

NOW sets abortion rights campaign

BY DIANE WANG

NEW ORLEANS — The 2,300 women's rights activists meeting here at the annual conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW) July 19-21 launched a major national action campaign to defend women's right to abortion.

"We will never go back!" was the chant that rang out at the conference sessions, reflecting participants' determination to act to defend abortion.

The "Reproductive Rights Strategies" resolution, passed by the big majority of delegates, had as its centerpiece the call for NOW to "organize a massive march and rally in Washington, D.C. in 1986 of our supporters to show — dramatically — the overwhelming majority support for legal abortion and birth control." Although the date hasn't been set yet, the target for the demonstration is early spring.

The resolution also calls on NOW to organize a campaign to involve college students in fighting for abortion rights.

Four days before the NOW conference opened, the Justice Department asked the Supreme Court to overturn the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* high court decision that legalized abortion. This direct attack by the Reagan administration on legal abortion is part of the government's unrelenting offensive against abortion rights.

At the NOW National Board meeting the day before the conference opened, NOW leaders had launched a "Campaign to Save Women's Lives: One Million Strong." It includes a petition drive to collect a million signatures in defense of abortion rights.

The petitions are to be presented at a major event in Washington, D.C., on the January 22 anniversary of the legalization of abortion. The national board also called for abortion-rights rallies at the Supreme Court and federal courthouses in cities

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South African rulers escalate racist terror

BY FRED FELDMAN

In a massive show of defiance against the state of emergency imposed by the racist South African regime, 50,000 Blacks marched through the Black township of KwaThema July 23. The procession ended at the graves of 15 recent victims of the government's terror. They chanted, "We shall be free" and voiced support for the call by the outlawed African National Congress for a struggle to bring down the apartheid regime.

Afterward, security forces riding in armored cars fired tear gas at young mourners who were demonstrating.

On July 20, the South African government imposed the state of emergency on 36 urban districts.

Many of those arrested are leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF), an anti-apartheid coalition of some 600 organizations. Before the state of emergency, the government already held 22 UDF leaders on treason charges.

The march was the second mass protest held since the state of emergency was proclaimed.

About 20,000 people reportedly attended the July 20 funeral, on the outskirts of the Black township of Illegihle, of four Black activists believed to have been murdered by a government-backed death squad.

According to the July 21 *Washington Post*, "There were also slogans and chants lauding Umkonto we Sizwe, or Spear of the Nation, the underground guerrilla organization of the outlawed African National Congress, South Africa's main Black resistance movement."

A bus carrying people coming home from a funeral was seized by police and 22 passengers were arrested.

State of emergency

Under the state of emergency, the cops can arrest anyone and hold them indefinitely, seize property, impose curfews, and



South African armed forces patrolling streets of Black township. Under state of emergency hundreds of Blacks have been detained and racist violence has escalated.

order people to move from one part of the country to another. The cops are immune from legal action for any crimes they commit.

The cops can also limit news coverage and order reporters out of an area. The government has threatened to impose censorship if too much of the truth about the repression — or the resistance from the Black masses — leaks out.

The emergency is the first one imposed in South Africa since 1960, when the government declared a state of emergency after

massacring 69 Black demonstrators in Sharpeville. More than 11,000 people were arrested in that crackdown.

A report from Johannesburg in the July 23 *New York Times* described the "pattern of police tactics." A township is declared "a demarcated area," meaning that no one may enter or leave.

"Then, while people are asleep, police units, possibly reinforced by the military, move in to seize people identified from lists of purported activists.

"The authorities' intention . . . seems to be to arrest everyone deemed capable of organizing or channeling dissatisfaction with apartheid into protests. . . ."

South African cops have taken hostages, including one four-year-old boy, to exchange for activists they could not find in their sweeps through Black townships.

The U.S. government, which says it finds the apartheid system in South Africa "repugnant," was quick to indicate support for the racist regime's crackdown on the Black majority. "The situation has deteriorated to the point that the South Afri-

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Nicaragua: 500,000 celebrate July 19

BY BILL GRETTER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Has the Nicaraguan revolution lost the support of the people? Five hundred thousand demonstrators here July 19 gave a clear, direct, and overwhelming response to that question.

The massive rally celebrated the sixth anniversary of the victory of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The huge crowd in the Carlos Fonseca Plaza was combative, disciplined, and festive. Most of the marchers wore T-shirts or hats with the slogan for this anniversary: "Nicaragua victorious, will neither sell out nor give in" or other revolutionary slogans. Tens of thousands carried banners and blue-and-white Nicaraguan flags or red-and-black Sandinista flags.

Workers and peasants from throughout the country came to Managua in buses and trucks, many leaving before dawn to arrive at the plaza on time. Neighborhoods in all parts of the capital organized to march in contingents. Many families with small children participated. Especially in the regional contingents, the number of youth and students was notable.

The size of the crowd, declared President Daniel Ortega in his keynote speech, said it all. "This is talk turned into action. Here, the words are the people mobilized. And if this is not the people, then where are they? Where are the workers and peasants? Where are the soldiers? Where are the

youth and women? Where is the FSLN? Where is the revolution?"

"Here," the crowd shouted in response to each question.

International solidarity was a major focus of the event. The first foreign guests announced from the podium were the more than 100 delegates from U.S. solidarity committees and other U.S. antiwar activists, including farmers. Their participation, the chairman said, shows a commitment to peace against the state terrorism carried out by the U.S. government. Representatives were also present from committees in 21 other countries.

The presidents of Mexico, Argentina, and Peru were represented. Governmental delegations attended from Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hungary, Laos, Poland, Mongolia, Panama, and India. The most enthusiastic response from the crowd was for Pedro Miret from the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party and Vo Van Viet who is vice-president of the Council of Ministers and a member of the Political Bureau of the Vietnamese Communist Party.

'Birthday greetings'

The Reagan administration sent "birthday greetings" to the Nicaraguan revolution in a provocative diplomatic note issued July 17. The note, which the press here de-

scribed as "insolent and threatening," is a sharply worded warning against support to "international terrorist activities." Alleging that Nicaragua has "influence" with groups who oppose Washington's presence in Central America, the note blamed Nicaragua, in advance, for any attacks on U.S. personnel in the area. It specifically men-

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French government harasses U.S. socialists at airport

In a major attack on democratic rights by the French government of President François Mitterrand, three members of the Young Socialist Alliance were detained on July 20 by border police at the Charles De Gaulle airport in Paris. Before being released, the three were interrogated for two and a half hours. Their baggage was searched, personal letters were opened, and addresses of friends in France were taken down. Books, pamphlets, and newspapers were confiscated.

The three YSA members — Candace Wagner, Greg Rosenberg, and Janet Brammer — are participating in an International Youth Camp near Agen in southern France. The camp is being hosted by the YSA's sister organization in that country,

the Revolutionary Communist Youth (JCR) and is sponsored by youth organizations in political solidarity with the Fourth International from Europe. More than 700 youths from many countries are attending the camp.

The books and periodicals that the YSA members had brought with them to display at the camp were seized by the police on the grounds that they were "communist literature." They included several titles published by Pathfinder Press such as *War and Crisis in the Americas*, *Speeches by Fidel Castro 1984-85*; *Maurice Bishop Speaks*; *South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt*; *By Any Means Necessary*, *Speeches by Malcolm X*; *Women and the Nicaraguan Revo-*

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BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Socialists here have been traveling every week throughout the Delaware Valley to sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the gates of auto assembly plants, auto parts plants, oil refineries, rail yards, and a big electrical assembly factory in Camden, New Jersey.

We try to go to the big General Motors assembly plant near Wilmington, Delaware, every week. This GM plant has more than 5,000 workers organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW). Workers here face speed-up and harassment as GM tries to squeeze

more profits out of the work force. There will be a six-month layoff next year to retool for the new L-body car, and hundreds of workers who have been hired since January are wondering if their jobs will be filled by robots. This helps explain why, from the first time we sold there, some 5 to 20 auto workers bought the *Militant*. The trip to GM is about 35 miles from Philadelphia, and it takes about three hours to reach both shifts and travel there and back.

We sold 20 *Militants* one afternoon after the house of the Black organization, MOVE, was bombed in Philadelphia. Most

were sold to Black workers. Some workers remember the *Militant* as the only paper that defended MOVE against cop violence.

Other workers bought the paper because of the coverage of the American Motors Company contract, or the AP parts auto workers strike in Toledo. Some were interested in getting the truth about what is going on in Central America and the paper's antiwar point of view.

There have also been teams going to the Fisher Body parts plant in Trenton, New Jersey. There have been lively discussions about whether imports are the

main problem that workers face there. These discussions have taken place both inside the plant, and with *Militant* sales teams outside the plant.

Philadelphia socialist workers have been selling the *Militant* at a Sun Oil Refinery for over a year and recently began sales at a British Petroleum/Sohio refinery. Both are organized by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers.

The first team that went to BP/Sohio sold five papers in front of the drive-in parking lot. Most workers at BP and Sun Oil work shifts that change each week. One week they work days, the next

swing shift, and the next midnight. Sometimes it's a month before a sales team will even see the same worker twice. But news gets around the refinery and so does the *Militant*.

One challenge that Philadelphia socialists have is sales at the large Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union-organized shops in Philadelphia. We sell the *Militant* and *PM* in two medium-sized shops of several hundred workers.

Halket Allen is a member of OCAW Local 8-234 in Philadelphia.

SWP conference features broad range of classes

BY TOM LEONARD

A broad range of classes on international revolutionary struggles and working-class strategy will be available to participants at the Socialist Workers Party Convention and Educational Conference which will take place in Oberlin, Ohio, August 10-15.

Doug Jenness, editor of the biweekly news magazine *Intercontinental Press*, will give a three-part series on the Cuban revolution. The first class will be based on the new Pathfinder Press book of Castro's speeches and interviews, *War and Crises in the Americas*. The other two classes will explain Cuba's revolutionary housing policy and the production and distribution of food in Cuba.

Classes on the Nicaraguan revolution will be given by *Militant* staff member Cindy Jaquith and *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel.

Intercontinental Press managing editor Ernest Harsch, who recently visited the Af-

rican countries of Ghana and Burkina, will present a class on revolutions in Sub-Saharan Africa since 1974. There will be another class on the struggle against French colonialism in Kanak (New Caledonia) in the South Pacific.

Steve Clark, managing editor of the *New Internationalist*, will give a series of classes on Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky's theory of the permanent revolution and the fight against Stalinism in the late 1920s and 1930s.

Canadian socialists will speak on the farmers movement in Canada, the abortion rights struggle in that country, and the Quebec independence struggle today.

A panel of socialist coal miners from Britain will give a class on the impact and lessons of their recent militant strike against the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Dick McBride will give a class based on the two volumes of Farrell Dobbs' books

on revolutionary continuity and Marxist leadership in the United States.

The 1932-34 writings of James P. Cannon, founding leader of the SWP, will soon be published by Monad Press. The book discusses the early history of the party and will be the basis for a class series by Michael Taber, who helped compile the material for the book.

Young Socialist Alliance leader Laura Garza will give a class on the fight against imperialist war, highlighting the mass protests by GIs at the end of World War II. YSA leader Ellen Haywood will give a class on the origins of women's oppression and a working-class strategy for winning women's liberation.

A class will be given on the forging of the Chicano nationality in the United States. *Perspectiva Mundial* staff writer Selva Nebbia will be giving a class in Spanish and English on U.S. imperialist domination and militarization of Puerto

Rico.

A series of classes by students from the SWP's leadership school will include the history of the First International, the origins of Bonapartism, and the U.S. Civil War and Radical Reconstruction period.

There will be classes on the U.S. Black struggle, including one on the last year of Malcolm X, and another on the Black rights struggle during World War II.

Two U.S. socialist coal miners and members of the United Mine Workers (UMWA) will give classes on the struggles of miners in this country.

Seattle socialists protest arson attempt

BY DAN FEIN

SEATTLE — Supporters of free speech are carrying out a fight to defend the right of socialists to function here without intimidation.

On the morning of July 14 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign of Chris Horner for Mayor arrived at the campaign offices to discover charred newspaper and wood piled next to the building indicating an attempt to burn it down. Fortunately the offices did not catch fire and no damage was done.

J.A. Colby from the Seattle police department came to the socialist headquarters to make a report. He acknowledged it was an arson attack and called the arson squad to do an investigation at the site of the attack. They refused with the excuse that the campaign director "had already taken photographs of the evidence."

On July 16 the daily *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* carried an article on the arson attempt. According to the article, a Seattle fire department spokesman, Capt. Irv

Schick, said, "It's uncertain whether the fire was arson or a nuisance since it was set some distance from the office." In fact the charred newspaper and wood were three inches from the building and neither Irv Schick nor anyone else from the Seattle fire department ever bothered to go look at the evidence.

The Socialist Workers mayoral campaign collected 18 signatures on a letter sent to Seattle Mayor Charles Royer. It demanded "An immediate arson-squad investigation to find and prosecute those responsible for the arson attack; police protection for the socialist campaign headquarters; and that Mayor Royer issue a statement denouncing the intimidation of the socialist candidate and his campaign supporters.

Signers included leaders of unions, women's rights organizations, and anti-apartheid and antiwar coalitions.

On July 22 campaign supporters attended Mayor Royer's weekly news conference. They gave reporters a copy of the

letter that they had previously delivered to the mayor's office.

Lee Carter, a reporter for Channel 7-TV asked the mayor what was being done both about the burglary at a local church that provides sanctuary for Central American refugees and the arson attempt at the Socialist Workers Party campaign offices. The mayor responded that the appropriate bodies are looking into these matters just like any other violations of the law.

The socialist campaign director then corrected the mayor by noting that to date there had been no arson squad investigation into the eight-day-old attack on the SWP campaign office. The socialist campaign director also asked the mayor if he would issue a public statement against intimidation of the socialist campaign and provide police protection for the campaign offices.

The mayor answered, "Okay, I'll reply. I deplore these activities. Yes, there will be an investigation by the arson department. The police will give protection as they see fit. It's their decision."

Come to SWP Convention

The Socialist Workers Party invites you to attend our national convention and educational conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 10-15.

Participants will include unionists, fighters for the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and women; antiwar and anti-apartheid activists, family farmers, and revolutionaries from around the world.

Two Socialist Workers Party resolutions — "The Workers' and Farmers' Alliance in the U.S." and "Revolutionary Perspective and Leninist Continuity in the U.S." — that appear in the Spring 1985 issue of *New Internationalist* provide the framework for discussion at the convention.

If you are interested in attending, contact the SWP branch nearest you (see directory on page 12) or write to SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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The Militant

Closing news date: July 24, 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.

UN women's meeting assesses progress

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is a family planning boom. Some 50 percent of women who want to delay — temporarily or permanently — having children are able to do so.

Although family planning is growing, there remains many obstacles to women's right to control their bodies including lack of information on birth control methods, lack of access to contraceptives, and opposition either from husbands, governments, or churches.

The report estimates that internationally, some 50 million abortions are performed each year. In imperialist countries, where abortions are illegal, women die of complications from the unsafe procedure. This problem is compounded, however, in many underdeveloped countries where medical care is a luxury.

"Governments who are unable to or unwilling to provide services for dependent members of the community — such as children, the disabled, the unemployed, the frail elderly . . ." add to women's burden. These governments, the report states, assume "that something called 'the family' will step into the breach. . . . And it is women — albeit within 'the family' — who are expected to provide these services."

Turning to women as workers, the report states that "over just the last decade for example, 100 million more women came into the labor force. . . ." These women, however, are concentrated in service jobs making up "only one-quarter of those employed in industry — in the industrialized and developing countries alike."

Although the number of governments that have passed laws that require equal pay for equal work has increased from 28 in 1978 to 90 in 1983, the report points out that, in reality, "there is no equal work." Women continue to be concentrated in the lowest paid occupations.

"Total employment," the report continues, "has dropped significantly during the decade, for all workers. Unemployment, however, has hit women hardest. It is estimated that well over 40 percent of the 30 million people reported as unemployed are women. Since women do not always register as unemployed, the report states that "the real number of unemployed women is probably substantially higher."

To round out the picture of women's working situation, the report turns to what it calls the "informal sector." Those people who scratch out an existence by selling small items, food, care for children, and the like. It estimates that "between 20 and 70 percent of the labor force in Third World cities" make a living in this way. Although little information is available on this economic sector, the report states that "the evidence indicates that in some regions the informal sector is overwhelmingly occupied by women."

While the report says there is a general rise in education on a world scale, women continue to lag behind and illiteracy among women is higher than among men.

The UN conference opened with the election of Kenya's Margaret Kenyatta as conference president.

Role of U.S. delegation

The first plenary had to be adjourned immediately because of the the U.S. delegation's attempt to determine both the rules and the character of the conference. This delegation was hand picked by the Reagan administration and led by Maureen Reagan, Ronald Reagan's daughter. It represented the administration's anti-woman policies at home as well as its opposition to the liberation struggles of the oppressed peoples around the world.

The delegation demanded that the conference function by consensus, which would give the U. S. delegation veto power over any resolution it didn't like. Washington's delegation also announced that it planned to attempt to keep "politics" out of the conference and stick to "women's" issues.

The role the U.S. delegation was assigned at the conference was marked out clearly in a message sent to it by President Reagan. The message read, in part, "The business of this conference is women, not propaganda. Should it prove necessary you'll be more than willing to fight to keep the conference on track."

By "propaganda" Reagan meant central political questions such as apartheid, the imperialist-imposed foreign debt crisis of semicolonial countries, the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation of their homeland, and the U.S.-backed war in Central America.

These questions, however, are totally linked to the international struggle of women for their liberation. They are "prop-



UN Decade for Women Conference leaders President Margaret Kenyatta (right) and Secretary-General Leticia Shahani from the Philippines.

aganda" to the U.S. government because they expose its aggressive policies against the toiling masses of the world.

The U.S. delegation immediately met opposition to its attempt to dictate the limits of the conference discussion. Leticia Shahani told *Forum '85*, the daily paper published by the non-governmental conference, that " . . . many women come from countries where reality is a bomb, displacement from the homeland, persecution, economic hardship. These are also women's issues. The debt question, for example, is not something between the Brazilian Government and the IMF [International Monetary Fund, the U.S.-run imperialist international lending organization]; it affects women when they go to buy food, when they are evicted from their homes, when they lose their jobs because of budget cuts.

" . . . This is a women's conference so I feel that those political issues that concern all the world's women should be articulated," she said.

Sally Mugabe, head of the delegation from Zimbabwe, condemned the U.S. delegation's position and told the press that apartheid and the plight of the Palestinian people must be discussed at the conference.

Margaret Papandreou, head of the Greek delegation, told a July 12 press conference

that " . . . the women's movement is a political movement. It is a social revolution, it is about changes in society that are global. This means it addresses itself to all issues that affect the daily lives of women. This also means that no one group of women can determine what are women's issues and foreclose discussion on non-women's issues, as that group defines them . . . and I am talking about the United States."

This opposition pushed back the U.S. delegations's attempt to gain veto power over the conference. Within hours of the opening of the conference rules were adopted that called for striving for consensus but not requiring it.

Faced with widespread opposition to attempts to restrict the conference discussions, Maureen Reagan was forced to acknowledge in her speech before the conference that apartheid and the struggle of the Palestinians could be topics of discussion.

However, as the conference continued and denunciation of the U.S.-backed war in Central America and its support for the apartheid regime in South Africa met with warm applause from the delegates, Reagan warned that the U.S. delegation would not stand for discussion which exposed the U.S. government's brutal imperialist policies.

French gov't harasses U.S. socialists

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lution and Abortion is a Woman's Right.

Copies of socialist publications including the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Intercontinental Press*, and *New International* were also confiscated.

The camp features classes and special presentations on the fight for women's rights, the struggle against racism, solidarity with liberation struggles in El Salvador and New Caledonia, support for the Nicaraguan revolution, and support to labor struggles.

When Youth Camp organizers called the border police to protest this attack on democratic rights, the police changed their story. They now claim that the literature was not confiscated and is only being held pending a review by a commission in charge of imports. This review, they said, would take as much as three weeks to complete.

In a protest statement sent to the au-

thorities and the major daily newspapers in France, camp organizers denounced this attack on democratic rights, calling it an arbitrary use of import laws, political harassment, and a violation of individual rights.

YSA National Secretary Peter Thierjung sent a message to the French government's Minister of the Interior as well as the bor-

der police protesting this violation of democratic rights and "attempt to prevent young fighters from around the world from exchanging ideas and experiences."

The Mitterrand government's attack comes in the context of a campaign by the local press in Agen to smear the youth camp as a gathering of "terrorists."

NOW launches abortion-rights campaign

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across the country on October 6, the day before the Supreme Court opens its fall term; speaking tours and public forums on abortion rights, and a continuation of vigils and escort services at abortion clinics.

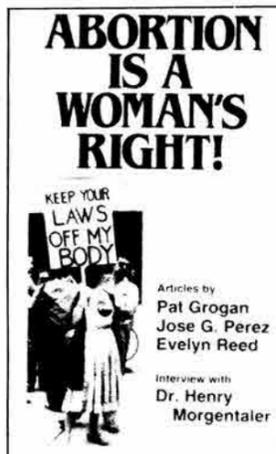
In a major new policy decision, the conference also put NOW on record against U.S. intervention in Central America.

The anti-intervention resolution condemns the U.S. government's funding and directing of the war and government re-

pression against the people of El Salvador, which has claimed 55,000 lives. The "Reagan administration is threatening an illegal invasion of Nicaragua, where attacks by CIA-backed *contras* have already caused over 8,000 casualties in their effort to forcibly overturn the 1979 revolution, which with the active participation of women has achieved important feminist goals. . . ." says the resolution.

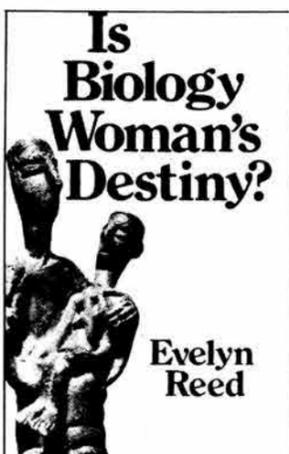
Next week's *Militant* will carry further coverage of the NOW conference.

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Participants in the 1985 NOW National Conference July 19-21 in New Orleans voted for action campaign to defend abortion rights.

Protest Louisville racist firebombing

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — On July 4 here 100 people demonstrated in defense of open housing and against racist attacks. The protest included activists from the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, NAACP, Human Rights Commission, Progressive Students League, National Organization for Women, Socialist Workers Party, and several religious organizations.

The action was called in response to the June 30 firebombing of the home of the Marshalls, a Black family that had recently moved onto an otherwise all-white street in Sylvania, a subdivision in the southwestern part of Jefferson County. This area has been the site of several racist attacks since 1975, when there was a struggle over busing for school desegregation.

On the night of the firebombing, Martha Marshall was at home with her 11-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter. Robert Marshall, a maintenance worker for the city housing authority, was at their former home, since all their possessions had not yet been moved.

At about 3:30 a.m. Martha Marshall heard a strange sound. She went to her son's room and found the curtains on fire. She ran next door with her two children, where neighbors let her in and called the fire department. The fire consumed nearly all their belongings.

On July 3 an ad hoc coalition including the NAACP, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union came together to plan a response. The next day supporters of the Marshalls gathered at a shopping center. A caravan of about 50 cars left from there for the Marshall home, where a rally was held.

The rally was chaired by NAACP Presi-

dent Geoffrey Ellis, who responded to the Ku Klux Klan's denial of involvement in the incident by saying "If the KKK didn't do it they need to hear us anyway. This is a strong representation of this community and we're saying it stops right here."

Robert Marshall thanked everyone for their support and said he had only one dream, "a dream that everyone work where they want, live where they want, and live the way they want."

Robert's uncle, who had urged the family to go public, came forward to say that if Reagan was so concerned about "protecting hostages thousands of miles away, surely something could be done to protect us here."

Bob Cunningham, the vice-chairperson of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, directed his comments at the cops. "You have no problems catching us, the jails are full of us! So you should have no problem catching those who are responsible for this act," he said.

Several of the Marshalls' neighbors watched the rally, although none participated. Other residents from southwestern Jefferson County did participate, including a representative from the Southwest Jefferson County Ministerial Association and a young woman who had graduated from a high school in the area. She held a banner reading "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... including a home in the suburbs."

The Marshall family has no plans to move back to the Sylvania home.

But NAACP President Ellis closed the rally by letting them know returning was still an option. "If Robert wants to come back, we'll stand by him. That's our commitment to Robert; we're not going to leave him alone."

On July 10 two suspects were arrested for the firebombing.



Louisville firebombing occurred in area of city where there have been repeated attacks on Blacks since racists vandalized buses used for school desegregation in the mid 1970s.

Puerto Rican fighters face frame-up in Chicago

BY SCOTT DOMBECK

CHICAGO — The trial of four Puerto Rican independence fighters on charges of "seditious conspiracy" continues here. The four are charged with plotting to bomb military installations in July 1983, even though no such bombings ever took place.

The defendants are: Alejandrina Torres, Edwin Cortes, Alberto Rodríguez, and José Luis Rodríguez (no relation to Alberto).

The trial is taking place in the midst of a government attempt to whip up an antiracist hysteria and an effort by Chicago's capitalist media to inflame public sentiment against the four. Judge George Leighton had warned the jury against viewing such blatantly biased coverage of the trial. When several jurors announced in court that they had, in fact, seen the coverage, the judge refused to dismiss the charges. The defense had requested a dismissal, given that a fair trial is impossible.

The government has introduced electronic surveillance as evidence against the four. The court had earlier ruled that such

evidence, illegally acquired, was inadmissible. An appeals court however ruled that since the tapes were essential to the government's case they could be presented.

These video and audio tapes are often so garbled as to be unintelligible. FBI agents have admitted having "enhanced and reprocessed" these tapes.

Security arrangements at the trial are extremely elaborate including armed federal marshals everywhere. This is aimed at intimidating jurors, the defendants, and their supporters and violating their right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The defendants want to use the trial to expose U.S. imperialist domination of Puerto Rico and to win support for Puerto Rican independence.

Puerto Rico has been a colony since the U.S. government invaded the island in 1898. In the 87 years since the invasion, Puerto Rico's political life has been controlled by the U.S. government and it has been economically dominated by the ruling families of the United States.

If the government is successful in this frame-up, it will set a dangerous precedent for repressing and intimidating all supporters of Puerto Rico's independence.

The government's propaganda and intimidation have failed to prevent this city's Puerto Rican community from backing the rights of the defendants. When the trial opened in early July, some 200 people demonstrated in support of the victims. Puerto Rican activists have packed the courtroom everyday.

Julio Cortez, one of the organizers of the defense effort, summed up the feeling of many. "The purpose of this trial is to make an example of these freedom fighters. If you fight for independence this is what you face. But we will be victorious just as every other anticolonial struggle has been."

The trial is expected to last until early August.

Letters of support can be sent to: National Committee to Defend the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, Box 147, 2520 N Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60614. Defense funds can be sent to the West Town Community Law Center, 2048 W Division, Chicago, Ill. 60622.

Georgia socialists press fight to get on ballot

BY JIM BLACK

ATLANTA — Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, Sara Jean Johnston, announced a petition drive to place her name on the ballot. An unemployed garment worker, Johnston told a July 1 news conference that because her campaign is being run "in the interests of workers and farmers and against the interests of the ruling rich, we know that getting on the ballot will be a political fight."

Candidates must either pay a \$1,500 filing fee or gather signatures totalling 2 percent of the number of registered voters in the city in order to have their names placed on the ballot in the officially non-partisan city election.

Supporters of Johnston's campaign have already collected 2,700 signatures of Atlanta residents who support her right to appear on the ballot.

A crowd of passersby listened as Johnston told reporters about her campaign.

"The socialist campaign demands that the U.S. government keep its hands off Nicaragua. We defend the revolutionary gains of the workers and farmers in that country. We support Black majority rule in South Africa. We side with the just demands of the Lebanese people, demanding the release of the Lebanese held illegally in Israel and the withdrawal of the U.S. fleet from the coast of Lebanon. We explain the need for workers and farmers in the United States to fight to take political power right here at home, and to establish a new government, a workers' and farmers' government. We point to that as our goal as we fight racist attacks, union-busting, degradation of women, and U.S. government intervention in Central America," said Johnston.

"The socialist campaign is not a 'vote for me and I'll set you free' campaign," Johnston explained. "My campaign exposes the real aim of capitalist elections, which is to try to convince working people not to use the power of our own class to fight for our interests. They want us to rely

on the Democrats and Republicans, who represent our worst enemy, the ruling rich. We point to the need for a mass, uncompromising struggle by workers, farmers, and all the oppressed to protect the gains of our class and win new victories."

Campaign supporters have found widespread opposition to U.S. war moves against Nicaragua. "The U.S. government has no business attacking Nicaragua. Washington should keep its hands off peoples' struggles all over the world," said one signer.

Socialists have had numerous discussions about the U.S. government's role in supporting the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. "This government would like to see apartheid right here in the U.S.," said one elderly Black woman.

Many discussions have centered on Lebanon. The front-page *Militant* coverage of the U.S. and Israeli war against the Lebanese people was well-received. One woman noted that "It's good to see someone telling the truth about Lebanon. They don't tell you why it's a crime that Israel took those 700 Lebanese hostages. Aren't U.S. and Israeli planes dropping bombs on the Lebanese people terrorist attacks?"

Many people signing petitions expressed dissatisfaction with Democratic Mayor Andrew Young. "Young's heart belongs to Coca-Cola, not to working people like us," one person declared.

One of the most exciting results of the petitioning drive has been the number of working people and students who have expressed an interest in learning more about socialism.

More than 45 people have signed up to hear about future campaign events and get information on the Young Socialist Alliance, a revolutionary youth organization that is actively supporting the socialist campaign. A Black worker from Lockheed, for example, who is a member of the International Association of Machinists, told petitioners how glad he was to find a group of people to discuss politics with. Recently he attended a discussion on Mal-

colm X sponsored by the YSA.

Through the campaign, socialists are reaching out in solidarity to those who are struggling against social injustice and exploitation. Johnston participated with over 100 others in a forum sponsored by the National Black Independent Political Party to express outrage at the police bombing of the Black community in Philadelphia.

She also participated in a meeting and rally against the death penalty. In the past 18 months, six men have been executed by the state of Georgia — five of them Black. All were put to death for the murder of white victims. A 1984 study showed that a person is four times more likely to be sentenced to death under the current law if the victim is white than if the victim is Black. At the meeting, sponsored by 30 organizations, Johnston distributed a statement which explained how the ruling rich use the death penalty as a weapon against the entire working class.

N.Y. Casa Honduras opens; condemns U.S. militarization of Central America

BY PACO SÁNCHEZ

NEW YORK — More than 70 people celebrated the opening of Casa Honduras at a public meeting July 1 at Casa de las Americas.

Casa Honduras representative Javier González noted that Casa Honduras was born "to explain the truth about what is happening in Honduras, in the territory occupied by North American troops." González presented a history of the aggression, exploitation, and repression the Honduran people have suffered as a result of that country's domination by U.S. imperialism.

Rubén Quiroz, another member of the group, read part of the new organization's statement of purpose. It pointed to the necessity of keeping the Honduran community in the United States informed as well as reaching out to broader circles in

the United States. Casa Honduras seeks to involve people in active solidarity with the peoples of Central America who are fighting for self-determination and "coordinate informational and educational activities which strengthen that solidarity against North American intervention in Honduras and the rest of Central America."

He also denounced the "Honduran government and army's role as a counterrevolutionary base, as well as the aggression they lead against the neighboring peoples" of Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Gustavo Acosta, representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, spoke about the struggle against the U.S.-backed Salvadoran dictatorship, including the recent strikes and demonstrations by the Salvadoran labor movement.

Castro assails U.S. on complicity with S. African apartheid

Details views in 'Playboy' interview

BY HARRY RING

The August issue of *Playboy* magazine features a 15-page interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The article is extracted from a 25-hour interview conducted in Havana. According to the magazine, it is the longest interview yet granted a North American publication by the Cuban leader. *Playboy* interviewed him once earlier, in 1967.

The present interview was conducted by Mervyn Dymally and Jeffrey Elliot. Dymally is a Democratic member of Congress from California and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Elliot is a professor of political science and free-lance writer.

The interviewers noted that Castro also recently granted major interviews to others in the U.S. media and asked if there was a particular reason for this.

Castro responded by pointing to the sharp tensions in Central America and the mounting social and economic crisis throughout Latin America. At the same time, he added, there is world concern over the arms buildup and war danger, as well as conflict in South Africa.

Discussing the U.S. war drive against Nicaragua, Castro said, "I do not rule out military intervention."

Reagan, he added, has "a very high degree of personal commitment on this issue, which could lead — at a certain moment — to direct intervention."

It is quite evident, he noted, that with the U.S. buildup in Honduras, all the military conditions are in place for an invasion "if that decision is ever made."

Castro stated that Reagan does not want a peaceful solution in Central America, and charged that Washington's aim is "to crush the Sandinista revolution" in Nicaragua and "to exterminate every last revolutionary" in El Salvador.

More generally, he said, the aim is "to destroy . . . the spirit of rebellion in this Central American people."

'Cuba's moral rockets'

He added: "It's as if the Reagan administration wants to teach an unforgettable lesson so that no one else in Central America or in Latin America will ever again think of rebelling against the tyrannies serving U.S. interests, against hunger and exploitation — so that no one will ever again fight for independence and social justice."

But, his interviewers asked, what of Washington's charge that the root of the Central American crisis was "your policy of spreading revolution to other countries?"

Castro responded: "I once said that Cuba does not have nuclear rockets, but it does have moral rockets. If the U.S. feels threatened by the altruism and sacrifice of Cuban teachers and doctors in other countries, perhaps they are right to feel threatened — because those workers are expressing a morality that is superior. If they want to fear our ideas, then I will say

yes, they are right to fear the ideas — that is why so many lies have to be invented."

Reaffirming Cuba's solidarity with El Salvador's liberation fighters, Castro assailed Washington's claim that the regime of José Napoleón Duarte is a legitimate one.

"I don't know where this notion of the legality of that government comes from," he said.

He reminded his interviewers that the Duarte regime had been installed after six years of civil war in which more than 50,000 people had been murdered by right-wing death squads. He branded Duarte as "a conspirator and an accessory" to these genocidal crimes.

Rejecting the claim that Duarte had been chosen in an open and free election, he declared that the polling took place in the midst of fear and repression and that the elections were planned by Washington, with the CIA funding the parties of its choice.

"Actually," he continued, "one can't help wondering why the United States considers the El Salvador elections to be legal and, in turn, considers the Nicaragua elections illegal."

Racist South Africa: U.S. ally

Discussing the issue of South Africa, Castro presented a blistering indictment of the major capitalist powers for their economic and military support to South African apartheid.

"In fact," he declared, "South Africa is an ally of the West's, and it is the West that has actually made it possible for that system to endure. The United States has systematically opposed all sanctions against the South African regime."

"Yes," he charged, "the West is responsible for the survival of apartheid. How can you justify the aggressive, subversive measures against Nicaragua, the economic blockade of Cuba — which has already lasted 26 years — and then talk about constructive relations with the apartheid regime?"

"If South Africa were effectively isolated, economic measures were implemented against it and everyone were to support them, the apartheid system would come to an end.

"The measures the United States takes against socialist countries are not taken against apartheid! Nothing about apartheid has produced sufficient revulsion in leaders of Western countries, just a few embarrassing situations that they try to explain with hypocritical statements."

But, the interviewers asked, what about Cuba's military involvement in Africa? How did he justify sending Cuban troops to such countries as Angola and Ethiopia?

Cuba, Castro explained, sent troops to Angola in 1975 at the time when that nation won independence from Portugal and found itself invaded by South Africa. The Cuban troops went to Angola, and remain



Cuban troops in Angola. Cuba sent troops to Angola in 1975, on request of Angola's government, when that country was invaded by South Africa. "We are only country that has actually fought South African racists and fascists, the only country in the world — in addition to Angola, of course, which was under attack," Castro explained.

there, at the request of the Angolan government.

"We are the only country," Castro observed, "that has actually fought the South African racists and fascists, the only country in the world — in addition to Angola, of course, which was under attack."

Cuban troops defend Angola, Ethiopia

"You can be sure," he added, "that all the African countries have always admired and been thankful for this action by Cuba."

"The troops are still there, to defend Angola against another operation by the South Africans. It was simply that — an unexpected situation in which somebody had to fight against the racists, and not part of some larger plan by the Soviet Union, as the United States has claimed."

The interviewers pressed: "What about Ethiopia? There was no South African invasion there."

In response, Castro explained that when Ethiopia's feudal monarchy was overthrown in 1974, Cuba established friendly relations with the new government and sought to aid it.

In 1977, Castro explained, there was an invasion by Somalia from the south. "It was a difficult moment for Ethiopia. The Revolution could have collapsed; the Ethiopian people needed our help and we sent it. No one could help them when they were invaded by Mussolini's troops [in 1935-36], but this time they received support from tiny Cuba."

Today, Castro said, only a few combat-ready Cuban troops remain in Ethiopia. With the troops in Angola, it is a different matter, he said. There the threat from South Africa remains and so do the Cuban troops.

Castro role

The interviewers, in discussing the situation in Cuba itself, focused heavily on Castro's personal role as principal leader of the revolution. They asked if Castro didn't think that "certain men" — like himself — "are destined for personal greatness?"

Castro rejected this view as ahistorical and false.

He explained: "Why am I saying this? Because I've noticed, especially in the West, a great tendency to associate historical events with individuals, it's the old theory that men make history."

"There is also a tendency in the West to see the leader of any Third World country as a chieftain; there's a certain stereotype: Leaders equal chieftains. From that, there's a tendency to magnify the role of the individual."

That may be, the interviewers responded, "but aren't you under intense scrutiny here in Cuba? Don't you live in something of a fish bowl?"

Castro replied, "Actually, I'm never even aware of it. There may be something that explains this: My activities are almost never reported in the press. I may be doing a lot of things for 15 days, yet none of it comes out in the papers. You may have noted that by and large, all countries have what's call a press office. Everything a leader does throughout a given day is published in the papers and reported on television and radio. In a sense, ivory towers and fishbowls are built around these people."

"I haven't created a fishbowl for myself. I go out and visit factories, schools, and the various provinces and towns. . . . But there's never been any protocol or welcome ceremonies for me, as is customary for leaders in many other countries."

The interviewers pressed, "What about Reagan's characterization of him as a 'ruthless military dictator?'"

Castro responded: "I don't make decisions totally on my own. I play my role as a leader within a team. In our country, we don't have an institution similar to the presidency of the United States. Here, all basic decisions — all the important decisions — are analyzed, discussed and adopted collectively. . . ."

"I do in fact have some authority; I have influence. But my only real prerogative is to speak before the Central Committee, before the National Assembly, before public opinion. That's the main power I have, and I don't aspire to any other. I don't want or need any other."

He added that from the first days the July 26 Movement was organized, before the July 26, 1953, attack on the Moncada Barracks, "we had collective leadership." That collective leadership, he said, had functioned throughout the civil war and the principle of collective leadership prevails in Cuba to this day.

Castro offered an additional thought: "I honestly believe that the president of the United States has much greater power and more capability of giving direct, unilateral orders. If his power includes something as monstrously undemocratic as the ability to order a thermonuclear war, I ask you, who, then, is more of a dictator: the President of the United States or I?"

He continued:

"I think U.S. and Cuban conceptions of liberty are very different. For example, there are more than one million children who have disappeared in the U.S. Next to your millionaires you have beggars. We have neither abandoned children nor beggars without homes."

"You always speak of freedom. Since your Declaration of Independence you have spoken of freedom. We, too, consider it self-evident that all men are born equal."

"But when George Washington and the others created U.S. independence, they did not free the slaves; not long ago, a U.S. Black athlete could not play baseball in the major leagues. And yet you called yours the freest country in the world."

"The freest country in the world also exterminated the Indians. You killed more Indians than Buffalo Bill killed buffalos."

"Since then you have made allies of the worst tyrants in Argentina and Chile, you have protected South Africa, you have used the worst murderers in the world to organize the *contra* revolution — and yours is the country of freedom? What is the banner of liberty the U.S. is really defending?"

Castro firmly rejected the charge that there is political repression in Cuba, or cruel punishment.

He said: "As regards the charge of cruelty, I think the cruelest people on earth are the ones who are indifferent to social injustice, discrimination, inequality, the exploitation of others — people who don't react when they see a child with no shoes, a beggar in the street or millions of hungry people."

"I really think that people who have spent all their lives struggling against injustice and oppression, serving others, fighting for others and practicing and preaching solidarity cannot possibly be cruel. I'd say that what is really cruel is a society — a capitalist one, for instance — that is not only cruel itself but forces others to be cruel."

"Socialism is just the opposite. By definition, it expresses confidence and faith in man, in solidarity among men and in the brotherhood of man — not selfishness, ambition, competition or struggle. I believe that cruelty is born of selfishness, ambition, inequality, injustice, competition and struggle among men."



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Huge Managua rally celebrates July 19

Continued from front page

tioned U.S. personnel in Honduras.

Nicaragua responded immediately with a diplomatic note of its own, denying responsibility for any terrorist actions. The note expressed Nicaragua's "complete and energetic condemnation of all forms of terrorism, particularly state terrorism like that supported and financed by the U.S. administration against our country."

The note described as "absurd" the U.S. plan to hold Nicaragua responsible for possible future casualties suffered by U.S. occupation forces in Honduras. It compared this to the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident, which the U.S. government fabricated to justify a massive escalation of U.S. intervention in Vietnam.

The note explained that, "This can only be understood in the context of the U.S. decision to orchestrate the necessary pretext to create the conditions for a direct military aggression against the Nicaraguan people. There is no other way to interpret this illogical and illegal threat."

The Nicaraguan response stressed the hypocrisy of the U.S. charges. It suggested that "if the U.S. administration has factual proof of the alleged Nicaraguan support to terrorist organizations, the International Court of Justice is fully qualified to investigate these accusations."

World Court

The World Court is presently hearing a case brought by Nicaragua against the U.S. government and has issued an initial decision in Nicaragua's favor. Washington refuses to recognize the authority of the court.

Taking up the same theme in his speech to the rally, Ortega admitted that there is a disagreement. "The U.S. government says we're the terrorists, and we say they are the terrorists. Okay, let the evidence decide. Let the evidence be judged by the international body affiliated to the UN, which is the International Court of Justice."

The U.S. government, he said, has appealed to this body 11 times since 1946; Nicaragua only twice. He challenged the United States to respect the authority of the court in this case: "If they're in favor of international law, let them show it there; let them show if they really are in favor of democracy and justice; let them prove there that they aren't terrorists."

"But if they plan to drench themselves with blood, if they plan to continue acting like terrorists, as they are, then surely they will not go to the court."

To this, Ortega contrasted Nicaragua's persistent search for peaceful solutions. "We are always ready to sign the Contadora peace accord, and we have accepted the proposals on verification and control. We're still waiting for the United States in Manzanillo [Mexico], to continue the dialogue to normalize relations. And now we're prepared to start conversations with the Costa Rican government to establish a

security zone along the border.

"We are confronting the intransigence of the United States," said Ortega, summing up a world situation which he described as "extremely tense."

'Nicaragua: hostage to unjust debt'

"We are hostages, along with dozens of countries of the world, of an unjust debt and unjust trade relations. We are hostages of a debt that cannot be paid, and of economic relations that our peoples cannot bear."

He called for "unity in action" of the countries of Latin America "to make the creditors understand that a new financial relationship, a new economic and trade relationship is needed."

At times Ortega's presentation had the character of a dialogue more than a speech. "We're going to continue to defend this truth called revolution, with guns in the hands of the people. Two hundred thousand rifles have been distributed to the people so far, in one more proof of democracy. Who wants one of them?" he asked. "Who is ready to take up a rifle to fight the aggressors that imperialism has sent, and the Yankee intervention if it comes?"

Hundreds of thousands of people raised their hands cheering, chanting, and waving Sandinista flags.

He continued: "They say — and I want to see what the people of Nicaragua think — the Pentagon specialists and the CIA analysts say that to get rid of the Sandinistas and to get rid of the Nicaraguan revolution would be simple."

Laughter and catcalls came from the audience.

"What do you think of that? Would it be simple to get rid of the Sandinista revolution?"

"No!"

How invaders would be greeted

U.S. intelligence sources, he said, and the sell-out counterrevolutionaries in Managua who pass them information, have led the U.S. government to believe that "in Nicaragua the revolution has lost the sympathy of the people; that if there is an intervention, the invading soldiers of the counterrevolutionary forces will be met with hugs and kisses."

Boos and hisses came from the crowd. "How would the people receive them? Would you greet them with hugs and kisses?"

"No!"

"Or would you greet them fighting . . .?"

"Yes!"

"Fighting block by block?"

"Yes!"

"Defending the neighborhoods, defending the cities, defending the country?"

"Yes!"

"The strategists assert — because all of this is being studied — that it is not possible for Nicaragua to put up the same kind of resistance that Vietnam did," Ortega continued, "because Vietnam had borders



Some of the estimated 500,000 Nicaraguans at July 19 rally demonstrate their support for the Sandinista-led workers' and farmers' government.

with friendly countries and Nicaragua doesn't. What the analysts fail to take into account is this:

"It's true that Nicaragua doesn't have the best relations — although we would like to have good relations — but the fact is that we don't have the best relations with some Central American governments. But we have excellent relations with the people of

Central America. And the people of Latin America. And even within the United States, we are certain that we can count on the friendship of the North American people.

"We have the people of the world on our side. And we're sure that at the moment of U.S. intervention in our country, the people of the world will be heard."

Nicaraguan on Nutting interview

The following letter from Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States, Carlos Tunnermann, was printed in the July 15 issue of the *New York Times*. Tunnermann is referring to a major interview that the *Times* conducted with U.S. Gen. Wallace Nutting. In the interview, Nutting stated that he strongly opposes a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. The July 19 *Militant* carried an article quoting extensively from that interview and discussing its significance.

Your story on the opposition of Gen. Wallace H. Nutting, commander of Army and Air Force combat forces in the United

States, to an invasion of Nicaragua adds an important and sane voice to the public discussion (news article, June 30). The Government of Nicaragua commends you for informing your readers that senior military officers in the United States do not favor military intervention in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua has consistently worked for general peace in Central America through Contadora and through bilateral talks with the U.S. These efforts have been met with aggression and invasion threats on the part of the United States Administration.

It is vital for the American public to understand that, as General Nutting points out, Nicaragua would fiercely resist an invasion. Both Nicaraguans and Americans would pay in blood the cost of political madness. General Nutting recognizes that such an action would cost the United States dearly throughout Latin America.

D'Escoto on fast against U.S. policy

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's foreign minister, Miguel D'Escoto, has taken a leave from his government post and gone on a fast against U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua. The fast began July 7.

D'Escoto stated that his fast was "a Christian repudiation of the policy of state terrorism imposed by the U.S. government against Nicaragua." He explained that in his opinion, "This war financed by the United States is a phenomenon of such a nature that all the conventional methods of defense we have been using — and which we should continue using to defend the life of our people — are insufficient."

Deputy Foreign Minister Víctor Tinoco has been appointed acting foreign minister in D'Escoto's absence.

'IP' on crisis for farmers in Sweden

In many countries in Western Europe working farmers are conducting massive protests against the worsening conditions they face. As in North America they are squeezed between increasing production costs and low earnings from the sales of their products. They are robbed by banks who profit from the interest on farm loans and by the big merchants and processors.

The August 5 *Intercontinental Press* carries an interview with a dairy family that has been active in farm protests in northern Sweden. The interview was obtained by *Internationales*, the weekly newspaper of the Socialist Party, Swedish section of the Fourth International.

Among the points made by this family is that many Swedish farmers are having difficulty making ends meet and are going under despite very long hours of work.

Along with the interview is an editorial from *Internationales* emphasizing the common interests between exploited farmers and workers and pointing to some proposals around which workers and farmers can fight together.

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UPHEAVAL ON AFRICAN CONTINENT

Auto workers at GM-Toyota ratify first contract

BY FRED NEUGENT

FREMONT, Calif. — On June 25 workers at the New United Motors Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI) — the General Motors-Toyota Joint Venture plant here — overwhelmingly approved their first three-year contract. Workers at NUMMI are organized by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2244.

Workers had no idea what the new contract contained as they gathered for the union meeting scheduled to discuss and vote on the proposed contract. About 500 workers out of a work force of 1,200 attended.

Bruce Lee, director of UAW Region 6, reported on the contract and strongly urged everyone to vote for it. As he began his report, a summary of the contract was distributed. He was interrupted several times by applause and enthusiastic yelling when he claimed that workers here would be the highest paid in the auto industry, or that there was a no-layoff agreement.

Workers came to this meeting concerned about the future. The auto bosses have been on a six-year drive to weaken the union and take back as many as possible of the gains auto workers had won previously. The companies have gotten concession contracts that reduce wages, cut benefits, and increase work loads.

Background to contract discussion

The experience of NUMMI workers is an example of how deep the companies' assault has been. Most of the NUMMI workers were at the same Fremont plant when it was owned by GM alone. In March 1982 the plant was shut down. At the end of 1984 selected workers began to be hired by NUMMI with lower wages and benefits. More drastic changes to benefit the company were imposed regarding things such as work rules and weakening the power of the union's in-plant shop committee. During the first nine months the company and union functioned with a "letter of intent"

— not a contract.

The new conditions were in sharp contrast to the way the former UAW unit, Local 1364, functioned at the GM plant.

Former workers brag about the several full-time benefits representatives who actively enforced the contract. Many stories are told about the easy access to shop committeemen when a supervisor tried to get someone to do more than their job required, tried to intimidate a worker, or acted in a sexist or racist way. The union also helped workers enforce the job-classification system.

In general, many workers considered their union to be a pretty militant fighter against the company.

At the time of the March 1982 plant closure, GM launched a major attack on the work force. It said the union was too strong, and that the company didn't have enough freedom to organize the plant in a way to make it profitable. The company charged the workers with doing a poor job and even accused them of sabotage. GM explained at length that attendance was poor and that excessive lateness had led to the enormous expense of hiring "extra" workers.

An attack that would reappear later was the company claim that many Fremont workers were drug and alcohol abusers who were incapable of doing their jobs.

All of these charges were designed to cover up the real problem — the capitalist economic system was having a crisis of overproduction and GM didn't need the plant for a few years.

Shattering experience

This intense propaganda campaign continued for a long time. The more than 6,000 workers at Fremont were then told the plant was permanently shut down. This was a shattering experience. At least five workers killed themselves. Over the next period divorces, home foreclosures, car repossessions, and unemployment plagued



Militant

Auto plant in Fremont, California, in 1970's when auto workers Local 1364 represented GM workers there. New contract approved by NUMMI workers registers deep assault by bosses on wages, benefits, and working conditions since then.

those who had worked at GM.

GM demanded that workers eligible for company supplements to unemployment checks take jobs with GM in other parts of the country. Hundreds of workers were forced to move to other cities while an unknown number who refused were denied their benefits. Many of the workers who moved are now back here in Fremont and very bitter about their experience.

In 1983 GM and Toyota announced they would reopen the plant as a new "joint venture." They said none of the former workers would be rehired.

During this time UAW Local 1364 attempted to fight back against GM and to wage a campaign to get the UAW International to back them in this fight. But the local was eventually dissolved and its building and offices taken over by the UAW International officialdom.

The end result was the announcement in September 1983 of the signing of the Letter of Intent between the UAW, GM, and Toyota. According to this document, the UAW would be recognized as the union in the plant. There was some nice wording about the importance of "experience" in hiring the "new" work force. But what actually happened is that NUMMI was able to pick and choose among the 6,000 former Local 1364 members who they wanted. As of this writing, it looks as if only about 1,500 of these workers will be rehired out of the 2,500 total that NUMMI expects to employ.

When deciding which former GM Fremont workers to rehire, NUMMI reraised all the old charges against them, including drug and alcohol use, as excuses to screen out workers the bosses didn't want. Seniority played no role in determining who or in what order people were hired.

Workers with 10, 20, or even 25 years seniority had to go through a battery of tests, classes, and assessments in order to be hired. Part of these were hands-on tests of workers' ability to do assembly work, for example. Much of it, though, was discussion groups to test workers' willingness to go along with the way management intended to run the plant.

It was explained that workers should help figure out ways to make their jobs more efficient — even how to eliminate jobs in order to make "their" company more competitive.

All the workers going through this realized that you either agreed, or acted like you did, or else you wouldn't get the job.

Many of the first people hired were the prospective group leaders (foremen) and a new category called "team leaders." Team leaders are workers in the union who organize and coordinate the work of five to eight coworkers. Two hundred thirty people were sent in groups to Japan for two weeks to study the Japanese bosses' production system and to work in Toyota plants. At the end of this process the company had a large pool of people who argued strongly for the bosses' way of running NUMMI.

One former leader of UAW 1364 found out what happens if you didn't go along totally. Robert Scott, a Black worker and GM employee for 23 years, was fired eight days after returning from Japan. Scott said he went along with the proposed production system at NUMMI. But when Toyota officials asked Scott if NUMMI workers could reproduce the speed of auto production at plants in Japan, Scott had answered no.

NUMMI representative Tom Klipstine

told a local newspaper why Scott was fired.

"We are building a new company based on the team concept," he said. "We look at team members to see how hard they will work together. Anyone not willing to work as a member of the team is asked to leave before their 90-day evaluation period is over."

Union election

One of the first important experiences the new work force went through together was the May 1985 election of officers and a negotiating committee for UAW Local 2244.

Sixty percent of the 900 UAW members voted.

The new local president is Tony DeJesus, who was president of UAW Local 1364 from 1978 to 1981. All of the workers elected are "team leaders."

One of the pieces of literature distributed in the plant by the Administrative Caucus, which won the election, explained, "We are running as a team of experienced members who are dedicated to the success of the UAW/NUMMI venture, utilizing the concepts of sound union principles, with mutual trust, cooperation, and respect as the foundation of the relationship between union and management."

'Pay For Knowledge' scam

There wasn't much discussion in the plant leading up to the settlement. There were only two meetings to discuss the issues. They were between the skilled-trades workers and the union officials.

One of the concerns was an idea the company was pushing, the establishing of a "Pay For Knowledge" system. Under the "Pay For Knowledge" scheme the company wanted to establish that a worker couldn't make top rate until they had taken classes to cross-train into other trades.

One worker took the floor to explain why this plan would only benefit the company. He used the example of how previously the company had to assign an electrician, machinist, and welder to work on a certain job, but with the required cross-training they would be able to send only two people. The eliminated job would save the company maybe \$35,000 a year with each worker having to do more work.

Joel Smith, a UAW international representative, took the floor at one of the meetings to say that this was not the right way to look at it. He said that by helping the company run more efficiently workers were actually helping themselves. He emphasized the competitive nature of the auto industry and that if NUMMI could compete better, NUMMI workers would be better off.

Vote on contract

A hand vote was taken on the contract with 265 for and 23 against. Many workers abstained.

In the letter introducing the contract summary and urging a yes vote, UAW Regional Director Bruce Lee wrote: "In [the contract] the parties agree to share all the risk, responsibility, and reward of partnership."

"We share the risk in that the union agrees to abandon part of its traditional reactive, adversarial role in favor of a proactive, advocacy role, while the company surrenders some of its traditional management prerogatives in favor of conferring with the union on important issues."

Attitude on plant floor

The way this attitude is reflected day to day on the shop floor, for example, is that up to now there has been no grievance pro-

Continued on Page 15

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

UN women's conference in 'PM'

From July 10-19, Nairobi, Kenya, was the site of Forum '85, an international conference of women to mark the end of the United Nations' declared Decade for Women.

This women's rights conference, organized around the themes of peace, equality, and development, was seen by many women as a way to exchange information and influence the decisions of the UN-organized conference on women for official government representatives, which also took place in Nairobi.

Among the participants in Forum '85 were women representing liberation movements from around the world such as the African National Congress of South Africa, South West Africa People's Organization, Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, and representatives of the struggle of the Guatemalan and Chilean people against their respective U.S.-backed dictatorships.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* has an eyewitness account of the opening of the conference.

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Nicaragua discusses Atlantic Coast autonomy

Exercise of autonomous rights of Indians, Blacks strengthens Nicaraguan unity

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan people are beginning a nationwide discussion on establishing local government autonomy for the Atlantic Coast region of the country, where most Nicaraguan Indians and Blacks live.

The Atlantic Coast region comprises roughly half of Nicaraguan territory. Out of Nicaragua's population of more than 3 million, about 230,000 live on the Atlantic Coast. Seventy thousand of them are Miskito Indians, another 8,000 Sumo Indians, and a small number are Rama Indians, each with their own language. Most of the 30,000 Blacks on the Coast are Creoles, many of whom speak English as well as Spanish, and a smaller number are Garifonos, speaking a dialect known as Garí.

Spanish-speaking Nicaraguans are the majority on the Pacific Coast and in the country as a whole. A good number of Spanish-speaking Nicaraguans also live on the Atlantic side of the country.

Historic reality of Coast

The Atlantic Coast Indians and Blacks have languages, traditions, and cultures different from that of the Spanish-speaking majority in Nicaragua. Historically, the Coast peoples have suffered not only from imperialist oppression as Nicaraguans, but also specific forms of racial discrimination as Miskitos, Sumos, Ramas, Creoles, or Garifonos.

Under the Somoza dictatorship, the Atlantic Coast was a paradise for U.S. and Canadian companies. They stripped the region of much of its resources, and kept it isolated from and far less developed than the Pacific side of the country.

In 1979 a popular insurrection of workers and peasants, based on the Pacific side of the country, overthrew the Somoza tyranny and landlord-capitalist rule. This opened the door to overcoming the isolation and economic backwardness of the Atlantic Coast and uprooting the specific forms of oppression suffered by its peoples, and unifying the nation.

The autonomy proposal has grown out of the revolution's six years of experience in striving to meet these goals.

Autonomy commission

An Expanded National Commission on Autonomous Rights met here in Managua June 23-27 and approved an autonomy plan for the Atlantic Coast. The plan is also being presented to the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the central government. It will be discussed throughout the nation before going to the National Assembly for ratification.

The Expanded National Commission includes more than 80 members, the majority of them Coast Indians and Blacks. It based its conclusions on the work of a smaller national commission and two regional commissions that have now been fused into the expanded body.

Addressing the opening session of the Expanded National Commission, Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's president, traced the history of the Atlantic Coast under the Somoza regime and the changes brought about when Nicaragua's workers and peasants overthrew the dictatorship and established their own government.

Under Somoza, the resources of the Atlantic Coast — wood, gold, fish, and bananas — were freely plundered by U.S. and Canadian companies. "The U.S. officials who supported Somoza and the U.S. and Canadian companies that exploited those territories had no concern for the situation and living conditions of the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast," Ortega explained.

The imperialists "exploited not only the Atlantic Coast's forests, not only its subsoil, not only its material resources, but also, its inhabitants."

Effects of war

After the revolution triumphed, he continued, the new government nationalized the gold mines and began taking steps to rehabilitate the mining areas. The government began health projects on the Coast,



Representatives of organizations of different Atlantic Coast peoples at meeting in Managua.

Barricada

expanded transportation, and made more resources available. It began development projects in fishing and reforestation.

FSLN members from the Pacific Coast came to the Atlantic to help carry out these projects. They arrived with "very good will and spirit," said Ortega. But lacking knowledge of the area and the traditions and cultures of its peoples, they made errors. Just as the FSLN was beginning to overcome these errors, he explained, the U.S. government-sponsored *contras*

(counterrevolutionaries) began their war against Nicaragua.

The Atlantic Coast was one of the main targets of the mercenaries' war. They unleashed terror against the Coast's Indians and Blacks, and at the same time tried to convince them that the revolutionary government would destroy their traditional culture, languages, and national rights. A significant number of Miskito peasants in particular were convinced or coerced into joining the counterrevolutionary forces.

The war exacerbated the difficulties for the revolutionary government on the Coast. "When you have a war, tensions increase... errors are made, and excesses occur," Ortega explained. The policies of the FSLN and the government were not always applied in the best manner, he said.

But today, he continued, because of the revolution and despite the ongoing war, Nicaragua is ready to establish local government autonomy on the Coast.

The FSLN leaders have made clear from

Sumos organize to press development after centuries of oppression

Approximately 8,000 Sumo Indians inhabit Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, along with Miskito and Rama Indians, Black Creoles, and Garifonos, as well as Spanish-speaking mestizo Nicaraguans. The following article about the Sumos is reprinted from the July 11 issue of *Barricada Internacional*, the international weekly newspaper of Nicaragua's Sandinista National Liberation Front. (See article above on Nicaragua's discussions on autonomy for the Atlantic Coast region.)

The Sumos are the great losers in the history of the Atlantic Coast. First they were enslaved by the British with the help of the Miskitos during the colonial period; U.S. multinationals later made them into the cheapest source of labor, while Mestizo peasants uprooted them from their lands and forests.

Following the [1979] revolutionary triumph, hopes of a better life abruptly died as the Reagan administration initiated its "secret war" against Nicaragua. Now young Sumos have become cannon fodder for bands of *contras* attempting to overthrow the government. The more remote Sumo communities have been completely isolated from sources of food and other supplies. Musawás, the largest of the Sumo communities, had less than 700 inhabitants; in 1982, they were all kidnapped by the *contras*.

"We are generally a quiet and reserved people, but the time has come to demand our rights," says Sumo leader Timoteo Patrón.

Last April, 150 delegates from ten Sumo communities gathered in the mining town of Rosita, 100 km [62 miles] west of Puerto Cabezas, to discuss their problems and alternative solutions. This meeting reorganized SUKAWALA, the National Association of Sumo Communities. Through it, Sumos have begun to channel their demands and aspirations, some of which are included in current discussions on Atlantic Coast autonomy while others imply direct attention from the central government.

Although SUKAWALA was originally founded in 1974, it was never officially

recognized by the government, nor given the political space in which to develop.

Nonetheless, it succeeded in promoting a communal development project under the auspices of the Evangelical Committee for Aid and Development (CEPAD), a Protestant service agency. The project, called LIMON (the acronym in Spanish for Uplift for Mountain and River Indians) included health, education and agricultural development programs and lasted two years.

"We eased some of the problems for a while, but we never got to the roots of them," admitted Murphy Almedárez, secretary general of SUKAWALA.

Almedárez claims there was an attempt to undermine the activity of the Sumo association from the outset. He points to the simultaneous creation of ALPROMISU (Alliance for the Progress of Miskitos and Sumos) which, recognized by the Somoza government, never took the Sumo people into account.

In 1979, MISURASATA developed from ALPROMISU. [MISURASATA, which started out as a prorevolutionary group took up arms against the Sandinista revolution several years ago.] Although it also claimed to represent all indigenous peoples of the Atlantic Coast, in reality it responded only to the needs of the Miskitos, the region's dominant group. The existence of SUKAWALA again went unacknowledged, although it continued to carry out organizational work in the Sumo communities.

Almedárez feels that due to the sharpening of the military conflict in Zelaya Norte and the manipulation of the ethnic problems after the dissolution of MISURASATA, the Sandinista government had little disposition to channel resources into any indigenous organization; consequently, SUKAWALA became stagnated.

New blood

By the end of 1984, the situation in the Atlantic region had improved considerably. Negotiations on a cease-fire had begun between the government and the indigenous *contra* leader, [MISURASATA leader] Brooklyn Rivera, and it was announced that a law granting autonomy to the Atlan-

tic Coast would be incorporated into the proposed Constitution being drafted by the National Assembly.

At the April meeting in Rosita, SUKAWALA was restructured so that a general assembly made up of delegates from each community serves as the organization's highest authority.

The board of directors is subject to the assembly and carries out the organization's executive functions. It is divided into secretariats: finance, communal development, legal affairs, international relations, education and culture, and a general secretary. Those officers are elected by members at the annual meeting of the general assembly.

Almedárez, 22, was elected secretary general last April and is SUKAWALA's official representative. He feels his age contributed to his election. Although his people traditionally respect the knowledge of the older members of their community, "they think young minds are needed at this time," he says. Others think that Almedárez has played an outstanding role in the last five years in bringing the attention of the government to the communities.

SUKAWALA's primary objective, evident in the reformulations made at Rosita, is to gain the recognition of the Sumo people as one of Nicaragua's ethnic groups. According to Timoteo Patrón, the synthesis of the Sumo people's historical oppression is not limited to the usurpation of their lands, exploitation of their labor, or denial of their cultural identity: "More than that, we haven't even been recognized as a people. Our very existence has been denied."

Sumo elder Ronas Dolores, who is also a representative in the National Assembly, explains: "Until a few years ago, people thought that every Indian on the Atlantic Coast was a Miskito." Jokingly, he adds, "if I ever talked about 'Sumo', people would ask me if it were something to eat."

Second, but no less important goal of SUKAWALA is the reunification of the Sumo family. Some 4,000 Sumos are among those Atlantic Coast residents who fled their homes for Honduras when the *contra* war began in 1982 or who were later

Continued on next page

the beginning of this discussion that autonomy does not mean independence or separation of the Atlantic Coast from Nicaragua, which they oppose.

Ortega explained the difference by contrasting the Sandinista view of autonomy to the promise of "autonomy" that the U.S. government has held out to Coast peoples, particularly the Miskitos. Claiming to support Indian rights, Washington has appealed to the Miskitos to take up arms against the revolution and separate from Nicaragua. "The autonomy proposed by the U.S. government and its CIA agents . . . is nothing but the negation of autonomy for the Nicaraguan people," Ortega explained. It would lead not to liberation, but to the reimposition of U.S. domination. He pointed to Washington's record on the rights of U.S. Indians.

"Reagan is trying to cut in half our rivers, our mountain ranges, our valleys. He's trying to cut apart our country in order to dominate us.

"But this will not be possible, because here we are reuniting the Atlantic with the Pacific," he explained.

"The autonomy defended by the revolution," Ortega said, "is one of recognizing historic rights, recognizing values, recognizing realities; but above all it is for uniting, integrating, and definitively and forever joining together the Nicaraguans who live on the Atlantic Coast with those who live on the Pacific."

The main points of the autonomy plan — which has not yet been made public — were outlined in a speech at the close of the commission's meeting by Minister of the Interior Tomás Borge. He delivered his speech partly in Miskito, Sumo, and English, as well as in Spanish.

Three aspects of autonomy

Borge explained that the autonomy plan is based on three pillars: "guarantee of effective exercise of autonomous rights by the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast; the indivisible unity of the Nicaraguan nation; and the anti-imperialist, popular, and democratic principles of the Sandinista People's Revolution.

"When we speak of autonomy," Borge explained, "we speak of an autonomy that negates oppression, that negates the marginalization of the Indians and ethnic communities of the Coast, that recognizes with realism and respect the existence of their languages, of their customs, of their forms



Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region is made up of Northern, Central, and Southern zones of Zelaya Province where country's Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians live along with Blacks and Spanish-speaking Nicaraguans.

of organization, of their economic relations."

At the same time, Borge explained, autonomy is based on the common denominators of the various groups, "the principal one being Nicaragua's nationality." Autonomy, he stressed, does not mean the breakup of the Nicaraguan nation: "The Nicaraguan nation is one, and indivisible."

"Autonomy means, among other things, that we recognized the multilingual, multi-ethnic, multicultural character of the nation. . . .

"A revolution inevitably has to recognize these rights so that it could be a revolution," he said.

'An economist approach'

Borge also explained the evolution of the FSLN's policy toward the Atlantic Coast.

The FSLN's 1969 program, he noted, recognized "the legitimate aspirations of the inhabitants of the Coast." In 1981, after the revolution had triumphed, the FSLN National Directorate issued a declaration of principles recognizing the right of the Coast peoples to form their own organizations, to learn to read and write their own

languages, to hold communal lands and property, and to be represented in the Nicaraguan Council of State.

But the revolutionary government did not initially see the importance of the autonomy question, Borge explained. "At first, we chose an economist approach," he said. "We thought that in order to satisfy the historic demands of the Coast, it was enough to solve the problems of underdevelopment. We tended to differentiate rather than to unite; we did not make the inhabitants of the Coast equal participants in the projects launched by the national state. Our vision, as Daniel pointed out, was limited. We were not knowledgeable about the formation and the dynamics of the different social groups. The old ethnocentric habits and the inadequacy of our program exacerbated the regionalism of the Coast itself."

Borge appealed to all Nicaraguans — whether from the Atlantic or Pacific — to learn about and develop respect for each other's history and traditions. "Let us stop repeating the echo of chauvinist and ethnocentric positions that were stimulated by the sad, clumsy, and obscene oligarchy that had always ruled Nicaragua."

At the same time, Borge said, "Let the Atlantic, for its part, continue demanding its rights: the right to use their own languages; the right to defend their traditional forms of social organization; the right to possess and use their lands; the right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

Legitimacy of demands

"The essence of autonomy is the recognition of the legitimacy of these demands," he said.

"These demands are a part of the struggle of the Sandinista People's Revolution to affirm its popular, democratic, and anti-imperialist character," he explained. "Moreover, only in the framework of the revolution can the ethnic question be solved."

Borge contrasted Nicaragua's proposed autonomy plan to the policy followed toward Indian peoples by other governments of the Americas.

Some governments, he said, have thought "that the Indian problem is the problem of lack of development." They have carried out a policy aimed at "integrating" the native peoples, "assuming that economic transformations will solve the problem.

"And hasn't it been demonstrated in practice that this integrationism, instead of solving the problems, only makes them worse? . . . Don't they make them worse by trying to resolve long-preserved ethnic and cultural characteristics of these peoples?"

Against reservations

At the same time, Borge continued, other nations have proposed "recognizing a territory over which the indigenous group exercises sovereignty.

"But this solution reminds us of the Indian reservations and history has shown that such reservations have never permitted the development of the Indian communities. On the contrary, North American Indians were caged in these reservations like wild animals. The North American state is the great Buffalo Bill that hunts Indians. . . .

"We vehemently reject the theory and practice of Indian reservations."

Nicaragua's decision to grant autonomy, Borge explained, "is an example not only for Latin America, but for all the peoples of the world."

U.S. farm group to tour Nicaragua

BY TOM LEONARD

The North American Farm Alliance (NAFA) is sponsoring a tour to Nicaragua for U.S. farmers and farm workers. The tour, which is scheduled for August 29 to September 8, was organized in response to an invitation from Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers.

Carol Hodne, NAFA executive director, told the *Militant* in a telephone interview, "One of the reasons we're doing the tour is so farmers from the U.S. have a first-hand opportunity to see some of the progress made under the agrarian reform. For example, we will be seeing farmers who are farming for the first time, who own their own farms either privately or through a cooperative, who previously had been farm workers only. We'll be seeing different types of agricultural production including private farms, cooperatives, and probably one state-owned farm."

Hodne said the tour would also have the opportunity to visit farm women and gave an example from her 1984 visit to Nicaragua. "When I was in Nicaragua," she said, "we were able to visit women in a cooperative who for the first time were able to directly farm and we talked about what that meant to them as women having the opportunity to take power over their own lives in this way.

"We feel that it is important," Hodne emphasized, "for U.S. farmers to see directly the impact of the U.S. government's intervention there. There is much interest in the states among farmers to find out the impact of U.S. policies, and there is a lot of support for the Nicaraguan people."

NAFA is asking for contributions to help

send farmers and farm workers who would like to go to Nicaragua but can't afford it.

The address for more information on tour reservations and where to send contributions is North American Farm Alliance, P.O. Box 4014, St. Paul, Minn. 55104.

Sumo Indians organize to press development

Continued from previous page

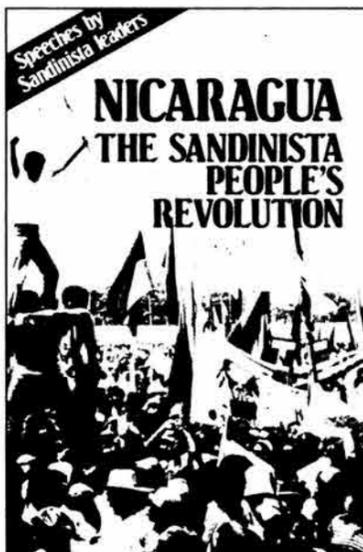
kidnapped by the contra bands and are now in refugee camps in Honduras. The total population of Nicaraguan Sumos is just over 8,000.

The SUKAWALA leadership has turned to organizations such as the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, the International Red Cross, and Amnesty International to help secure the repatriation of the Sumo refugees. SUKAWALA also plans to request permission from the Honduran government to visit the refugee camps.

SUKAWALA expects to achieve other objectives such as the recognition of claims to land and natural resources, preservation and development of the Sumo language and inclusion in the regional administrative apparatus through the autonomy project, in which it has actively participated only in recent months. Almedárez recognized that SUKAWALA has set some very ambitious goals but feels the only limitation to meeting them is the war, which has to end sometime. It is time that the Sumo stopped being the losers.

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Grenada refuses to return Cuban machinery

The following article is reprinted from the June 16 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*, an English-language weekly published by the Cuban Communist Party. It was titled, "Grenada: meaningful silence," and was written by Rafael Pérez Pereira.

Almost a year has gone by and the Cuban government is still waiting for a reply to its request that its construction equipment still in Grenada, the small Caribbean island still occupied by U.S. military forces, be returned to its rightful owner.

The equipment in question was being used in the construction of the airport in Point Salines. It consists of 195 units, among them bulldozers and trucks, a rock crushing mill, power generators, several water pumps, and an asphalt paving machine. The equipment belongs to the Cuban firm Caribe Union of Construction Enterprises (UNECA), and its value is estimated at over 5.2 million dollars.

Readers will recall that the airport, being built with assistance from Cuba, Great Britain, France, Venezuela, and other countries, was a project of essential importance to the development of Grenada's tourist industry. The island's only other airport, in Pearls, was too small to handle modern airliners from the United States, Canada, and Western Europe, from which most of the tourists who visited Grenada came.

The construction of the Point Salines airport (which the United States charged had military purposes) and the presence on the island of U.S. citizens enrolled in the nearby medical school were the pretexts for the criminal invasion of the island. It has been proved that the lives of these students were never in danger.

When on October 5, 1983, the United States — taking advantage of the internal crisis in the Grenadian leadership and Maurice Bishop's assassination — invaded the island with elite troops supported by naval and air forces, a plan that had been carefully drawn up years before was put into effect. This was revealed in statements made by Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger and published in *Time* magazine.

Everybody knows the real reasons the United States invaded Grenada: to do away with the achievements of the Grenadian people's revolution, to prevent other peoples from following the example set by the revolution, and to subject the island to U.S. domination.

The U.S. authorities were not in the least concerned over the construction of the airport, which they knew was destined to be a civilian facility. The only thing that might have bothered them about the new airport was the idea that it would contribute to Grenada's economy by boosting tourism. Nor were they concerned over the lives and property of the U.S. students on the island, whom they knew were completely safe. What really worried the U.S. authorities was that Grenada was a sovereign, independent island; that in only four years following the overthrow of Gairy's dictatorial regime, the revolution led by Maurice Bishop had succeeded in increasing the country's GNP by 13.7 percent, bringing about a threefold reduction in the unemployment rate and making great progress in the fields of education and public health.

The invasion created a situation of grief, corruption, and violence on the island. An act of aggression that constituted an overt violation of international law and the UN Charter resulted in the loss of Grenada's sovereignty, the indefinite presence on the island of an occupation force, poverty, and heartbreak.

The government that emerged from elections organized and supervised by the invaders is a government in name only. Prime Minister Herbert Blaize's recent tour seeking aid and foreign investments attests

to Grenada's critical situation, the inevitable result of the invasion.

The Grenadian authorities' lack of response to Cuba's request for the return of the equipment illegally held on the island is quite a meaningful silence. No answer has been given to the legal request based on the principles of international law, simply because Washington forbids it.

In other words, those who boast of their respect for private property have demonstrated that this applies only to their own, never to others' property.

The United States, deeply in debt to Grenada for the tremendous damage caused by the invasion, has prevented the island from responding to Cuba's legitimate request.

The fact that the equipment can be used to contribute to other countries' development is of no concern to them.

The United States could, at least, make up for the material damage caused to Grenada. It will never be able to make up for the loss of lives, the bloodshed, and the violation of a small country's sovereignty.

The silence that has met the Cuban request — made on August 12, 1984 — is a good example of Grenada's situation almost two years after the invasion by U.S. forces.



Under workers' and farmers' government led by Maurice Bishop, airport was aimed at aiding Grenada's economic development. Since overthrow of Bishop and U.S. invasion, government has refused to return Cuban construction equipment.

South Africa rulers escalate terror

Continued from front page

can government felt compelled to institute new measures," the State Department declared.

"We hope sincerely that the unrest will abate rapidly, permitting the South African government to remove those measures and get on with the urgent business of reform." According to this twisted logic, the obstacle to "reform" is the Black masses who refuse to bow to apartheid.

Growing wave of protests

The state of emergency was imposed as a growing wave of strikes, boycotts, mass demonstrations, and other protests challenged South Africa's capitalist rulers and their racist system of apartheid.

The apartheid system imposes strict racial segregation on Blacks, who make up 85 percent of the population. They are denied the right to vote and are forced to live in slum-ridden townships or in reservations that the racist rulers call "homelands." They are denied equal education, decent health care, and equal access to public facilities and services.

Black workers have no rights, and are frequently paid wages one-tenth or less of those paid whites.

The result is enormously profitable for the South African capitalists and for the capitalists of the United States who have invested tens of billions in South Africa. Washington also supports South Africa in its efforts to weaken Black-ruled neighbor-

ing countries like Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

The scope of the mass resistance to apartheid is indicated by some of the struggles Black liberation fighters were waging in the days before the crackdown.

- Thousands of workers in Natal province were on strike.

- A four-day boycott of white-owned businesses in the Eastern Cape city of Port Elizabeth was overwhelmingly effective. Boycotts were also occurring in the Eastern Cape towns of Cradock, Adelaide, and Grahamstown. The Port Elizabeth boycott had the strong backing of the Black auto workers union.

- According to the July 15 *Wall Street Journal*, "Secondary schools in Langa and other Black towns have been closed lately as often as they are open. Students strike over . . . the government's refusal to recognize elected student representative councils."

- In Soweto July 17, "thousands of Black students boycotted classes, commandeered municipal buses and clashed with riot police," reported the *Washington Post*. "They also fought with troops of the South African army, some mounted on horseback."

Soweto is a Black township whose two million people are compelled to provide cheap labor for the white rulers of neighboring Johannesburg. In 1976 and 1977, Soweto was the center of mass protests against apartheid. The government re-

sponded by murdering at least 575 people.

The South African rulers are alarmed at the growing difficulty they face in controlling the Black townships. No more than six of the racist-controlled Black councils that the government had set up for the townships are still functioning. These councils, along with police, have been targets of the Black masses who are seeking to bring down the whole racist structure.

The apartheid regime — echoed by the U.S. government — has taken instances of violence against these forces as a justification for the brutal crackdown on the Black majority and other opponents of apartheid.

The source of violence in South Africa is the racist ruling class which deprives the Black majority of all human rights and is attempting to drown a popular revolt against apartheid in blood. The Black freedom fighters have the right to win their liberation by any means necessary.

Anti-apartheid and antiwar fighters should raise their voices against the state of emergency and against Washington's continued political, military, and economic support to apartheid.

'Embargo S. Africa - not Nicaragua!'

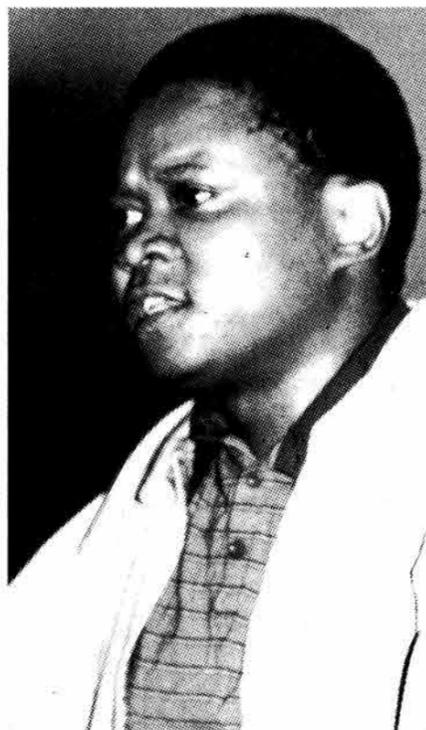
Continued from back page

South Africa and Namibia. It also called for an end to covert CIA action against Angola.

To publicize the decisions of the Youth and Student Summit, the USSA leadership organized a broad press conference the next day. It featured representatives from the University of Illinois, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of California at Berkeley, Rutgers University in New Jersey, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Missouri.

Press conference speakers included Congressman Charles Hayes; Keith Jennings, executive director of the USSA Third World Students Caucus; Marguerite Fletcher, member of the Washington, D.C., Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism; Joshua Nessen of the American Committee on Africa; and Barbara Donaldson, president of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Donaldson called for more cooperation between U.S. and Canadian students in the struggle against apartheid and announced that a conference of students would be taking place in Canada this fall to promote anti-apartheid actions.



David Ndaba Militant/Lou Howort

Young Socialist
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Big takebacks anger Chicago rail workers

BY JIM MILES

CHICAGO — More than 100 people crowded into a small meeting room in a local Holiday Inn here on July 15 to discuss a proposed contract between the national rail carriers and the United Transportation Union (UTU), which organizes most of the operating railroad workers in the United States and Canada. Most of the people were members of UTU locals 528 and 577, which had called the open meeting. There were also representatives of other local rail craft unions present.

They had come to hear General Chairman Donald Markgraf, who presides over most of the UTU locals on the Chicago & Northwestern line, give his views on the proposed contract. UTU locals 528 and 577 represent some 700 yard and road brakemen in the main Chicago & Northwestern terminal.

The mood of the meeting was one of anger and frustration. "In '82 we got a 30 percent raise in the middle of a recession. Now, with record profits we give concessions?" said one unionist. Another asked, "Why are we giving up everything at once?" while an old-timer insisted, "We

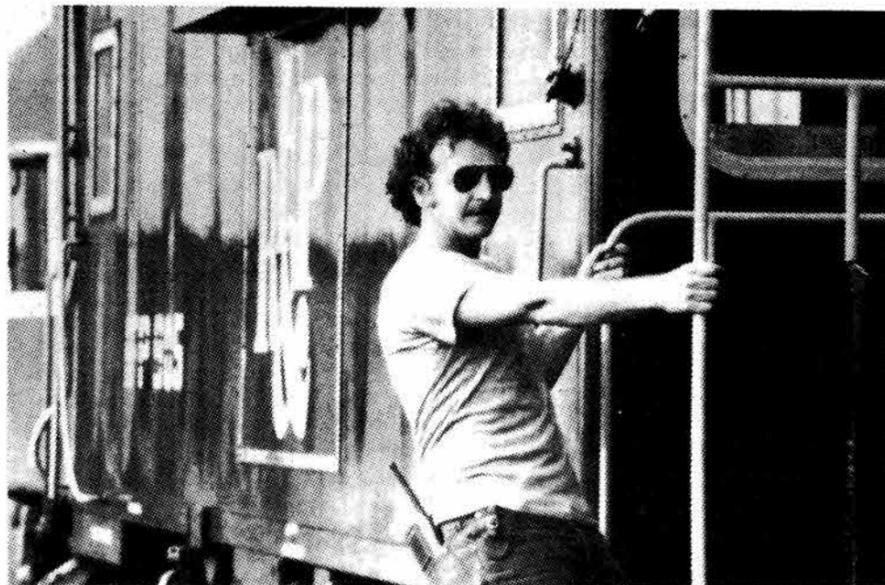
should be fighting for full crews on every engine."

Markgraf said that of the 27 local chairmen he had polled on the Chicago & Northwestern, none were in favor of the contract, and that he personally thought it to be "the worst settlement ever reached by the UTU." Several members expressed disbelief that anyone in the UTU could have actually agreed to this contract.

Jerry Roach, vice-president of Local Division 683 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, received a warm round of applause when he said, "The UTU honored our pickets and supported us when we were on strike in '82 and we'll do the same today if the UTU votes down this contract."

According to the UTU constitution voting must be completed by July 29. A summary of the contract was first published in the July 9 *UTU News* although the first public notification of a settlement came from the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* last June.

At the meeting, some 97 members of the UTU, with representatives of other rail unions present, unanimously passed a resolution to send a letter to UTU President



Train crew members will lose jobs under new rail contract that eliminates 80 percent of cabooses.

Fred Hardin condemning the proposed national contract "as the most horrendous we have ever seen." The letter further stated that "if this agreement was put into effect, we would take an immediate and substantial cut in pay . . . we have eliminated craft lines, devastated our work rules, reduced our benefits, and legalized discrimination. In short, it would be a total disaster." Finally, the letter requested that Hardin "im-

mediately withdraw this proposed agreement from consideration" and that the "negotiating committee go back to the table and attempt to obtain a reasonable agreement to present to our members."

A second resolution was passed to distribute the letter as widely and as quickly as possible. Over the next few days officers and volunteers of the two UTU locals printed thousands of copies of the letter and mailed it out to the 150 UTU general chairmen across the country who will vote on the contract by July 29. Hundreds of copies were also sent to local chairmen, who will be polled by the general chairmen on the contract no later than July 21. Each general chairman is bound by the majority vote of their local chairmen.

A nonbinding poll was also organized by the two locals for all their members to express their approval or disapproval of the contract. Rank-and-file UTU members do not have the right to vote on the contract.

The terms of the proposed contract are devastating to rail workers and their unions. If approved, the new contract would create a new two-tier wage scheme with new employees starting at 75 percent of the base rate of pay and taking at least six years to reach 100 percent. They would not be paid for the arbitrations, which are penalties against the company that rail workers have won over years of struggle to defend themselves against abuses by the carriers. Employees with less than three years seniority would be terminated if furloughed by the company for one year.

The new contract would submit to binding arbitration the carriers' proposal to eliminate the craft of firemen (engineer trainees) and merge it with brakemen. An arbitration board would rule no later than Nov. 1, 1985. This threatens to layoff thousands of workers and would be a further step towards the carriers' goal of eliminating all craft distinctions.

The contract proposal allows engineers to perform brakemen's work on the ground and allows brakemen to move engines. It also blurs any distinction between yard and road work, allowing road crews to perform switching operations anywhere even if yard crews are present, and allows yard crews to perform much of the work of road crews.

The new contract would eliminate cabooses on all unit trains (coal, grain, phosphate, piggyback, and autorack, for example). This would probably result in the immediate elimination of about 80 percent of all cabooses.

Finally, the new contract attacks the basic 100-mile day, raising it to 108 miles. Instituted in 1910, the 100-mile day is a measure of how far a rail crew has to travel in one day before they accrue "overtime" pay based on the extra miles they travel above 100. Raising it opens the door to upping it still further in future contracts, making rail workers travel farther and farther for less money.

The UTU is being assaulted by the greedy union-busting offensive of the bosses and their government. Only by putting the needs of our members and all working people first, and not the profits of the bosses, can our union fight back and win the solidarity of other working people.

Jim Miles is a brakeman for the Chicago and Northwestern and a member of UTU Local 577.

ILGWU workers resist bosses' demands

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK AND NAN BAILEY

NEW YORK — In the three-year contract agreement reached June 13 by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) with outerwear garment employers, the union pushed back significant take-back demands put forward by the bosses.

The settlement directly affects some 100,000 union members and marks the first round of negotiations that now continue with other garment bosses' associations nationwide. About 26,000 of those affected by the new contract are members of our local, ILGWU 23-25, in New York City.

The ILGWU faced the negotiations in an industry where workers are hard hit by layoffs and shop shutdowns. At the same time, union officials were under pressure from rank-and-file members to meet badly needed improvements in wage benefits.

Employers' take-back demands

The bosses were out to take back significant gains registered in previous contracts. They proposed increasing the workweek from 35 to 40 hours. They wanted a three-year wage freeze — that is, no wage increase whatsoever.

They proposed that the union agree to imposition for the first time of a two-tier wage system, which would give the bosses the right to pay new hires a lower union minimum wage than they must give other workers. They wanted to cut back on the number of paid holidays union members are now entitled to.

The bosses also went into negotiations proposing that they cut back significantly on their responsibility to pay for the health and welfare benefits of union members. They wanted to reduce their contributions to the health and benefits fund by half.

These kinds of demands are similar to those that have been imposed on other unionists, such as in the auto, airline, and meatpacking industries. In the case of the ILGWU contract, the union staved off most, but not all, of the concessions demanded by the companies.

The most important accomplishment registered by the contract was that the employers were rebuffed and forced to increase their payments into the union Health and Welfare Benefits Fund.

ILGWU Local 23-25 members receive health care, retirement benefits, insurance, and vacation pay through the benefits fund. The fund — which is administered by the union — is maintained by payments from the employers. The amount they pay is determined by the contract.

Health benefits were fought for and won by ILGWU members over decades of contract battles. As a result, benefits for Local 23-25 members today include Blue Cross/

Blue Shield medical insurance. A modern, union-run health clinic provides free medical care for working members of the ILGWU. The clinic includes care for all general medical needs. A family plan provides medical care for members' dependents.

Last November, due to skyrocketing medical costs and the failure of many employers to meet the required payments, the union was forced to take out a \$10 million loan just to meet the benefits of ILGWU members for 1984. The union warned that if this situation continued, the benefits fund faced a collapse.

Union officials requested that the contract be reopened to take up this critical situation. The request was denied.

The union was then forced to cut benefits in order to preserve the fund. Vacation pay was cut as much as 50 percent. And for the first time, access to health care — from major medical to use of the clinic — was pegged to quarterly earnings of Local 23-25 members. In addition, health care for dependents — free up until that time — only became available at cost.

While these cutbacks remain, in the new contract the employers have agreed to increase payments into the health and benefits fund for Local 23-25 by 1 percent in 1985 and 1 percent in 1986. As the July issue of the ILGWU newspaper, *Justice*, explained, these increases "will secure the benefits so existing levels can be maintained." This is critical because the health and welfare benefits are an important adjunct to the wages the average ILGWU member receives.

The new contract also calls for slightly increased payments by the bosses into the union retirement fund and mail order prescription plan.

Modest wage increases

The union also won a modest wage increase in the new contract. While union negotiators agreed to a wage freeze for the first year of the contract, the increase for 1986 is 6 percent, followed by a 5 percent increase in 1987. The pay hike is desperately needed by garment workers. Our pay now averages less than \$6 per hour.

Other terms of the contract include retaining a cost-of-living clause, and an additional paid day off for a death in the family. The 40 hour week, the two-tier wage system, and cutbacks in holidays were rejected. An increase in the amount of holiday pay was also won.

After initially agreeing to sign a contract, some of the bosses had second thoughts about whether to press for more of their take-back demands. Negotiations went on for more than two months and were extended two weeks beyond the expiration of the old contract.

During these two weeks, Local 23-25 officials signed up over 1,000 union mem-

bers in a Committee to Defend the Union Contract against the bosses' refusal to sign the agreement.

In 1982 Local 23-25 mobilized thousands of garment workers through such a committee. A selective strike in New York's Chinatown finally forced the bosses to sign the contract. With the 1985 contract the bosses signed without a strike.

The union officials did agree, however, to a concession on the piece-rate wages.

In 1982 ILGWU Local 23-25 won a partial hourly wage. Before 1982 wages were based on piece-rate earnings alone. Nearly all ILGWU members are paid according to the number of pieces they produce in a day. But in 1982 that was changed so that in addition to piece-rate earnings, workers were guaranteed a \$1.10 per hour wage increase over the life of the contract.

The new contract replaces the \$1.10 with a percentage of piece-rate earnings. This bases pay once again solely on piece-rate earnings. This is a setback for many garment workers, especially the younger, less experienced workers.

The wages of piece-rate workers vary considerably from week to week, depending on the availability of work, or how time-consuming the work is.

Discussion among union members

During contract negotiations ILGWU members knew little of what was going on. We relied on information relayed informally by shop representatives or from friends who stopped by the union hall and were able to find out some information.

As in many other unions, we do not have the right to vote on our contract. Now that the contract is settled, there is confusion among many union members about what the contract settlement is and how its terms will affect us.

Many of the union members who did hear of the contract terms through their shop chairpeople (stewards) or friends, were relieved to hear that the bosses didn't win in pressing all of their takeback demands.

This contract registered the rejection of the garment bosses' attempts to impose crippling takebacks. This accomplishment was important. It was the central challenge faced by the ILGWU in this round of contract negotiations.

The challenge ahead for the union is the concrete implementation of the contract. There is no question that the bosses will try to chip away at the agreement. Their increased payment to the benefit fund, for example, is not guaranteed just because the contract has been signed.

This points to the need to build a stronger union by mobilizing union members to more effectively meet the challenge of even deeper confrontations with the bosses that lie ahead.

—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Democracy in action — "Our law is not to forbid people to eat pork. We are very democratic here. What we want is that people not be able to sell pork." — Rabbi



Harry Ring

Avraham Shapira, sponsor of a bill in the Israeli parliament to legalize the sale of pork.

Then lock 'em up — Arguing against a bill favoring comparable

pay for comparable worth, Rep. William Dannemeyer, a congressional wit, cited Mark Twain's observation that "there is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress." If so, suggested the solon, why not give each jailed felon \$75,000, the congressional salary? Even better, why not give each member of Congress a felon's prison pay?

It's never easy — Success Anonymous, a Chicago group, is for people coping with being successful. Among the problems they grapple with, one group member says, is "the quality of the people we associate with." Some of the lower-rung types, he observes, "are always putting people down and are late for appointments."

"Sip-a-slice" — A U.S. patent has been issued for a low-cal cake which features flour, sugar, shortening and a water-binding filler with 40 percent or more water.

Gross — Palm Beach residents responded with firm dignity to the Doonesbury series portraying the moneybags' area as a bastion of bigotry. "We're just the target of some very jealous people," observed Jessie Newman, Chamber of Commerce prez. "I think it was in bad taste," sniffed Mayor Yvelyn Marix. (Trudeau probably didn't realize the mayor is a descendant of Emperor Charlemagne of France.)

Some were red? — Palm Beachies don't just spend their

time fending off Doonesbury. The City Council is weighing a measure to eliminate the clashing colors on newspaper-vending boxes. "It looks like Coney Island at best," declared one lawmaker. A subcommittee agreed on a subdued pink, with the mayor sighing, "Just as long as it isn't that dreadful green we paint the trash cans."

Shucks — We were thinking of switching from the Barbers College to Suga's, a classy hair stylist. He does charge \$100 a styling, but we figured it was worth it if he could handle our unruly mop. But then we read that Suga "doesn't take new clients."

Whatever turns you on — "Ties do indeed make a man feel

superior. Putting on a necktie is an elevating experience... the crowning civilized touch." — Richard Merking, reportedly an "elegant" New York dresser who owns 300 of them.

Taking care of business — The latest government report on after-tax income confirms the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. In 1983, those with incomes of over \$60,000 pocketed 42 percent of the national after-tax income as against 40.6 percent previously, an added take of nearly \$25 billion. Meanwhile, the 80 percent of the population with incomes under \$38,401 experienced a drop. The Reagan solution? Stop issuing the annual report.

—CALENDAR—

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Cuba Today. Slideshow and discussion, with translation to Spanish. Poolside party to follow. Sat., July 27, 7 p.m. 1710 E Cheery Lynn Rd. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign for Mayor. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

Defending Abortion Rights in Canada and the United States. Speaker: Kathy Olsen, Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Aug. 4, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign for Mayor. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

El Salvador: the Situation Today. Speaker: a representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador. Translation to English. Sat., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 663-0583.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

How Can Workers and Farmers Fight Back: A Rally to Defend Democratic Rights. Speaker: Sara Jean Johnston, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta; representative of the Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., July 27. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30

p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers '85 Campaign. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Celebrate and Defend the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Frank Boehm, producer of documentary film on Alicia Alonso; Debra Evanson, National Lawyers Guild, participated in 1984 tour of Cuba; representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., July 27, 7 p.m. 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Celebrate Cuban Revolution. Video: *Fidel and Cuba.* Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 27, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

NEW YORK

Albany

Cuba and Nicaragua: the March Toward Socialism in the Americas. A socialist educational weekend.

Forum: "Cuba and Nicaragua and the Struggle in Central America." Speakers: Peter Thierjung, National Secretary of Young Socialist Alliance; Jane Birks, Pledge of Resistance; repre-

sentative from El Salvador. Fri., July 26, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.

Classes: "Nicaragua: Fighting for Workers' and Peasants' Power." Sat., July 27, 11 a.m. "Cuba: 26 Years of Socialism." Sat., July 27, 2 p.m. Followed by barbecue at 6 p.m. 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Donation: \$1 per class.

Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

OREGON

Portland

Cuban Revolution: An Inspiration to Working People. Speaker: Amy Husk, chairperson, Portland Young Socialist Alliance and garment worker who visited Cuba in 1980. Sat., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Dallas

Cuban Revolution Anniversary Celebration. Learn about the people of Cuba and the gains they have made since overthrowing capitalism. Dinner, slideshow, and entertainment. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Aug. 3, 6 p.m. 1119 N Bishop, Oakcliff. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (214) 943-5195 or 948-1355.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Celebration of the Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions. Introducing Bob Hoyle, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Salt Lake City. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Aug. 3. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Open House to Celebrate Cuban Revolution. Showing of film, *Cuba and Fidel.* Food and refreshments. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 28, 1 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Bookstore and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Stop Farm Foreclosures. Defend the Family Farmer! Speakers: Dave Howard, editor of *Grange News*; Dan Fein, director of Chris Horner for Mayor Committee. Sun., July 28, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp:

Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Socialist Educational Weekend.

Forum: "U.S. Out of Central America and the Caribbean! Celebrate the Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions." Speakers: Tom Leonard, *Militant* staff writer, visited Cuba and Nicaragua; Sister M. Brendan Conlon, visited Nicaragua in 1984 with Witness for Peace, director of Christian Health; representative of Latin America Solidarity Project. Sat., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant. Donation: \$2.

Classes: "The Miners Fight for Democracy — Its History and Lessons for Today." Speaker: Bruce Kimball, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Louis. Sat., July 27, 2 p.m. "The United Mine Workers as a Social Movement." Speaker: Kathy Mickells, member UMWA Local 2300 and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., July 28, 11 a.m. Donation: \$2 each class or \$5 for forum and classes.

Ausp: Militant Labor Forum Series. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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Sponsored by Pathfinder Press, Nicaragua Network, and NICA Tuesday, August 6. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. International Association of Machinists Building, 1st floor auditorium. 1300 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. Donation: \$2. For more information call (202) 797-7699 or 265-3800

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TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Ave., Zip: 75203. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Almeda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

Fight to keep union at Alaska Airlines

BY DAN FEIN

SEATTLE — Alaska Airlines is now pushing to inflict a further defeat on the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which represents the airline's employees. Alaska Airlines is doing this by organizing a company union.

The company forced its mechanics, baggage handlers, and other ground employees out on strike on March 4. The airline, after making big profits during the old contract (\$23.9 million in 1984 alone), demanded major concessions from the workers: lower pay for new hires with the imposition of a two-tier wage scale; an open shop; freedom to contract out work to nonunion outfits; and craft utilization, which means forcing workers to do any and all jobs.

Alaska Airlines operates in Alaska, Washington, and California as well as the cities of Phoenix, Arizona, and Boise, Idaho. IAM District 143 covers the ground crews plus clerical, office, and passenger-service employees (called the COPS unit). The largest locals are in Anchorage and Seattle with 700 members each. The union has two separate contracts with two different expiration dates with Alaska Airlines — one for the ground crews and one for the COPS unit. Each has about 1,000 members.

It was the ground crews which struck on March 4 to stop the company attacks on their union, but 10 percent of the COPS members, whose contract was not up, struck in solidarity with the ground crew strikers.

The company went all out to break the union from day one of the strike. They advertised for scabs in the newspapers and began hiring them immediately.

A number of rallies were held to build solidarity. IAM District 751 officials spoke at the rallies as well as their own local meetings about the issues in the strike.

This didn't stop the company from returning to full flight schedules within a few weeks.

As part of its attempt to win broader support for their strike, Seattle IAM Local 2202 voted to endorse the April 20 march and demonstration for peace, jobs and justice. A contingent of 50 strikers led the Seattle march with their picket signs held high.

Two months into the strike, the company escalated their attack. Alaska Airlines

negotiators put a new demand on the table — super-seniority for the scabs. This meant that if and when a settlement is reached, strikers would only come back to work as openings arose. This was to include COPS solidarity strikers also. At this point the strikers didn't see much hope in preventing a concession contract, but the super-seniority for scabs was too much to swallow, so they rejected the company's offer.

On June 4, after seeing continued company intransigence, the union finally voted to accept what they had earlier rejected, including the super-seniority. To date, only nine strikers have been called back in Seattle and 2 COPS strikers.

Alaska Airlines is organizing a company union to eliminate the real union. The bosses have found some procompany IAM members in the COPS unit to do their dirty work for them. By giving these employees the use of company bulletin boards and company time to organize "The Guild," the company hopes to rip off 1,000 IAM members from District 143.

Linda Layton, president of IAM Local 2202, told this correspondent that company stalling over past grievances had caused some to pile up for years, making union members angry. Now the company is trying to recruit workers into The Guild by blaming the delays on the IAM.

A Guild spokesperson quoted in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* as saying, "We feel that the attitude in The Guild is we no longer work for Alaska Airlines, we are Alaska Airlines."

The same article quoted Layton: "It would be wonderful if you could trust and work with management the way they believe you can. But it's a fairy-tale land — it's not the real world. The company is there to make money, and they're not in love with the employees."

The company, of course, denies anything to do with the formation of The Guild. In the same article, company spokesman Lou Cancelmi said, "We don't have a position. The employees' choice of a union is up to the employees themselves."

Layton told this correspondent the IAM plans to fight the company union. "We're organizing informal meetings, sending out newsletters, and inviting workers to the union hall for discussion."

Prisoners at Marion: victims of nonstop brutality

BY HARRY RING

The incredibly brutal conditions suffered by inmates at the federal prison in Marion, Illinois, was spotlighted in a recent report by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Prisoners at Marion, a maximum security institution, have been on "lockdown" for the past 20 months. This means they are confined to their cells for 22½ hours a day, subjected to rectal searches, denied contact visits with their family, are handcuffed when taken out of their cells, and denied other basic rights.

The lockdown was imposed after an October 1983 confrontation between prison guards and inmates in which two guards died. It has been maintained ever since, making it the longest continuous lockdown in U.S. penal history.

The AFSC report, released June 18, found a "pattern of brutal repression" at Marion.

The *Militant* of March 1 featured an article by Ronald Del Raine, a prisoner at Marion, outlining the situation there after the guard-prisoner confrontation. Del Raine described what happened after a special riot squad was called into the prison:

"They were clad in jump suits and boots, crash helmets stenciled with 'A-Team' visors, three-inch leather belts with various gear suspended from hooks, padded gloves. . . . All of them clutched three-foot-long metal-tipped clubs.

"Everyone was strip searched in his cell; cuffed behind his back; pulled out backwards, arms locked on both sides; and dragged to the hallway. . . .

"One prisoner voiced an objection about another who was being beaten, so they broke several of his bones. One prisoner, a few cells from mine, was beaten on the testicles for several long minutes as they interrogated him about a hacksaw blade."

Prison officials assert that the harsh conditions at the maximum security facility are necessary because the 350 prisoners there are "vicious" and "predatory."

This claim is rebutted by a special report of the Marion Prisoners Task Force, a community group fighting to defend the rights of the Marion prisoners.

The task force report declares that there are no standards for transfer to Marion, except for prisoners assigned to the solitary confinement section.

There is no hearing for those assigned to Marion, except those consigned to solitary.

Yet on arrival at Marion, the report states, a prisoner is presumed dangerous.

"He can only disprove this status," the report adds, "by collecting no incident reports for anything (e.g., cell sanitation, hoarding strawberry jam, having extra socks), for 18 months and being recommended by staff, who, again, are not held to any standards in making this judgement of redemption."

Along with the Marion Prisoners Special Litigation Fund, the Marion Prisoners Task Force has undertaken a class-action suit against the inhuman conditions at Marion. Contributions to help defray the cost of this court fight may be sent to: Marion Prisoners Special Litigation Fund, P.O. Box 678, Carbondale, Ill. 62903.



Militant/Jim Levitt

Striking Alaska Airlines workers leading Seattle April 20 antiwar march for peace, jobs and justice.

Detroit Black party hits racist cop attacks

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — "We don't want more police officers like the ones who took my aunt's life," Cecelia Henderson Jordan told a July 14 speak-out called, "Violence On the Black Community" sponsored by the Detroit National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP).

Her aunt, 64-year-old Alleane Richardson, was shot between the eyes and twice in the chest May 22 by one of the two Black women cops who answered a neighbor's call to help the disabled Richardson get into her locked apartment.

"Any person in this room, except my baby there, is more able to be a threat than my aunt was," Jordan said. "She was totally deaf, nearly mute, and only able to get around with a walking stick. Yet they claimed this woman threatened their life."

"We have to create a procedure, an independent review of all police shootings, not review by those who sent them out there," she stated.

"Detroit is a microcosm of what happens to people who are not white and are not rich in this country," she continued. "What happened to my aunt was not an isolated incident. Two days after she was killed, an unarmed man was surrounded by six Detroit police and shot to death."

She also described the recent fatal shooting by police in nearby Romulus of James Hester, a Black man who was shot in the head without warning. He was killed in front of scores of witnesses.

The killer cops get off lightly, she added, giving another example from Detroit of a cop who was merely suspended for "killing an unarmed man without sufficient justification."

"What does it take?" she asked, for a cop to be charged with murder. "How many people do you have to kill? Obviously one is not enough."

Norma Hill, cochairperson of Detroit NBIPP, and Vassie Brume, nuclear weapons freeze activist, chaired the meeting. A local television station covered the event, which came in the context of Mayor Coleman Young's drive to hire more cops and build a prison in the city while campaigning for reelection this fall.

Young's most prominent opponent within the Democratic Party, Thomas Barrow, appeared at the forum to speak on his "creative ways to provide police protection" within the current budget by "reorganizing and reassigning police officers back into the precincts."

"That's giving you back the protection you deserve," he claimed. He specifically included the hated Tactical Services units and also proposed using "senior citizens to man police ministrations."

Barrow responded to Jordan's description of her aunt's murder by saying "it was most unfortunate. There are a number of officers who would have handled it differently."

"Our training would be a little bit different," he said. It would include using Mace and other "restraining force."

Rev. Isaiah Patterson represented Congressman John Conyers at the meeting. "Sometimes those who are supposed to be protecting us are the very perpetrators," he said.

He reminded the audience of the case of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American who was beaten to death by two white racists. It took a nationwide mobilization organized by the Asian community to get even one of his murderers convicted of violating his civil rights.

"Those people stuck together and got some action," Patterson said. "If you get enough people to cry out with one voice, something can be accomplished."

Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, Kibwe Diarra, supported Jordan's call for independent investigations by the Black community of racist cop shootings and called for prosecuting killer cops for murder.

"The Supreme Court has just ruled that there is no such thing as police using too much force. This gives a green light to cops like those who killed Alleane Richardson," Diarra said.

"The police force is designed to terrorize the Black community and defend the property and privileges of the rich," continued Diarra.

Diarra, a member of the United Auto Workers Local 1200, pointed to the owners of corporations like General Dynamics, where he works, as the biggest criminals — bilking taxpayers, killing workers with unsafe conditions, and profiting from war.

His campaign opposes both the building of more jails and reinstating the death penalty in Michigan, measures which are used by the wealthy rulers of this country to terrorize working people.

Diarra also targeted the multibillion dollar war budget. "When the rich use every scrap of money for their war drive and cut out social services, that's a criminal act."

In a statement for NBIPP, Detroit cochair Samuel Farley blasted the police bombing of the Philadelphia Black community that killed 11 persons, as well as the murder of Richardson. He concluded: "Isn't it clear that we need a different kind of system and government? Not one run for the rich by brutal Democratic and Republican politicians and policed by murderous, racist, antiunion cops."

Many of the 50 people present signed up to hear about future events sponsored by NBIPP and stayed after the program to discuss further what can be done to take united action against the killings by cops, and specifically to press for prosecution of the cop who killed Richardson.

Members of the family have filed a civil suit. No charges have been brought against the killer cop. In fact, contrary to earlier reports, she has not even been suspended.

The real terrorists in Nicaragua

The U.S. government has been on a stepped-up propaganda campaign against "terrorism" ever since the hijacking of a TWA jetliner last month. President Reagan escalated the campaign when four U.S. Marines and two other U.S. citizens were killed in El Salvador June 19 by opponents of the U.S.-backed dictatorship there. More and more, however, the focus of the U.S. charges of "terrorism" is revolutionary Nicaragua.

On July 17, Washington sent a note to the Nicaraguan government charging the Sandinistas with involvement in the June 19 killings. The note also claimed that "preparations are under way to introduce a program of terrorist attacks against U.S. personnel in Honduras. . . . we believe the Government of Nicaragua may be directly involved."

Without offering a single shred of evidence to back up these charges, the U.S. note threatened that Washington would "react accordingly" if such attacks took place. A White House official elaborated, stating, "Our response to violent acts against Americans will be appropriate to the loss incurred. The time and place of our response will be of our own choosing."

According to the July 24 *New York Times*, the Reagan administration sent the note after considering and rejecting a "surgical air strike" against "a base in Nicaragua where it believes Salvadoran guerrillas were trained." Citing unnamed "aides in the State and Defense Departments" as its source, the *Times* says the bombing plan was "discussed at senior levels in the White House."

What lies behind the attempts to brand the Nicaraguan government as "terrorist" and the press "leaks" about possible air strikes?

On the one hand, the campaign to pin the "terrorist" label on the Sandinistas is part of the U.S. government's ongoing political efforts to justify its growing aid to the real terrorists in Nicaragua — the CIA-trained and sup-

plied counterrevolutionaries, known as the *contras*, who kill, kidnap, and rape Nicaraguan workers and peasants. It's also designed to justify the expanding U.S. military presence in El Salvador, Honduras, and throughout the region and to establish more pretexts for escalating the U.S. military role against revolutionary Nicaragua.

The "terrorism" charge and threats of U.S. retaliation are also part of Washington's "war of nerves" through which it seeks to maximize pressure on the Sandinistas and their supporters, in the hopes of wearing down the Nicaraguan revolutionaries.

For their part, the Sandinistas responded swiftly to the new charges and placed the blame for terrorism precisely where it belongs — on Washington. A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry statement July 19 explained, "Nicaragua rejects any suggestion at all of responsibility for what happened on June 19 in San Salvador or in any other similar situation that could occur in that or any other country. These are things we neither do nor promote."

That same day, half a million Nicaraguans — more than 15 percent of the country's population — turned out for a rally in Managua to celebrate the sixth anniversary of their revolution and to pledge that neither U.S. threats nor direct military attacks will deter them from their course.

U.S. opponents of Washington's war drive against Nicaragua have a vital role to play in this struggle. A series of broad-based protests against U.S. intervention in Central America have been called for next fall. They coincide with growing concern among working people and others over Washington's threats against Nicaragua. The decision of the National Organization for Women to come out against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua is one recent example. Building the largest possible anti-intervention actions this fall can make a big contribution to this ongoing fight.

A powerful new Castro book

Pathfinder Press has made another timely political contribution with the publication of a new book of speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro and recent major interviews with him.

Playboy magazine, in introducing its current Castro interview (see story page 5), begins by saying, "Few world leaders, living or dead, have occupied history's center stage as long as Fidel Castro."

For the president of a Caribbean island republic to occupy history's center stage for a quarter of a century is surely a remarkable political phenomenon. It bears witness to the power of the Cuban revolution and the ideas it embodies, as well as to Castro's own stature as one of the major revolutionary figures of our time.

Testifying to his political status, recent interviews with him have been featured in *Newsweek*, the *Washington Post*, and PBS's "MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour."

In Mexico City, for nine days running, *Excelsior*, the city's principal daily, front-paged its lengthy interview with Castro on the Latin American debt crisis.

These interviews are featured in the new book, several in more complete form than originally presented. In addition, there are seven key speeches delivered over the past year. The principal contents of the book are aptly summarized in the subtitle, *War and Crisis in the Americas*.

The book is a real handbook for answering the torrent of lies, slanders, and smears aimed at the Cuban revolution by the capitalist politicians and media of this country.

It exposes the lie that Cuba is a grim prison camp where people are stripped of all freedom; the lie that Cuba's nationalized economy is in shambles; the lie that Cuba is sponsoring terrorism and "exporting" revolution.

It assesses the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and

the Salvadoran liberation forces, and the threat against Cuba itself, as well as the prospects for containing that aggression.

Particularly valuable is Castro's analysis of the Latin American debt crisis and his proposal for a united demand by Latin American countries to cancel the debt.

The speeches and interviews present a strong indictment of capitalism and an equally powerful argument for socialism.

For 26 years, revolutionary Cuba's workers and peasants have stood toe to toe with the powerful imperialist aggressor to the north. Cuba has faced a U.S.-organized invasion, a 26-year blockade, sabotage and arson, unremitting vilification, and threats of direct aggression.

Despite that brutal pressure, Cuba has never yielded an inch. It has proven that a defiant revolutionary nation, no matter how small, can stand up to the mightiest imperialist power yet.

Despite substantial risk, its troops went to Angola to help beat back a South African invasion. It remains steadfast in its solidarity with the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran people and with revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces worldwide.

Now the important thing is to assure maximum circulation for the book. It should be featured in socialist bookstores and have a prominent spot on community and campus literature tables.

Certainly every activist against U.S. intervention is a prospective reader, as well as those fighting U.S. complicity with South African apartheid.

And every socialist worker will want to share this book with coworkers. It's a powerful, inspiring presentation of the case for socialism. (To order book, see ad on page 5.)

Bosses poison workers, farmers

Health and safety for farm workers and working farmers are being gutted as part of the effort by the ruling rich to cut corners in order to maintain and increase their profits.

Capitalist-controlled government agencies like those that are supposed to enforce the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), which covers industrial workers, resort to mere wrist slapping or petty fines against bosses caught endangering workers' health and safety on the job.

Those who work the land, however, don't even have the protection of OSHA. They have to rely on even weaker and more poorly enforced laws — which are not working very well.

The World Resources Institute has just released a report pointing out that some four to five million farmers and farm workers are "inadequately protected" against the effects of toxic pesticides that were introduced to replace DDT. As a result, the report estimates, more than

300,000 farm workers a year suffer pesticide poisoning. Their symptoms include dizziness, nausea, contracted pupils, and severe skin rashes. Delayed effects of such poisoning may include cancer, birth defects, and sterility.

Farm workers in California (which claims to have the toughest pesticide controls in the country) have the highest rate of occupational illness of any workers in the state due to toxic pesticide poisoning, which has been rising at the rate of 14 percent a year since 1973.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, which is supposed to protect farm workers, has done little to control pesticide abuse, and penalties against abusers are weak or nonexistent.

This mass poisoning highlights the fact that workers and working farmers have a common interest in politically opposing the employers' government, which is so contemptuous of their health and safety.

July 26, 1953: birth of the Cuban revolution

On July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro led 131 revolutionary Cuban youth in an attempt to capture the Moncada Barracks in the city of Santiago de Cuba. Their goal was to inspire a popular uprising against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, who had carried out a military coup in March, 1952.

"The great majority of recruits for the new revolutionary movement were Cuban working people. 'Fidel trusted workers and peasants most,' explained Juan Almeida, a worker who was one of the first to join up. Almeida is today a leader of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The assault on Moncada was militarily defeated. Sixty-seven rebels were tortured and killed.

In October, Castro was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He spoke in his own defense. In prison after-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

wards, Castro wrote down his speech. His supporters had thousands of copies printed under the title *History Will Absolve Me*.

The speech provided the basis of the revolutionary democratic program of the July 26 movement, formed by Castro after he and other Moncada prisoners were released in May 1955. Castro said the July 26 Movement was "the revolutionary organization of the humble, by the humble, and for the humble."

Castro went to Mexico to prepare a new uprising. In November 1956 he and other fighters sailed for Cuba on the boat *Granma*. On Jan. 1, 1959, the rebel army led by Castro marched into Havana as a general strike marked the fall of Batista.

The late Celia Sánchez, a leader of the Cuban CP, said "the Cuban revolution was born at Moncada."

Following are excerpts from *History Will Absolve Me*.

* * *

When we speak of the people we do not mean the comfortable and conservative sectors of the nation which welcome any regime of oppression.

We mean the 600,000 Cubans who are out of work . . . we mean the 500,000 farm workers who live in miserable huts, who work four months and go hungry the rest of the year . . . we mean the 400,000 industrial workers and laborers whose retirement funds have been stolen and from whom all benefits are being taken away . . . we mean the 100,000 small farmers who live and die working land that is not theirs . . . we mean the 30,000 self-sacrificing and devoted teachers and professors, so necessary for the better destiny of future generations who are so badly treated and poorly paid . . . we mean the 20,000 debt-ridden small merchants . . . we mean the 10,000 young professionals who leave the schools with their degrees, only to find themselves in a dead-end alley.

Five revolutionary laws were to have been proclaimed . . . immediately after the fall of the Moncada barracks.

The first revolutionary law would return sovereignty to the people . . . in order to reestablish the Constitution, mete out exemplary punishment to all those who have betrayed it, . . . the revolutionary movement . . . would assume all the faculties inherent in sovereignty (such as the powers to legislate, to enforce the laws, and to judge).

The second revolutionary law . . . granted property, nonmortgageable and nontransferable, to all planters, tenant farmers, renters, sharecroppers, and squatters, holding parcels of five caballerias.

The third revolutionary law granted the workers and employees of all the large industrial, mercantile, or mining concerns, including sugar mills, the right to 30 percent of the profits.

The fourth revolutionary law . . . granted all planters the right to share 55 percent of the sugar production.

The fifth law ordered the confiscation of all the wealth of those who had misappropriated public funds in previous regimes as well as those of their heirs and legatees.

We stated also that Cuban foreign policy in America would be one of close solidarity with the democratic peoples of the continent and that those persecuted because of their political beliefs by the bloody tyrannies which oppress brother nations would find generous asylum. . . .

These laws . . . were to be followed . . . [by] the agrarian reform, the integral reform of the educational system, the nationalization of the electrical trust and telephone trust. . . .

The first government to come out of the first free elections held would have to abide by these laws, not only because it would have a moral obligation toward the nation, but also because when people achieve what they have eagerly sought through various generations there is no force in the world strong enough to take it away from them.

'Gaza Ghetto: Portrait of a Palestinian Family'

Gaza Ghetto: Portrait of a Palestinian Family, 1948-84. A documentary film directed by PeÅ Holmquist, Joan Mandell, and Pierre Björklund. Distributed by Joan Mandell, P.O. Box 445, Cambridge, MA 02140.

BY STEVE CRAINE

What is life like for Palestinian refugees?

To most people in the United States, a refugee camp is no more than the subject for an occasional story on the 6 o'clock news. Most of us never get more than a glimpse of the reality of daily life of the hundreds of thousands of

FILM REVIEW

Palestinians forced to live as refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, or even in their own country under Israeli occupation.

Gaza Ghetto is a new film that helps fill this gap. Made for Swedish TV in 1984, it focuses on the experiences of one family in the Jabalia refugee camp, the biggest in the Gaza Strip.

The film powerfully portrays how the Palestinian people have stood up to generations of attacks on their very right to exist. It helps us appreciate the heroism of the entire people and how the denial of their national rights affects the lives of every Palestinian.

Abu-el Adel, 56, is the eldest of the family we get to know best in the film. Every morning before sunrise he commutes to Tel Aviv to look for work in the illegal but officially tolerated day-labor market.

The 40-mile drive takes him past the site of his home village, Dimra. The town and its surrounding farms are gone. In its place is an Israeli settlement surrounded by a tall fence.

In 1948, when Abu-el Adel was 20, the entire village was forced to flee from Israeli troops. Like nearly 300,000 other Palestinians, his family found "temporary" refuge in a United Nations camp in the Gaza Strip — a part of Palestine on the Mediterranean coast.

Thirty-six years later, Abu-el Adel, his children, and his grandchildren still live there.

Since 1967, however, the Gaza area, along with the West Bank of the Jordan River, has been occupied by Israel.

What this means to the people of the Jabalia camp is shown in one of the opening scenes of the documentary, when the camp is put under curfew by the Israeli military authorities.

For no apparent reason, the army closes the whole camp — no one can enter the camp, no one can leave their homes. Abu-el Adel's son-in-law, Mustapha, for example, is caught outside and is unable to rejoin his wife and family. Children are chased out of the streets at gunpoint.

Itidhal, Abu-el Adel's daughter, tells the filmmakers (who are also caught inside the camp for the duration of the curfew) how her mother died in childbirth during such a curfew when she was unable to get to a hospital in time.

For the youngest generation of the family — who have never known anything but the Israeli occupation — learning the history of their family and people is a major concern. They cherish the family stories of the older generations and protest at the way the schools attempt to write Palestine out of the history books.

But the youth are already part of the tradition of Palestinian resistance. The film includes striking footage of protest demonstrations in Gaza and the West Bank. The leaders of these demonstrations are invariably young people, and mainly women.

In addition to Abu-el Adel's family, *Gaza Ghetto* introduces us to several families who have had their houses destroyed by Israeli troops in reprisal for alleged crimes by a family member. Another family grieves for an eight-year-old son killed by soldiers during a demonstration. His mother urges his younger brothers to avenge his death by joining the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Swedish and North American filmmakers skillfully juxtapose ghetto life in the camp to statements of Israeli government officials.

Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon is interviewed in his lavish California-style ranch house. He speaks of "peaceful coexistence" between Arabs and Israelis, but also defends the brutal repression he directed against the West Bank and Gaza in 1970 and 1971. "We succeeded in what the United States failed to do in Vietnam — pacification," he boasts.

Sharon's prosperous farm is built on the land of another former Arab village — Houj — a neighbor of Abu-el Adel's Dimra.



Itidhal, a resident of Jabalia Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza Strip. New film documents struggles of her family in face of Israeli occupation of their land.

In this film we also meet Reuven Rosenblatt, director of Israeli settlements in Gaza. He shows us, with the help of a huge wall map, that settlements are being established only on unoccupied land.

Next we are shown the remains of an Arab family's orchard that has been bulldozed to make way for such a settlement. The former owner cries as he pulls at the dead branches poking out from under the sand.

Gaza Ghetto was banned in Israel and the occupied territories, including Gaza, by the Israeli censorship board in February.

Since June it has been available in the United States in a version with English subtitles. If it can overcome the handicap of not having a well-funded distribution network, *Gaza Ghetto* can have a real impact on U.S. audiences. More than anything else, its effectiveness comes from the fact that the film lets ordinary Palestinian people speak for themselves.

Auto workers at GM-Toyota ratify first contract

Continued from Page 7

cedure. All problems are to be discussed in team-meetings. This has all been fairly low key so far. Since the plant produced its first car in December 1984 the assembly line has only been up to 75 percent of full speed. Many questions such as job overload, workers missing days from exhaustion, or forced overtime have not become pressing issues yet.

The contract summary provides for some full-time union committee persons in the plant and a new category of union coordinators. Exactly what their role will be is unclear.

Production workers at NUMMI were hired at \$11.13 per hour, including a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA). This was increased in the contract to \$11.29, with raises provided based on length of service. After 18 months a worker will make \$13.28 per hour.

The part of the contract that has the most support is a \$180 special ratification bonus and a paid lunch, which will bring in about \$500 in retroactive pay for each worker and then an extra one-half hour pay every day.

There are no raises in the second and third years of the contract. Instead there are two lump-sum payments of 2.5 percent in July 1986 and 2.7 percent in July 1987. This is a percent of regular wages, not including overtime, during the previous year.

The last provision is a setback because workers don't get the money until the end of the year. It doesn't count toward retirement, and it makes overtime cheaper for the company.

As far as job security goes the contract summary makes it clear that NUMMI is just the same as every other corporation: "The company agrees that it will not lay off employees unless compelled to do so by se-

vere economic conditions that threaten the long-term financial viability of the company."

Relief and overtime

Afternoon breaks have been eliminated. The contract continues the practice of forced overtime if scheduled up to 10 hours a day. Two Saturdays in a row can be mandatory, then one off and two more mandatory. Overtime can be scheduled at a moment's notice, although the practice has been to give two hours notice of overtime for the day. Quite a few workers end up working 12-hour days.

The basic attitude of workers in the plant is to take a wait-and-see approach and hope everything will be as friendly and nice as promised. Workers like the fact there are ping-pong tables available, that break areas are clean, and that there are no time cards. There are a few signs of workers chafing

under some problems. For example, the company floated the idea of having rotating shifts — three months on days and then three months on nights. The negative reaction was so strong the company dropped it.

The company strongly encourages everyone to participate in "voluntary" exercises for four minutes before work. Everyone participated when they were on probation earlier this year. It's quite noticeable, however, that quite a few workers stop doing the exercises once they've gotten off probation.

The importance of what's happening to NUMMI workers is not just the specifics of the attacks on wages and working conditions, but the further weakening of the union through the giving of large concessions to the bosses by union officials. GM will try to get all the concessions it got at NUMMI from auto workers elsewhere.

LETTERS

What's going on?

I have followed the coverage by the *Militant* on Nicaragua. I subscribe to *Barricada Internacional* and have several friends who have traveled to Nicaragua within the last years.

I have a pretty fair idea of what's going on there.

But the other night I watched *CBS Nightly News* with Dan Rather, which carried the story of bipartisan support for aid to the *contras*, and I have no idea of what's going on here.

The news item opened up with a view of Congress and a report on the passage of "humanitarian" aid to the *contras*, "which will help the people of Nicaragua." Right?

Then it went to Nicaragua to report that the people of that country were being hurt by the *contra* war and the embargo. "The Sandinistas were having to tighten their grip," the report said. Right?

Then to a training ground in

Honduras where the *contras* were busy firing machine guns. The reporter stated that "Things weren't going well" with the *contras* in their war, and if "they didn't do better" the U.S. government might consider committing ground troops to do the job.

How did they take us from "humanitarian aid" for the *contras* to threats of invasion "to help the Nicaraguan people"?

Jack Bresée
Newport News, Virginia

Pass it on

I am writing to renew my subscription. The reason that I did not use the form supplied in the paper is that I pass on each issue to my wife, and she in turn leaves them in the waiting rooms of the hospital she works in. We feel that this is a good way to make others aware of the *Militant*.

J.H.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Not for the poor

Figures and statistics on the bipartisan cuts in spending for social services in order to fund the military budget are one thing. The following incident shows the terrible toll this has had on life here in what is a growing tragedy.

At the time of her death, María Ceja, a single parent of three children, was 42 years old and had lived in the United States for 15 years. Her obituary reported that she worked "in the fields in Central Valley" as an agricultural worker for most of the time and then got a job in an Oakland tortilla factory where she worked until she got too sick to continue.

María's heart had been damaged by rheumatic fever in her childhood and the hard work didn't help her. Her condition became critical and she was qualified as disabled by Alameda County Welfare. She received from welfare a monthly check of \$350 for

her and her three children.

María sorely required medical care; she was one of 123,000 people living in Alameda County who are declared eligible for MediCal which is supposed to supplement the severely gutted Medicare.

Her doctor, Dr. Stanley Padilla of Oakland Hospital, said she needed major heart surgery. He had her admitted to Oakland Hospital which was not equipped to perform this work.

There are 12 private hospitals in Alameda County — in addition to two large county facilities. Not one of them would take her.

Padilla kept trying and finally, 15 days after she had been admitted to Oakland Hospital, the Seton Medical Center, which offers heart surgery to MediCal patients, agreed to take her. But it was too late. She died the day after she arrived at Seton.

Her doctor commented, "She died without benefit of the surgery

through no fault of her own except being on MediCal. . . . It certainly is a system that is prejudiced against poor people."

Paul Montauk
Oakland, California

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

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

UN women's mtg. assesses progress

U.S. gov't attempt to control discussion rebuffed

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

NAIROBI, Kenya — As some 13,000 women were participating in the United Nations women's conference for non-governmental organizations (NGO's) at Nairobi University, women from some 157 nations were gathering across town at the Kenyatta International Center for the opening of the official UN World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women.

This conference, like its nongovernmental counterpart, is organized around the themes of equality, development, and peace. It is supposed to evaluate the progress women have made in the decade opened by the UN conference on women in Mexico City in 1975 and to develop strategies to advance women's rights.

The official UN conference was opened by speeches by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi and UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Both speakers stressed the fact that while some progress has been made much still has to be done for women to be fully equal to men on a world scale.

'Qualified success'

At a July 11 press conference, four days before the official conference opened, UN conference secretary-general Leticia Shahani had summed up the UN Decade for Women as "a success story in a qualified sense." The UN preconference report entitled "The State of the World's Women, 1985," provides a clear idea of just how qualified a success the decade has been.

With the declaration of the Decade for Women, the report states, "the eyes of the world were focused on that half of the population who... perform two-thirds of the world's work, receive one-tenth of its income and own less than one hundredth of its property."

Ten years later, the report states "women grow around half of the world's food but own hardly any land." While "women are one third of the world's official labor force," the report continues, they "are concentrated in the lowest paid occupations

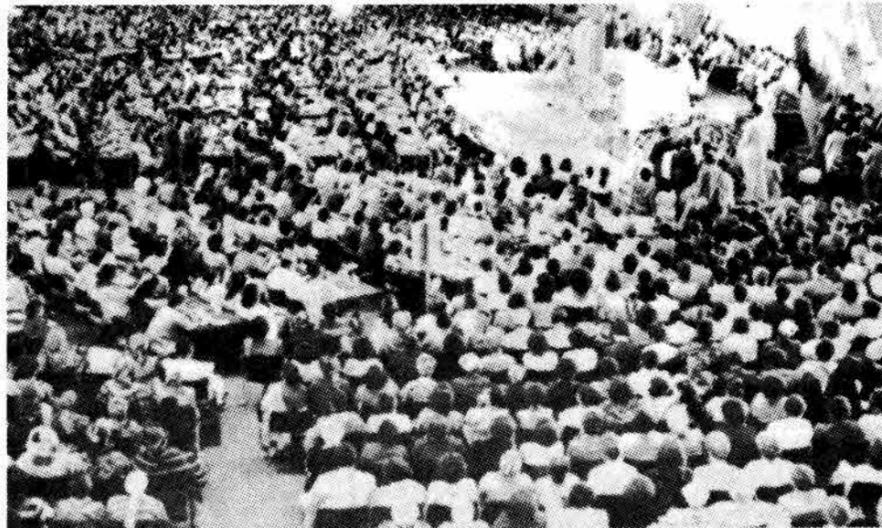
and are more vulnerable to unemployment than men...." Although "there are some signs that the wage gap is closing slightly, women still earn less than three-fourths of the wages of men doing similar work.... Women continue to outnumber men among the world illiterates by around three to two... they are still dramatically under represented in the decision making bodies of their countries."

Turning to women's role in the family, the report states that "'woman's work' always ends up simply being 'more work'." This, the report says, is true in both developed and underdeveloped countries.

"Women," it continues, "do not choose to take on extra work.... In most parts of the world a woman's labor... is absolutely vital to her family's survival."

Women are rejecting the reactionary ideas of the anti-abortion, anti-contraception forces. According to the report, there

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Opening session of the UN Decade for Women Conference on July 15, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Steel strikers say 'no cutbacks'

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

PITTSBURGH — On July 21, 8,200 workers at Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. rejected a company plan to cut wages and benefits by 18 percent. Workers walked out at eight plants in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) took to the picket line in a fight to save their union and their jobs. As Larry Davis, committeeman of USWA Local 1187 put it, "We're steelworkers. Every day we put our lives on the line, and not for \$7 an hour."

Wheeling Pittsburgh, the seventh largest and the most modern steel producer in the United States, filed bankruptcy in April, citing labor costs as the primary reason. The real intentions of the bosses became clear this month when the company appealed to federal bankruptcy Judge Warren Bentz for permission to tear up the union contract.

On July 17, Judge Bentz voided the labor agreement and gave the company the go-ahead to force a wage and benefit cut on the workers.

Steelworkers at Wheeling Pittsburgh have already given up nearly \$3 billion in concessions over three and a half years. When the company announced that on July 21 they would reduce average wages to \$8.10 an hour and cut medical benefits, vacation time, and pension rates, the workers took to the picket lines.

Union members at mass meetings of 1,200 in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, and 2,000 in Steubenville, Ohio, heard details of Wheeling Pittsburgh's attack on the USWA from the union's districts 15 and 23 negotiating committee.

The company issued a document spelling out the new wages and benefits. In a letter from Senior Vice-president Joseph Scalize, Jr., they reserved the right to "alter, interpret, or change any conditions

listed." It further stated that the company document was not intended as a labor contract and is only intended to communicate terms and conditions of wages and benefits *now in effect*. A resounding and unanimous rejection of the company plan rocked the halls at both mass Steelworkers' meetings.

The workers explained that they are victims of a lockout by Wheeling Pittsburgh because the company tore up the union contract. The USWA negotiating committee offered to keep working for two weeks under the terms of the old contract while negotiations continued. The company rejected this offer.

USWA Local 1238 Vice-president Ron Lepic, from Martinsberry, Ohio, pointed out that the company is trying to put the burden of bankruptcy on the shoulders of the union workers. He said, "We don't want to be responsible for their mismanagement."

A committeeman from the Allenport, Pennsylvania, plant said, "Each year we hear this from management: 'We need this. We're broke, but if you give us this we'll create jobs.' None of that was true. In 1979, 1,700 of us worked at Allenport. Last weekend, there were only 370 of us."

The fight by Wheeling Pittsburgh workers for a decent contract is being looked to by steelworkers all over the Mon-Ohio River Valley. They have watched their own plants shut down despite big concessions forced on them by the steel companies. As a result, an estimated 50 percent of steelworkers in this area are laid-off.

The big steel companies, spearheaded by U.S. Steel Chairman David Roderick, have made clear their intentions to demand the same kind of concessions that Wheeling Pittsburgh is trying to get. The Wheeling Pittsburgh workers are on the front lines of a battle for all steelworkers who are covered by the same basic steel Master Agreement which expires in August 1986.

The steel companies are trying to make workers pay the cost of modernization of steel plants, million-dollar corporate mergers, and mismanagement of the steel industry. Steelworkers all over the country, like the workers at Wheeling Pittsburgh, have already paid out billions of dollars in concessions and have lost tens of thousands of jobs due to the profit drive of the big steel barons.

USWA members at Wheeling Pittsburgh are saying they have paid enough. Their fight deserves the support and solidarity of the labor movement and all working people.

'Embargo S. Africa—not Nicaragua'

BY PETER THIERJUNG

CHICAGO — One hundred student leaders and young activists from around the country gathered here July 18 for a Youth and Student Summit on the People's Struggle in Southern Africa. The meeting mapped out a series of protest actions against racism in South Africa and U.S. government intervention in Central America. These actions will take place from now through next April.

The meeting was sponsored by the United States Student Association (USSA) and included representatives from 35 colleges and universities where students organized anti-apartheid protest actions last spring. National organizations that also participated in the summit include: American Committee on Africa; Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-violent Social Change; Progressive Student Network; Young Socialist Alliance; and Democratic Socialists of America Youth Section.

The summit opened with talks by David Ndaba from the African National Congress of South Africa and a representative of the South West Africa People's Organization.

Ndaba began by commending the student activists for their stand against apartheid in their protest actions last spring. He urged the conference participants to broaden the struggle in the fall. "We call upon the young lions in the United States,"

Ndaba said, "to join hands with the young lions in South Africa for the overthrow of apartheid. From the Chicago Summit to nationwide actions against apartheid in the fall of 1985, let's make this the theme of the conference."

Ndaba underscored the connections between the struggle against Washington's support for South Africa's system of racist segregation known as apartheid and the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. He pointed to the accomplishments of the Cuban revolution and the heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the U.S.-sponsored mercenary war as examples for young people here. Ndaba concluded by saying, "They cannot block free Nicaragua, free Cuba, and they won't be able to block a free South Africa. Only in unity will we win. The victory is certain."

At the end of the day, a plenary session unanimously passed a program of action for the coming months. It included:

- Focusing on October 11 as a day of nationwide protests against apartheid. This day has been designated by the United Nations as South African Political Prisoners Day.

- Building a National Student Conference on South Africa and Namibia to further unite students to fight against apartheid. The conference is scheduled for

November 1-3 at Hunter College in New York City.

- Strengthening links between campus actions against apartheid and U.S. intervention in Central America. This proposal focused on supporting a "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua" campaign to be launched this fall with the support of the American Committee on Africa, the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People, MADRE, and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. This campaign includes an October 11 through November 1 speaking tour of southern African and Nicaraguan students. Another tour next spring will feature South African and Salvadoran students around the theme of "From Soweto to San Salvador."

- Preparing national weeks of anti-apartheid actions, for March 21 through April 6, 1986. This will include a national day of protest April 4, 1986, demanding divestment of funds in corporations that do business in South Africa, an end to racism in the United States, and commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.

The summit also passed a declaration denouncing apartheid and U.S. government support for the racist regime in South Africa. The declaration expressed solidarity with the national liberation movements in

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