principles of the new economic order which we have attained with the rest of the socialist community, as I explained, our annual sugar exports of over 7.5 million tons — at the current price of sugar on the so-called world market and supposing that there were markets for that volume of exports — wouldn't be enough to pay for even 25 percent of our fuel imports.

"If the Latin American countries want to tackle the problems of their foreign debt they must reach a consensus in order to attain the goal of engaging in a political dialogue with the creditor countries, as many of their leaders have suggested, because, as has been correctly pointed out, the problem is political, not technical, and, at the rate things are developing, it's beginning to be a revolutionary problem."

(to be continued)

# Sandinista army launches offensive

Continued from Page 5

BLIs.

On April 22 and 23, a very large contra force attempted to penetrate Nicaragua north of the settlement of Wanblán, Jinotega Province. Sandinista officials say their artillery fire was so effective that the invading forces suffered hundreds of casualties. They say intercepted contra radio communications indicate the casualties could have been as high as 1,000, including 200 dead and 800 wounded.

Further south the largest contra unit inside Nicaragua was in trouble. That force is the Jorge Salazar Operational Command composed of well over 1,000 troops, a large part of which had infiltrated the country in March. From the border the contras had made their way to the relatively unpopulated central part of the country, where they met up with smaller units. The operational command planned to dominate large areas of the provinces of Matagalpa, Boaco, and Chontales, and the central part of Zelaya Province.

According to Sandinista army officers, these forces were to serve as the backbone of the contra midyear offensive, trying to create the image that civil war was raging throughout much of the Nicaraguan countryside.

But the Sandinista army threw up a huge cordon of several thousand troops. In a hard-fought campaign that began in April and is still going on, the tightening cordon of EPS troops has succeeded in driving all

large contra units out of Boaco, Chontales, and Matagalpa provinces, forcing them north and east. In the month of May alone, the army reported 10 sizable battles, as well as dozens of minor skirmishes.

By the end of the month, EPS forces had succeeded in driving the bulk of the contra forces, close to 1,000 troops, into a small area known as Cerro Verde, north of the main contra base. Running short of ammunition, the CIA-backed forces then began fleeing toward Honduras.

Having succeeded in clearing a large part of the north and center of the country of substantial CIA bands, the army then launched an offensive to clear the southern border.

This army drive was closely supported by the Sandinista Air Force, which carried out bombing raids against a 2,600-foot airstrip the contras were building in a place known as La Penca, across the river from the Costa Rican town of Boca de San Carlos.

The counterrevolutionary force operating along the Río San Juan is the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), headed by Edén Pastora — who is known as "the traitor" in Nicaragua because he was formerly a Sandinista.

The ARDE suffered a major blow. Dozens of ARDE troops are reported to have deserted, others have fled into camps in Costa Rica, while the remainder are being concentrated in La Penca and another nearby camp.

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## FLORIDA

### Tallahassee

**Cuba Today.** A look at the gains of 25 years of the Cuban revolution. Tue., June 18, 8 p.m. Diffendough room 230, Florida State University. Ausp: Tallahassee Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (904) 222-4434.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Socialist Educational Weekend.** Forum: "The Rising Tide of Black Power in South Africa." Speakers: Ernest Harsch, managing editor of *Intercontinental Press*; representative of National Black Independent Political Party. Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum.

Classes: "Popular Revolution in Burkina." Sat., June 15, 3 p.m. "Ghana: Three Years of Mass Uprising." Sun., June 16, 11 a.m. Both classes by Ernest Harsch. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$1.50 per class. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**The Fight Against Racism in St. Paul Schools.** Speakers: Ysef Mgeni, community activist; Vicki Davis, Parents for Equity in Education; Ron Edwards, president, Minneapolis Urban League; representative of St. Paul NAACP. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 16, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**Indian Land Rights — White Earth Is Not For Sale!** Speakers: Judy Fairbanks, Marvin Manypenny, and Vernon Bellecourt, members of Anishinabe Akeeng. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 23, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### Kansas City

**Maurice.** Cuban documentary film on slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop and the Grenada revolution. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 16; buffet, 6 p.m.; film and speakers, 7 p.m. 4715-A Troost. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

### St. Louis

**Why Cops Bombed the Philadelphia Black Community.** An eyewitness report with slides on the Philadelphia events. Speakers: Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the New York City Council; Marea Himmelgrin, chair, St. Louis SWP. Sun., June 16, 4 p.m. 3109 S Grand, room 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**The Situation in Lebanon Now.** Speaker: Robert Dees, Pathfinder Press. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blks. south of Canal). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**Unions in the U.S. Today.** Speaker: Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

**Hands Off Nicaragua — End the Embargo!** Panel discussion on Nicaragua. Sat., June 29, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2.

Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

## OREGON

### Portland

**The Fight Against Police Violence in Portland and Philadelphia.** Speakers: Connie Allen, Young Socialist Alliance, member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 128; Jim Miller, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 15, 7:00 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**The Struggle to Keep Three Mile Island Closed.** Speakers: Brian Hunt, staff member of *Three Mile Island Alert*; Bev Hess, spokeswoman for Susquehanna Valley residents; Katherine Sojourner, steelworker and member of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### Pittsburgh

**South Africa Solidarity Speak-out.** Speakers: Rashid Soundiata, Black Action Society, University of Pittsburgh; Andy Towbin, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 22, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

## TEXAS

### Dallas

**Free South Africa Day.** Speakers: representative of African National Congress of South Africa; John Wiley Price, Dallas County Commission; Diane Ragsdale and Al Lipscomb, Dallas City Council members; Dallas Jackson, Citi-

# Speak out for democratic rights

## CALIFORNIA

### San Jose

- Defend freedom of speech and assembly
- Defend the Bill of Rights
- Defend right to discuss U.S. foreign policy
- Stop violent attacks and harassment

Speakers: Anthony Russo, U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Society, Committee for Justice for Prof. Ed Cooperman; Robert McAfee Brown, professor of theology and ethics, Pacific School of Religion; Bill Watkins, Vietnam veteran, member Post 5888, Santa Cruz; Andrea Prichett, leader of anti-apartheid movement, University of California at Berkeley; a national leader of the Socialist Workers Party; Don Gomez, producer of film *Death Flights*, will moderate. Other speakers to be announced. Translation to

Spanish. Fri., June 28, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 405 S 10 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Emergency Committee for Democratic Rights. Box 7507, San Jose, Calif. 95150. For more information call (408) 998-4028.

Endorsers of meeting: David Aroner, president of Service Employees International Union Local 535; Local 535 of SEIU; American Civil Liberties Union of Santa Clara Valley; Howard Wallace, Lesbian/Gay Alliance; Bob Hernandez, Project National Interest; South Bay Free South Africa Committee; Carlos Abitia, president, International Molders Union Local 164; Mandala Coalition of San Jose State University; Young Socialist Alliance; South Bay National Organization for Women; National Lawyers Guild of San Jose; Santa Clara County Communist Party; Socialist Workers Party.

zens Police/Paramedic Complaint Committee. Sat., June 22, 4-7 p.m. Griggs Park, Central Expressway and Hall Street. Ausp: Southern Africa Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

### Houston

**Support Abortion Rights!** Videos: *The Silent Scream* and Planned Parenthood's rebuttal. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

**Socialist Publication Fund Barbeque.** Sat., June 22, 5 p.m. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Protest the Cop Bombing of Philadelphia's Black Community.** Speakers: Imani Henry, chair, Students Against Apartheid, University of Washington; Bill Osteen, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Philadelphia in 1983. Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

**Soweto Day March and Rally.** Stop U.S. government support to apartheid! Sun., June 16. March begins 1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 19th and Madison. Ausp: Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid. For more information call (206) 722-3725.

# Pilots strike picks up support in Denver

BY BOB BRUNEAU

DENVER — Support for the United Airlines pilots strike is growing here as the members of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) reach out to community and labor groups. Denver is the second largest hub city for United, with 177 flights per day before the strike. Nearly 850 United pilots live in the Denver area. These pilots have been able to picket eight area locations. They have been joined in the picket lines by United flight attendants, members of the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA).

On June 5, over 100 members of the Colorado Building Trades Council as well as the International Brotherhood of Electric-

cal Workers (IBEW), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), and the International Association of Machinists all participated in a joint picket and march. Gathering at the United Training Center in Denver, the support pickets marched to the United Airlines' terminal to join the United pilots and flight attendants picketing there. Many people driving in the terminal area greeted the marchers with thumbs-up signs and car horns. More joint labor support activities are being planned as other trade unionists are seeing the importance of the United

pilots strike and are throwing their support on the pilots' side.

*Militant* sales to striking United Airlines pilots and flight attendants have been very good. At the pilots' teleconference on May 30, a *Militant* sales team sold out of its bundle of 17 papers in 15 minutes. The majority of the papers were sold to flight attendants, but several pilots wanted to read the *Militant's* coverage of their strike. For most, this was the first time that they had bought a *Militant*, even though *Militant* sales teams have been selling at Stapleton Airport employee entrances for several months.

# Solidarity leaders' trial held in Poland

Continued from Page 3

until they are allowed to talk to their lawyers face-to-face for at least 10 minutes.

"Virtually all motions made by the defense were turned down," he reported.

"The whole day was an atmosphere of quarrel and constant tension."

On June 11, the prosecution in its summation urged a five-year sentence for Frasnyniuk, and four-year terms for Lis and Michnik. A verdict and sentencing are expected in a week.

# Socialist publication benefit held

Continued from Page 3

Their thinking has led them, she said, to make a conscious effort to learn from the past experiences and political heritage of the Russian Bolsheviks and the Communist International at the time it was led by the revolutionary team headed by Lenin.

"And this is where one of Pathfinder's most ambitious projects in its history fits in: the distribution of a multi-volume series on the Communist International in Lenin's time, volumes that will bring together for the first time in English the proceedings of the first four congresses of the Communist International, as well as related documents.

"As Lenin points out in an article in the first Comintern book; 'The experience of

the [1914-18 world] war, like the experience of any crisis in history, of any great calamity, and any sudden turn in human life, stuns and breaks some people, but enlightens and tempers others.' He goes on to say that history has shown that the number and strength of the second kind exceeds that of the former.

"And that's what our Socialist Publication Fund is all about," she concluded.

A special performance was given by Brazilian jazz composer and guitarist, Thiago de Mello. He sang several of his songs inspired by the Nicaraguan revolution. De Mello has performed in Nicaragua several times in the past year.

Over \$1,000 was collected for the fund at the event.

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**Deductible from pay, of course** — When OSHA killed a proposal to require field toilets and drinking water for farm workers, it may have been because they



Harry Ring

realized how concerned agribusiness really is about its employees. For instance, grower groups recommended that instead of soap and water, they provide towel-ettes. Which, properly used, could double as toilet tissue.

**Gift horse** — If you live long enough to get that gold watch, take a good look at it. Under the Reagan tax plan it would be taxable income. For the boss, natch, it's a deductible.

**Just the law of averages** — When California Gov. Deukmejian hosted a dinner for members of the state legislature, female members found themselves at a separate table with the gov's spouse. Responding to criticism, an aide said the seating had nothing to do with gender, adding that the suggestion of discrimination was "snide, petty ... a cheap shot."

**Brighten dad's day** — Pick up on Tiffany's suggestion. For that

Father's Day tie you gave him last year, an 18-karat white and yellow gold tie bar. \$575, engraving extra.

**Diet suggestion** — "Based on my experience in Los Angeles ... my advice to the public is not to eat meat." — Gregorio Natividad, a whistle-blowing inspector for the federal Food Safety and Inspection Service.

**Gov't inspected** — Among the widespread health violations uncovered in federally supervised Southern California food-processing plants: "Flies; fresh rodent droppings and live cockroaches; contamination of meat products by flaking paint and rust dropping from overhead pipes ... dirty,

rusty handsaws ready for use; deeply scored cutting boards containing hair, intestine contents and heavy meat residue."

**New turf for pushers?** — Far be it from us to suggest they would, but when we read that R.J. Reynolds, the coffin-nail folk, had bought Nabisco, the thought did occur to us they might be considering lacing the Oreo cookies with a bit of nicotine to hook the kiddies.

**You can invite the huddled masses** — If you're really into marriage and American freedom, you can tie the knot with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop. Charter the *Entrepreneur*, a 120-foot yacht with all the refinements, including a marble bathroom. Buffet and

booze for a party of 100, \$114,000.

**They do it all for you** — Marching alongside the "new" coke, will be the company's "new" Fresca, containing pure grapefruit juice — a fast 1 percent. And Perrier will offer bubbly water with "essence" of various fruits. What's "essence"? The oil rubbed from the skin.

**Miracle of the marketplace?** — LOS ANGELES — Medical leaders and journal editors agreed today that highly competitive pressures in modern science were provoking cases of outright fraud and an even wider range of "white lies" and deceptions that they said were eroding the integrity of science. — News item.

## Puerto Ricans in U.S. find poverty, unemployment

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

PHILADELPHIA — The National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCPRR) held its third national convention here May 31-June 2. Some 500 activists from seven states participated.

The convention adopted important resolutions including support for the hotel workers' strike in New York City; support for a youth delegation to Nicaragua; endorsement of the October 11 National Anti-apartheid Protest Day; opposition to the cop bombing of the Black community in West Philadelphia and cop harassment of the Philadelphia Puerto Rican community; and support to farm workers struggles in the Northeast and California.

The convention's discussions were guided by a report entitled "The Status of Puerto Ricans in the United States," which provided a stark picture of the situation Puerto Ricans living here face today.

Of the close to 3 million Puerto Ricans living in the United States, half are under 21 years old. The vast majority live in large cities of the Northeast and Midwest. Of Puerto Rican workers in the United States, 87 percent are workers in the factories, hotels, offices, hospitals, and fields of this country.

For Puerto Ricans in the United States unemployment and poverty are endemic. Only 40 percent of all Puerto Ricans over the age of 16 have jobs as compared to 50 percent of Blacks and 60 percent of whites. Fifty-one percent of all Puerto Rican families have incomes under \$10,000. Thirty-five percent live in poverty.

This situation is worsening. The gap between Puerto Ricans' income and the income of whites is growing. In 1980, for example, Puerto Ricans made only 54 percent of the income made by whites. That is, a Puerto Rican worker made only 54 cents for every dollar made by a white.

Although Puerto Rican families have the lowest median income of any oppressed minority — \$10,734 — their situation is still

better than for working people in Puerto Rico who have a median income of \$5,923, or 29 percent of the income of the U.S. population.

The report states that "compared to other Latinos, Puerto Ricans occupy the lowest socio-economic position." "A key factor in the differences," the report explains, "was the much larger proportion of Puerto Rican families that were headed by single mothers. ... Four out of every 10 Puerto Rican families in the U.S. are headed by single females."

Puerto Rican youth have one of the highest school drop-out rates in the country. Sixty-one percent of Puerto Rican females and 59 percent of Puerto Rican males drop out of school as compared to 43 percent of all females and 34 percent of all males in the country.

The report cites several reasons for these figures including the "virtual absence of viable bilingual-bicultural programs"; the "dumping of Puerto Rican and other language-minority students into special education, 'slow learner' classes; and the 'self-fulfilling prophecy' of teachers who enter the classroom with low expectations and the belief that Puerto Rican children are 'uneducatable.'"

The poverty and unemployment have a profound impact on health, including higher death rates from heart disease, diabetes, and cirrhosis of the liver. Most vulnerable are infants. Studies of El Barrio (East Harlem) found that more than 20 infants out of every 1,000 live births will die before their first birthday. A 1978 study by the American Friends Service Committee found an infant mortality rate of 25 per 1,000 live births. The AFSC labeled the South Bronx "the Third World here at home."

The report states that the current cuts in social programs to increase military spending — combined with the broadside attack on civil rights gains of the past, especially affirmative action and bilingual education — have contributed to the worsening conditions of Puerto Ricans in this country.

The right-wing propaganda campaign against women's rights, Black rights, unions, gay rights, and undocumented workers has led, the report explained, to "a dramatic increase in the number of Black people attacked, beaten, and killed by policemen and racist mobs, and a number of racially motivated attacks against Puerto Ricans." In reviewing the attacks on Puerto Ricans the report cites stepped-up harassment by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the use of company rules that require workers to use "English only" on the job as a means to victimize Puerto Ricans and other Latino workers.

Turning to the U.S.-funded war in Central America the report states that "hand in hand with this reactionary thrust at home is an aggressive, interventionist posture internationally as right-wing dictatorships from South Africa to South America receive the American government's support; and the groundwork continues to be laid for the sending of American troops into Nicaragua and El Salvador." This, the report explained, has led to the increasing militarization of Puerto Rico, which "is being prepared to serve as a springboard in the event of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua or

elsewhere in Central America."

Puerto Rican and Black youth "are being set up to become cannon fodder and bilingual shock troops for U.S. aggression. They are being prepared to accept war and to kill their brothers and sisters in Latin America." The NCPRR stands in opposition to any U.S. aggression against "our Latin American family."

"Clearly," the report explains, "many of the issues we confront are not just 'Puerto Rican problems,' and reflecting this, we are also involved in greater efforts nationwide to coalesce with Blacks and other Latinos." The report stresses participation of Puerto Ricans in the election campaigns of various liberal capitalist politicians in the Democratic Party, particularly those who are Black and Puerto Rican. But the NCPRR decided after a lengthy discussion

to maintain its stance of not endorsing any candidates as an organization.

The NCPRR did not, however, limit itself to an electoralist perspective. It also stressed the need for NCPRR to continue participating in the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America, as well as fighting for women's rights, union rights, bilingual education, and a number of local struggles taking place around many other issues.

The report concluded as it began with the perspective of building a "mass membership, activist, civil, and human rights organization" that would "contribute to our people's collective capacity to resist their worsening conditions and to advance our historical movement for equality and justice in the U.S."

## Marroquín wins support at conference

PHILADELPHIA — One of the participants at the national convention of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCPRR) was Héctor Marroquín, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and an activist in the fight against the U.S.-organized mercenary war against Nicaragua.

For the past eight years Marroquín has been fighting the Immigration and Naturalization Service's attempts to deport him because of his political ideas. Although Marroquín is married to a U.S. citizen, the government has for the past two and a half years refused to process the papers necessary for him to remain in this country without fear of deportation.

In his eight year battle, Marroquín has won important support from labor unions, civil rights organizations, and prominent individuals for his right to remain in this country. In April, for example, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus wrote a letter expressing its concern over government foot-dragging in Marroquín's case.

At the NCPRR convention dozens of activists signed petitions and letters in defense of Marroquín including Ralph Acosta, member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; Diana Caballero, NCPRR's president; María Josefa Canino, membership secretary of NCPRR; and Juan González, a Philadelphia reporter

and recording secretary of NCPRR. Others who signed for Marroquín's right to remain in this country included Nicomedes Sanchez, a leader of the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs (PRACA); Josefina Nieves, member of the Board of Directors of ASPIRA; and Wilma Reverón of the International Information Office for Puerto Rican Independence.

Other activists endorsed Marroquín's case including Angel Ortiz, Philadelphia city councilman; Piri Thomas, poet and writer; Nicholasa Mohr, writer; and Salvador Tió, former director of the New York American Civil Liberties Union. — A.G.

## Puerto Rican activists support San Jose democratic rights fight

PHILADELPHIA — Socialist workers who participated in the Third National Convention of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCPRR) here circulated information on the current attempt by a small group of Vietnamese right-wingers in San Jose, California, to stop the supporters of the Vietnamese revolution from organizing solidarity with the workers and farmers in that country.

Scores of people from seven states and Puerto Rico signed the petition demanding that San Jose Mayor Thomas McEnery take all necessary steps to protect the democratic rights of socialists and others in that city to speak and act on any U.S. foreign policy question.

Signers of the petition included many national and local leaders of the NCPRR, the Puerto Rican Association of Community Affairs, and other community groups, as well as Piri Thomas, Puerto Rican writer and poet.

One young woman who was asked to sign the petition said, "I'll sign anything to stop *gusanos* [literally worms, meaning traitors] — Cuban, Vietnamese, Nicaraguan — from interfering in our right to speak and organize." — A.G.



Héctor Marroquín

Militant/Lou Howort



# Behind government's spy scare

Exploiting the case of John Walker, the retired Navy officer accused of spying for the Soviet Union, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger declared June 12 that he favors executing those convicted of peacetime espionage. He said the Defense Department has set up a committee to study revamping the Military Code to permit this.

Discussing the Walker case, the war secretary declared that if he's found guilty, he "should be shot."

The last time in this country anyone was executed on charges of spying was 1953. Then Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were electrocuted for allegedly stealing the atomic bomb "secret" for the USSR.

The purpose of that McCarthy-era execution was to promote a climate of intimidation and fear — to stifle political dissent.

The present move to reopen the way for peacetime use of the espionage death penalty is for exactly the same purpose.

In addition, the propaganda campaign around the Walker case is being used to beat the war drum around the alleged need to stop "communist aggression."

The spy scare is also aimed at intimidating working people into accepting more restrictions on our democratic rights and looking twice at those who may be foreign born.

And a special target of this campaign is the millions of working people in this country who need a government security clearance in order to get and keep their jobs.

The campaign against the foreign born is aimed at deepening divisions among working people. In recent spy cases the propaganda is focused on immigrants and legal residents from the Soviet Union and other workers states such as Cuba, Poland, and East Germany.

The anticommunist drive to get working people to see "Russian spies" under our beds is also being promoted in the Los Angeles trial of Svetlana and Nikolay Ogorodnikov. They are charged, along with FBI agent William

Miller, of "conspiring" to deliver U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union.

The Ogorodnikovs, who deny the spy charges, are open supporters of the Soviet Union.

In the Walker case, the central issue pushed by the government is alleged laxity in "national security." The main target, however, isn't Walker and other alleged spies in the military. It is working people who must hold government security clearances to get and keep their jobs.

Currently there are 4.3 million people in this country required to have such clearances. Some are in the military or other branches of government. Most, however, are working people in war-related industries.

Investigations by Department of Defense cops — known as the Defense Investigative Service — are supposed to determine which of the 4.3 million may be "security risks."

How is this determined? The DIS cops launch an investigation. This can include spying on union meetings and social activities; and harassing coworkers, family members, and neighbors. The main goal of these investigations is not to weed out "spies." It's to intimidate workers from fighting for their rights and improving their living standards; and to weed out union militants, antiwar fighters, and other opponents of the government's policies.

One recent example: Sally Goodman, a worker at the Martin Marietta plant in Denver, has had her security clearance withdrawn. Why? Because DIS charged that she is a militant unionist, a lesbian, and a socialist.

This is the kind of undemocratic and antilabor attack that the rulers want to step up. And it dovetails such attacks with Washington's anticommunist justification for its war drive in Central America and the Caribbean. The reams of spy stories are designed to facilitate this undemocratic and prowar offensive.

# 'Contra International' formed

Counterrevolutionary terrorists from four countries, with assistance from the U.S. and South African governments, met on June 1-2 to form an anticommunist, proimperialist alliance which they call the "Democratic International."

The gathering was held in South African-controlled southern Angola. It was organized by U.S. millionaire Lewis Lehrman, who read a message from Pres. Ronald Reagan hailing the group and stating that its goals "are our goals."

A quick look at the participants, whose "goals" Washington not only shares, but finances and actively collaborates on, confirms the reactionary essence of the U.S. rulers' foreign policy:

- Hosting the conference of "Armed Movements Fighting Against Soviet Expansionism" was Jonas Savimbi, whose National Union for the Total Independence of Angola has been waging a war against the Angolan government with direct assistance from South Africa's racist regime and covert aid from the CIA.

- Adolfo Calero, head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest group of Washington's mercenary con-

tra groupings fighting against Nicaragua, was a CIA agent in the time of dictator Somoza. His armed bands specialize in rapes, kidnappings, and murders of unarmed peasants.

- Ghulam Wardak is a U.S.-based spokesman for Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahedeen, a CIA-supported group fighting against the Soviet-aided government of Afghanistan. The rightist guerrillas are infamous for murdering literacy teachers and destroying schools and hospitals.

- Pa Kao Her is a representative of the reactionary Ethnic Liberation Organization of Laos, which opposes the Lao government's efforts to develop that impoverished country.

- Son Sann, whose Khmer Peoples' National Liberation Front is allied with former Kampuchean dictator Pol Pot, sent a "solidarity" message to the conference.

Given that the prime mover of this terrorist international is the U.S. government, it was no surprise when Lehrman told reporters that the group's "central clearing-house" will be in Washington.

# OSHA's 4 percent inspection rate

The slated July 1 departure of Robert Rowland as interim director of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is certainly no cause for tears.

Rowland typified the increasingly open proemployer bias of OSHA and the complicity of that agency in the steady whittling away at health and safety regulations the unions have fought long and hard for.

OSHA denied a United Auto Workers petition for a regulation protecting workers exposed to formaldehyde, which causes cancer. Rowland owned stock in two companies that peddle the deadly stuff. OSHA made similar rulings relating to benzene and other carcinogens made by companies in which Rowland was a shareholder.

Perhaps the strongest recent outcry against OSHA came with its April 12 ruling in which it refused to require agriculture employers to provide farm workers with field toilets and washing and drinking water.

According to a study done for OSHA, one third of U.S. farm workers have no access to field toilets, 20 percent are denied washing facilities, and more than half are denied drinking water.

The statistics are grim. Farm workers are 29 times more likely to suffer from parasites than other workers. They experience digestive disorders 11 times as often, and face 331 times the risk of getting viral hepatitis.

In the fields, farm workers are exposed to a greater amount of deadly chemicals than any other workers. And, consequently, they face the highest rate of chemical injuries, including burning, itching, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting.

The situation of farm workers is but an extreme example of a problem that faces all working people.

Health and safety have always been major job issues. But with the present employers' offensive, it's getting worse.

The creation of OSHA in 1970 was a gain won by working people after a long, hard fight by the unions on this issue.

But the record shows that since its inception — not just during Rowland's tenure — OSHA has done little to check a steadily worsening situation.

This is born out by a study issued in April by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

The study found that OSHA inspections were so few and fines for violations so modest that employers have little concern about meeting the minimal standards and regulations that do exist.

Every year 6,000 people die of workplace injuries. The highest number of fatalities is in mining, followed by construction, agriculture, and transportation.

In the face of that figure, the congressional study found, OSHA inspects fewer than 4 percent of the nation's workplaces annually — 160,000 of 4.6 million worksites.

For a "serious violation" involving a "substantial probability of death or serious physical harm," the average penalty in 1983 was a fast \$172.

But it's an unfortunately safe bet that nothing meaningful will be done unless there is a determined fight on this basic issue by the organized labor movement.

# Karl Marx answers question 'What are wages?'

*Wage-Labour and Capital*, a pamphlet by Karl Marx, first appeared as a series of articles in the *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* (New Rhineland Gazette) in 1849. It was based on lectures he had given to the German Workingmen's Club in Brussels, Belgium, in 1847. Below is the second part of the article, "What are wages?" The first part appeared in this column last week. The pamphlet may be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014 for \$1.50 plus 75 cents for postage and handling.

*Wages, therefore, are not a share of the worker in the commodities produced by himself. Wages are that part of already existing commodities with which the capitalist buys a certain amount of productive labour-power.*

Consequently, labour-power is a commodity which its possessor, the wage-worker, sells to the capitalist. Why does he sell it? It is in order to live.

But the putting of labour-power into action, i.e., the work, is the active expression of the labourer's own life. And this life activity he sells to another person in order to secure the necessary means of life. His life-activity, therefore, is but a means of securing his own existence. He works that he may keep alive. He does not count the

# LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

labour itself as a part of his life; it is rather a sacrifice of his life. It is a commodity that he has auctioned off to another. The product of his activity, therefore, is not the aim of his activity. What he produces for himself is not the silk that he weaves, not the gold that he draws up from the mining shaft, not the palace that he builds. What he produces for himself is *wages*; and the silk, the gold, and the palace are resolved for him into a certain quantity of necessities of life, perhaps into a cotton jacket, into copper coins, and into a basement dwelling. And the labourer who for twelve hours long, weaves, spins, bores, turns, builds, shovels, breaks stones, carries hods, and so on — is this twelve hours' weaving, spinning, boring, turning, building, shovelling, stone-breaking, regarded by him as a manifestation of life, as life? Quite the contrary. Life for him begins where this activity ceases, at the table, at the tavern seat, in bed. The twelve hours' work, on the other hand, has no meaning for him as weaving, spinning, boring, and so on, but only as earnings, which enable him to sit down at a table, to take his seat in the tavern, and to lie down in a bed. If the silk-worm's object in spinning were to prolong its existence as a caterpillar, it would be a perfect example of a wage-worker.

Labour-power was not always a commodity (merchandise). Labour was not always wage-labour, i.e., *free labour*. The slave did not sell his labour-power to the slave-owner, any more than the ox sells his labour to the farmer. The slave, together with his labour-power, was sold to his owner once and for all. He is a commodity that can pass from the hand of one owner to that of another. He *himself* is a commodity, but his labour-power is not *his* commodity. The *serf* sells only a portion of his labour-power. It is not he who receives wages from the owner of the land; it is rather the owner of the land who receives a tribute from him. The serf belongs to the soil, and to the lord of the soil he brings its fruit. The *free labourer*, on the other hand, sells his very self, and that by fractions. He auctions off eight, ten, twelve, fifteen hours of his life, one day like the next, to the highest bidder, to the owner of raw materials, tools, and means of life, i.e., to the capitalist. The labourer belongs neither to an owner nor to the soil, but eight, ten, twelve, fifteen hours of his daily life belong to whomsoever buys them. The worker leaves the capitalist, to whom he has sold himself, as often as he chooses, and the capitalist discharges him as often as he sees fit, as soon as he no longer gets any use, or not the required use, out of him. But the worker, whose only source of income is the sale of his labour-power, cannot leave the whole class of buyers, i.e., the capitalist class, unless he gives up his own existence. He does not belong to this or to that capitalist, but to the capitalist class; and it is for him to find this man, i.e., to find a buyer in this capitalist class.

Wages, as we have seen, are the price of a certain commodity, labour-power. Wages, therefore, are determined by the same laws that determine the price of every other commodity.

## SECRET POLICE ON TRIAL

Post-trial brief filed by Socialist Workers Party in suit against government. Outlines party's beliefs and activities and reviews key disclosures of illegal police activity. \$5. Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.



# General Vernon Walters: 'The Ugly American'?

BY HARRY RING

Vernon Walters is not a man to duck a chancy situation. He's undertaken the assignment to defend his country at the United Nations.

Nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, Walters steps into the vacant shoes of Jeane Kirkpatrick as chief U.S. delegate to that body.

At the time Kirkpatrick did her tour of duty, she disclosed that the United States was being "mugged" there.

Since then, the situation has taken a turn for the worse.

## AS I SEE IT

Walters says that now the United States is being "lynched" there.

He intends to stop the lynching.

The man does have the credentials for the assignment. A lieutenant general in the army, he also did a hitch as deputy director of the CIA. Afterwards he undertook secret missions to Latin America and other parts of the world.

(On one assignment to El Salvador, he reportedly persuaded right-wing Salvadorans, including Roberto d'Aubuisson, not to assassinate the U.S. ambassador. In return for not doing so, he got the Salvadoran death-squad leader a previously denied tourist visa to the United States.)

You might not expect it of a retired general and ex-spook, but our new UN ambassador is a well-rounded fellow, intellectually and morally.

He admits that his pragmatism is "tinged with

idealism," and confides that his biggest hero is Jesus Christ.

But his love of Jesus doesn't mean the general is one to turn the other cheek, ample though it is. "I'm not intimidated," he stoutly declares.

A soldier with a sense of history, he feels more strongly than ever that the U.S. war in Vietnam was "one of the noblest and most unselfish wars" in U.S. history. (He didn't say which was the most selfish and ignoble, but a good bet might be the Civil War. We've heard recently that the Southern slavocracy got a bum rap.)

But the general isn't just sitting around recalling the good old Vietnam days. He's got a full agenda. For one thing, he's going to take a close look at recent charges by the Senate Intelligence Committee that 200 of the 800 Soviet UN employees are spies.

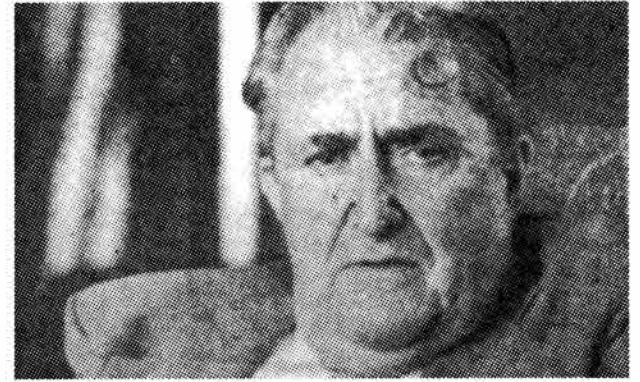
Walters says he's ready to take on the complex political issues that he'll have to deal with. Like the problem of South African apartheid, which, he declares, he finds "abhorrent."

How will he deal with it? That will depend "on how the issue arises." That may sound a little cagey, but don't expect the general to stick his neck out on an obviously diversionary issue.

Gen. Walters didn't get down to specifics on what the UN lynchings have been doing, although he did indicate they were the "developing" nations — those countries historically dominated by imperialism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Gen. Walters offers a two-point program for dealing with the lynchings.

For openers, "You can try to enlighten them of the true motives of the United States."



UN Ambassador Vernon Walters

Failing that, "You can show them how it's to their advantage to vote with us and you can make plain that voting against us will have some cost in our bilateral relations."

Don't take that last point as a nicely phrased, nasty threat. "Withholding aid should be considered on a case-by-case basis," Walters says.

And, he assures, "I would certainly never advocate withholding aid from starving people."

That's consistent with government policy. Washington never advocates withholding aid from hungry people — but it does do it as a political weapon against governments it doesn't like.

The thought occurred to us: If Hollywood should decide to do a satirical remake of *The Ugly American*, the casting office should check if the general's interested in adding a new chapter to an already illustrious career.

## San Diego meeting protests increased cop brutality

BY RICK REEVES  
AND ALLAN GRADY

SAN DIEGO — Over 900 people participated in a speak-out against police brutality here on May 30. The meeting, sponsored by the Interdenominational Alliance, was called in response to the increasing police harassment in the Black and Chicano communities here.

Cop harassment has stepped up significantly since the assault on Sagon Penn. Penn, a young Black man, was stopped by cops while driving with friends on March 31. The cops savagely beat him. The struggle resulted in the death of one cop and the wounding of another. Although dozens of witnesses saw the cops assault Penn, he has been charged with murder and is being held on \$250,000 bail.

The speak-out was opened by Penn's father who referred to his son's arrest as a "crucifixion."

William Holden also spoke to the gathering. His son Wayne, a 21-year-old white student at the University of California at San Diego, was shot to death by the cops on May 28. Wayne had threatened suicide with a kitchen knife, but when his father called the County Mental Health Association, medical help did not arrive. Instead

15 San Diego cops responded, cornered the youth and shot him six times.

Holden told the crowd, "My son was murdered by the San Diego police. The city of San Diego will pay dearly for what they did to my son. And when we win this case," he said, "Blacks, young people, Chicanos, will be helped. The San Diego police should be indicted for murder." The predominantly Black audience gave Holden a standing ovation when he left the meeting.

One person after another took the micro-

phone to tell of beatings and harassment at the hands of the cops. One speaker, Roberto Martínez, stated, "this is the only city I know where you have to call the police to stop the police from beating you."

Many came to the speak-out to protest the April 18 shooting of Humberto Carrillo. Carrillo, a 12-year-old Mexican citizen, was shot by the Border Patrol while on the Mexican side of the border.

Three top officials of the police department as well as representatives from the mayor's office were present, but they did not say a word.

When William Jones, a Democratic city councilman who is Black, started his remarks by saying, "none of us here are anti-police," he was roundly booed. He was forced to plead for the audience's "respect and attention."

The speak-out displayed the real anger and rage of the Black and Chicano communities over racist police brutality. It also reflected the willingness of these communities to fight this racist violence. As one of the speakers predicted "it's going to be a long, hot summer if something isn't done."

## New pamphlet describes Kanak struggle

The Kanak people of New Caledonia (a group of islands in the South Pacific) are waging a determined struggle for independence from French imperialism.

Their movement is the subject of *For Kanak Independence: The fight against French rule in New Caledonia*, by Susanna Ounei, a pamphlet published by the Labour Publishing Co-operative Society Ltd of New Zealand and distributed in this country by Pathfinder Press. The pamphlet sells for \$1.

Susanna Ounei is a founding leader of the Kanak and Exploited Women's Group in Struggle. It is one of the component organizations of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), which is leading the struggle in New Caledonia today. Ounei is the official representative of the FLNKS in New Zealand. She has been active in the struggle since 1969.

She describes the story of the Kanak people's struggle from its beginnings in 1853, when the French rulers occupied

and colonized the country, down to the present.

The pamphlet also contains the charter of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front; a tribute to Eloi Machoro, the late general secretary of the Union Caledonienne (the largest organization in the front) who was gunned down by French occupation forces in January; and an appeal for solidarity with the Kanak people's independence struggle by the New Zealand Federation of Labour.

## LETTERS

Dan Youngdhal

The Salvador Solidarity Committee and the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee held a joint meeting in Minneapolis May 19 to commemorate the life of Dan Youngdhal. He died in April from leukemia at age 46.

Dan was a socialist and solidarity activist who for years put out all he could, without talking to people about his long-standing affliction.

He had been a member of the Socialist Workers Party, first in Chicago and then here, for about a dozen years. Recently he resigned over political differences but remained a friend. He was an active leader in the Central American solidarity movement until his death.

One of his contributions to the party branch here was setting up and organizing our library when we moved to a new headquarters.

Which is how I first met him. (I was out of town when he arrived here.)

Seeing a library being set up,

and a bare wall, in my customary individualistic style, I simply began putting up shelves. Dan came in and blew his top. He'd been designated librarian, and he was going to make the decisions.

After the smoke cleared in that first meeting, we were on the road to being good friends — and we remained so until his death.

Charles Scheer  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Radio Martí

Radio Martí has clearly been designed to spread mistruth and "disinformation" among the Cuban people — but it cannot be nearly the threat to this revolutionary island that both the *Militant* and the Cuban government say it is.

It cannot be such a threat if — as I suspect is true — Cubans are politically among the world's best-educated working classes.

True enough that this incongruously named radio station is part and parcel of U.S. imperialism's war against workers' governments

the world over, and in Central America in particular. But it stands in relation to this whole ugly enterprise as a mosquito does to a hornet's nest. The misrepresentations to be broadcast on Radio Martí will easily be seen through by internationalist Cuban workers and will probably cause little harm, especially since other U.S. stations are already heard there.

On the other hand, the Cuban government has made itself appear fearful of competition in the realm of ideas by its response: blocking broadcasts with a drone noise and imposing travel restrictions. A more confident response would have been, "Let them say their worst — we will not be deceived."

Further harm was done to Cuban and American working people by limiting visiting rights for Cuban-Americans wishing to travel to Cuba. Whom does this restriction penalize most sharply? Workers and their families on both sides.

Without doubt, the Cuban government has a right to defend itself

as it prefers. But as the saying goes, the best defense is a good offense. I hope that Cuba carries through on its claimed right to conduct medium frequency broadcasts to the U.S., such as the shortwave programs now beamed. I, for one, would love to hear them!

Albert Cassorla  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

South Korea protest

The publicity that attended the return to South Korea of Kim Dae Jung, the prominent opponent of the military regime there, has helped focus attention on the role of the U.S. in backing that repressive regime.

As the *Militant* reported, members of the Young Koreans United participated in the April 20 anti-war actions. Recently in Chicago, about 50 people gathered outside the Federal Building to protest the summit meeting between Ronald Reagan and South Korean president Chun. The protest was sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee to

protest the Reagan/Chun summit, which includes the Young Koreans United. They pointed out that the purpose of the summit is to pressure South Korea to supply funds, hardware and personnel to aid U.S. foreign policy objectives in Central America.

The picket line also protested the continuing abuse of human rights in South Korea.

I think it is important to publicize these protests. They point out how U.S. domination of a country like South Korea results in repression and exploitation of the people, and also how the U.S. tries to use South Korea in its war to subjugate the people of Central America.

J.R.  
Chicago, Illinois

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.



## N.Y. rally demands abortion rights

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — Chanting, "Not the church, not the state! Women must decide our fate!," some 200 demonstrators marched to St. Patrick's Cathedral here on June 8. They protested the Catholic church hierarchy's activities in opposition to abortion rights.

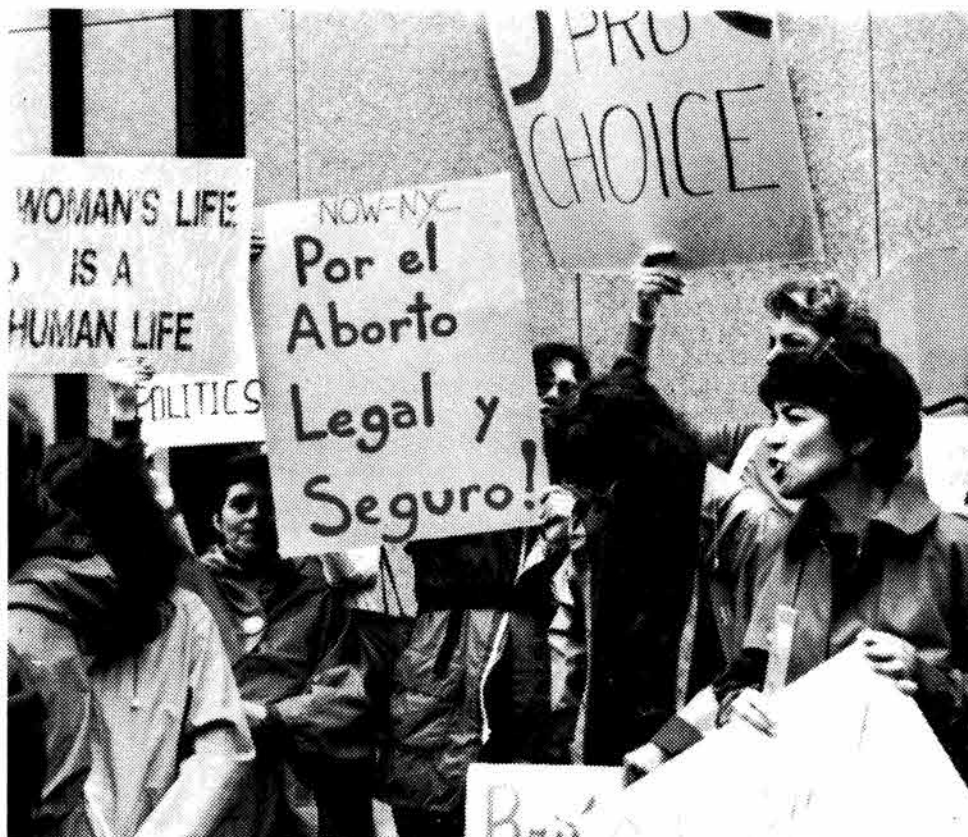
The action was one of 14 "Witness for Women's Lives" rallies initiated by the National Organization for Women (NOW) in cities across the country.

Carrying signs and wearing buttons that said, "Safe, legal abortion," "Keep your laws off my body!," and "Save women's lives!," participants marched 10 blocks through the crowded streets from the assembly site at the offices of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York. Many women carried oversized photographs of a woman who died as a result of a botched, back-alley abortion, with the caption, "This is illegal abortion." Others carried signs that said, "We support the Vatican 24," a reference to the 24 nuns threatened with expulsion from their religious orders because of their support to legal abortion.

The demonstrators, many of them young women attending their first women's rights demonstration, kept up spirited singing and chanting. Some of the most popular chants were, "Our bodies, our lives, our right to decide," "Women have the right to choose," and "2, 4, 6, 8, — We won't be forced to procreate!"

The march passed by a picket line of striking hotel workers, who raised their fists in solidarity and joined in the chants of, "Save women's lives! Save women's lives!"

Police refused to allow the demonstration to take place on the public sidewalk outside of St. Patrick's Cathedral, but kept the demonstrators penned up across the street behind police barricades. Jennifer Brown, president of New York City NOW,



Abortion rights rally in New York City June 8 was part of "Witness for Women's Lives" actions organized in 14 cities by National Organization for Women.

angrily pointed out that the police never take action to keep the right-wing, "right to lifers" separated from abortion clinics, but allow them to go right up to women attempting to enter the clinics, harassing, insulting, and sometimes physically assaulting them.

At one point police blocked the march off. They attempted to keep the demonstrators completely off Fifth Avenue and to prevent the march from coming within three blocks of the cathedral.

The demonstrators began chanting, "They won't let us on the street," "The cardinal and the cops are afraid of women," and, "They won't let us go to church," drawing support and laughter from passers-by. After 15 minutes, the cops relented and let the march proceed.

The rally was attended by NOW members from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The New York State National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), the Religious Coalition for Abortion

Rights, New York State Catholics for a Free Choice, and the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) also participated in the rally.

Tulie Taylor, a woman who almost died from an illegal abortion, told the rally, "There will always be abortion because women need abortion so that we can get control of our lives. The question is not whether women will have abortions or not, but whether or not abortion will kill women."

"The attacks against abortion rights will not stop until our silence stops," she said. "Abortion will no longer be safe and legal in this country unless we speak out, stay out here, do our job."

This theme was repeated by the other speakers. Jennifer Brown reflected the determination of the rally participants when she urged that this demonstration be "just the beginning."

Similar rallies took place in Biloxi, Mississippi; Boston; Milwaukee; St. Louis; Phoenix; Los Angeles; San Francisco; San Jose, California; Quad Cities, Illinois; Portland, Oregon; St. Paul, Minnesota; Youngstown, Ohio; and Washington, D.C.

Five hundred supporters of abortion rights turned out for the Washington action at the headquarters of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The June 8 demonstrations are part of the NOW Campaign to Save Women's Lives, an ongoing abortion-rights campaign by NOW in cooperation with other organizations such as NARAL.

July 19-21, the 1985 NOW National Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. How to defend abortion rights, as well as other key questions in the fight for women's equality, will be discussed. For more information on the conference, contact your local NOW chapter, or write: 1985 National NOW Conference, P.O. Box 7813, Washington, D.C. 20044.

## Alabama: framed civil rights activists gain support

BY MARK CURTIS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — As their trial on trumped-up charges of vote fraud nears, Albert Turner, his wife Evelyn Turner, and Spencer Hogue, Jr. are receiving growing support from working people across Alabama.

The three Black longtime political activists from Marion, Alabama, will be brought to trial June 17 in U.S. court in Selma. Supporters of civil rights are protesting the "Marion Three" case as a frame-up and a major federal attack on Black voting rights.

The attacks on the Marion Three, women's rights, and on the working people of Nicaragua and South Africa were answered June 6 with a demonstration against President Reagan's visit to Birmingham.

Over 100 people, including a spirited contingent from Marion, applauded speakers representing the Coalition Against Hunger, Birmingham Unemployed Committee, National Organization for Women, and Committee in Solidarity with Central America.

A short march was led by about 15 Black high school students who had just left a job-placement meeting to join the protest. Signs against apartheid and the U.S.-inspired and financed war in Central America, and signs in favor of abortion rights and in support of the Marion Three were seen throughout the crowd.

At the picket line, loud chants of "Money for jobs, not for war" and "Free the Marion Three!" greeted Reagan as he arrived at a fund-raiser for the Republican senator Jeremiah Denton.

For many in the crowd it was their first demonstration, and for others it was the first they had heard about the Marion Three frame-up. Several students carried the signs they got at the march home with them

and were excited by the enthusiasm of the protest.

More support for the Marion Three was raised June 2 at a "Unity Rally" in Selma. It was held at the historic Browns Chapel AME Church that was the departure point for the 1965 voting-rights march to Montgomery. Albert Turner was a central organizer of that march and was Alabama director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1965 to 1972. He later worked with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, an organization of small farmers.

About 300 people turned out for the rally and heard Jesse Jackson, a leading Demo-

cratic Party politician and head of the Rainbow Coalition. One part of his speech concerned the defense of the Marion Three.

Almost \$4,000 was raised for the legal expenses involved in defending the Turners and Hogue. The case of the three is the opening of an enormous federal effort to victimize Black political figures in majority-Black counties, where Blacks have been elected to various public offices. Dozens of FBI agents have also been "investigating" elections in Lowndes, Sumter, and Green counties. Three grand juries have been convened, and more indictments are expected.

Wendell Paris, cochair of the Black Belt

Defense Committee, contrasted this harassment to federal indifference over rampant vote fraud in elections won by whites.

More public activities are planned to defend the Marion Three, including at a Southern Regional Youth Conference organized by supporters of the Rainbow Coalition to be held at Selma University June 14-17. The conference will host a reception for the Turners and Hogue the evening of June 15. A meeting in Birmingham on June 26 at the University of Alabama will feature Albert Turner, Jr., son of Albert and Evelyn Turner and president of the student government at Miles College.

## Klansmen, cops liable in death of protesters

BY ROSE HENRY

GREENSBORO, N.C. — After two criminal trials and a civil suit, justice still has not been served in the killing of five anti-Klan demonstrators here in 1979. On June 7, the jury in a \$48 million civil suit returned a verdict finding no grounds for the charge that a conspiracy existed between Klansmen, Greensboro city police, and federal agents to violate the civil rights of anti-Klan demonstrators.

The Klansmen and Nazis organized a confrontation with anti-Klan demonstrators that resulted in the fatal shooting of five, and the injuring of seven, demonstrators. The five were members of the Communist Workers Party (CWP). The Klan-Nazi attack occurred in the heart of Greensboro's Black community.

The jury did find six Klansmen and Nazis and two Greensboro police officers liable in the wrongful death of Dr. Michael Nathan and the injuries to Paul Berman-

zohn and Thomas Clark. Nathan's widow was awarded \$358,700 in damages, and Bermanzohn, permanently paralyzed by his injuries, was awarded \$38,400. Clark is to receive \$15,000.

Nelson Johnson of the CWP, also injured in the shooting, said, "I think when measured in the context of the difficulty we've had to overcome to secure this decision, it is progress. But when measured on the scale of justice, it is inadequate and unjust."

Lewis Pitts, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said that "the Greensboro police department's liability has been established by a verdict in North Carolina." But, he explained, that verdict shows "we still have a long way to go in this country to guarantee equal protection under the law for people of different skin colors and unpopular political views."

Greensboro police informant and Klan leader Eddie Dawson, and two police offi-

cers, were found liable. "I was kind of shocked about getting caught on the wrongful death charge," said Dawson. "Sure, I'm upset. I expected to walk out of this fully. I really did."

Federal agents charged in the case were not held responsible, however. Bernard Butkovich, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agent who participated in meetings of Klansmen and Nazis to organize the confrontation, was one of the defendants in the case. The fact that he was not found liable was "a victory for the Bureau" and for the practice of using undercover agents, said John Westra, Special Agent of the BATF in North Carolina.

The Klansmen, Nazis, and police officers may appeal the decision if the presiding judge, Robert Mehri, does not set aside the ruling. Judge Mehri has said he may overturn the wrongful death findings.

The plaintiffs are also considering an appeal.