

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Murder of union leader protested in Philippines

BY FRED FELDMAN

The brutal murder in Manila of Rolando Olalia, chairman of the Philippines' largest trade union federation, has spurred a wave of demands for action against rightist forces linked to the military that are believed to be responsible for the killing.

Olalia was chairman of the May 1 Movement (KMU) and head of the Party of the Nation, a left-wing party formed after Ferdinand Marcos' tyranny fell in February.

The bodies of Olalia and his driver were found November 13. They had last been seen the night before.

Olalia appeared to have been tortured. His mouth was stuffed with newspaper, his hands were tied, and his face was so mutilated that his brother was able to identify the corpse only from a scar on the right leg. The union leader had been stabbed four times and shot four times in the head.

Outrage at the assassinations was expressed across the Philippines.

March on Aguinaldo

On November 14, an estimated 5,000 people marched on Camp Aguinaldo, the headquarters of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. They demanded his resignation.

Olalia had reported receiving death threats, which he said were "designed to oppress and suppress" the activities of those on the left.

According to *Newsweek* magazine, he had been warned before his assassination that he had been marked for death by the "Enrile faction," which includes the defense minister and high military officers. Olalia also reportedly told a foreign diplomat that his name had been placed on a "hit list" by the armed forces.

Enrile has called on the government to crack down on the unions and on the rural-based guerrilla movement. Officers in his entourage have publicly boasted, with impunity, of their plans to take military action to purge the Philippine government of alleged leftists and force acceptance of their policies.

Criticism of Aquino

President Corazon Aquino, who was brought to office in February by the popular upsurge against Marcos, has been criticized by many of those voicing anger at the assassinations.

A statement by KMU leaders described the murders as a "logical result of the president's indecisiveness and compromising attitude in dealing with the Marcos holdovers, a fact that has emboldened Enrile and his cohorts to plot and freely engage in bloody intrigues."

"We are not against the Aquino government," said KMU leader Crispin Beltran. "We offer ourselves as a backup force in supporting the Aquino government against those minority people bound to sabotage social change."

The KMU called for work stoppages on November 17. According to press reports from Manila, schools were shut down that day. Sections of the transportation system and of the garment and textile industries also shut down. Protest demonstrations occurred across Manila, including another march to Camp Aguinaldo. Work stoppages were also reported elsewhere in the country.

The New People's Army, which is leading a guerrilla struggle that has won significant backing in the rural areas, was reported by the *New York Times* to have criticized Aquino as "morally responsible" for the murders because of her "compromises with ultra-rightists and fascists in her Government."

Representatives of the National Demo-



Body of Rolando Olalia, murdered head of the May 1 Movement, largest union federation in Philippines.

catic Front (NDF), the coalition that politically supports the guerrilla fighters of the New People's Army, canceled negotiation sessions aimed at reaching a cease-fire with the government. The front and the NPA have been urging a 100-day cease-fire.

NDF negotiator Saturnino Ocampo, visiting the church where Olalia's body lay in state, declared, "We shall continue to fight and avenge his death and the deaths of other victims of fascism."

Top government negotiator Ramon Mitra said the NDF had canceled the talks because the murder of Olalia "points to a

pattern which, they suggested, endangers their own security."

A leader of Bayan, a broad alliance of protest groups, said, "This calls into question the entire human rights policy of this government."

The Party of the Nation called "on all freedom-loving Filipinos to leave their homes and pour into the streets to defend our newly gained freedoms."

Aquino said November 14 that she was "enraged and horrified" by the slayings. She announced the formation of a panel to

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Antiwar forces back actions in April

BY JOHN STUDER

Delegates to the national convention of the Mobilization for Survival, meeting in Minneapolis on November 11, voted unanimously to join with a broad range of other anti-intervention, labor, religious, and social justice groups to help organize a "mass mobilization in Washington, D.C., and the West Coast during the weekend of April 24-25."

The projected mobilization weekend would include a civil disobedience action on Friday, April 24, and a mass, peaceful march and rally on Saturday, April 25. The actions — in Washington, D.C., and a companion march on the West Coast — will focus on opposition to the escalating U.S. war in Nicaragua and the rest of Central America and to the continued U.S. backing for the South African apartheid regime.

Meeting on the same weekend, the Midwest regional conference of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and a Mid-Atlantic regional conference sponsored by the Nicaragua Network also adopted motions to make mobilization for this national action a major priority for the spring.

These decisions reflect growing agreement by many organizations that a centralized mass demonstration in Washington and on the West Coast on April 25 is necessary to respond to the escalation of the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua.

The Mobilization for Survival resolution, originally submitted by Judy Freiwirth, the organization's national field organizer, and strengthened by amendments added at the conference, states, "The escalating war in Central America, the deteriorating situation in South Africa and the failure of nuclear

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Subscription, fund drives top goals

BY MALIK MIAH

We've done it! More than 10,000 working people and students have signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. This includes 2,214 subscriptions to *PM* — 714 over the 1,500 goal. (See area-by-area breakdown on page 4.)

In addition, some 1,920 copies of the new Pathfinder Press pamphlet *The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota*, by Fred Halstead, were sold along with subscriptions.

This victory reflects the desire of growing numbers of working people to learn the truth about the U.S. government's antilabor policies at home and abroad.

It was the collective sales efforts of *Militant* and *PM* readers around the country — in factories, on farms and on campuses, in Black, Latino, and other working-class communities — that made this successful campaign possible.

That same effort is putting us over the top in the \$100,000 Fall Publications Fund, which is why low introductory subscriptions can be offered and numerous sales teams fielded during the course of the campaign.

Important features in winning this drive that *Militant* supporters can use and build on in future campaigns are:

- Collective effort.

While many individual salespeople sold an impressive number of subscriptions, the broad effort by hundreds of supporters was

key to the drive. This included selling to coworkers on the job, staffing literature tables on street corners, going door to door in working-class communities, and helping to process subscriptions.

- Processing subscriptions.

This was a central accomplishment of the campaign. Convincing working people and students to buy subscriptions is only the first step in getting the publications to them. The next steps are sending the subscriptions to the *Militant* business office in New York and processing them rapidly.

To ensure that new readers received their subscriptions as soon as possible after buying them, supporters of the socialist papers in New York and Newark assigned teams to come into the business office each Saturday to help process the subscriptions — and on many other days during the week too.

That step meant fewer subscriptions were sold by salespeople in the New York-Newark area. But it was only by doing this that new readers could get their subscriptions in a timely manner.

- Scope of sales effort.

Salespeople and teams went to dozens of states, including, for the first time, a sales team to Hawaii. A total of 16 national sales teams — and many regional teams — hit the road. This included a team to the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico and several teams to the Iowa-Nebraska-Minnesota area where meat-packers have been involved in important labor battles.

The *Militant* won new subscribers in all states except Montana, and new readers in 33 states bought subscriptions to *PM*.

- The majority of subscriptions were sold to working people.

A highlight of the drive was sales to coworkers. It was not uncommon to find salespeople in factories of a few hundred workers selling more than a dozen subscriptions. This ranged from plants organized by the United Auto Workers and International Union of Electronic workers to the International Association of Machinists and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

While subscription sales at plant gates were minimal, the national effort did lead salespeople in some areas to relaunch or step up their sales to workers entering and leaving factories.

In addition to on-the-job sales, tables were set up in working-class communities. These sales tables turned out to be the most effective way to make sales of the publications a collective effort, as well as sell a lot of Pathfinder Press literature.

- Sales to students.

Thousands of students bought single copies of the *Militant* and *PM*, with hundreds more buying subscriptions.

Many of the students first came across the *Militant* and *PM* at antiwar or anti-apartheid protests. Sales to demonstrators was another feature of the successful cam-

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Antiwar forces support protests in April

Continued from front page
arms negotiations make it imperative that the peace and justice movement respond on a national level."

It explains that the demonstration's goals would be "to create a large, visible presence in Washington, D.C., in opposition to the Reagan Administration's foreign and domestic policies" and "to help coalesce, unify, and continue to build the peace and justice movement in this country."

Leslie Cagan, a longtime Mobilization for Survival leader and a national coordinator of the April 20, 1985, March on Washington for Peace, Jobs and Justice, spoke in favor of this proposal in the Intervention-Central America Focus workshop at the conference.

Cagan explained that congressional approval of \$100 million in military aid to the *contras* significantly increases the U.S. role in the war. This requires a united, public protest in the nation's capital, she said.

The momentum for a national march in the spring has developed out of discussions among antiwar and solidarity activists over the past few months. It has been propelled forward by the bipartisan congressional commitment to stepping up U.S. direction of the war in Nicaragua. This is reflected in the recent contra aid vote, the elimination

west regional conference meeting in Chicago.

Lent explained, "Prior to this fall, our national program emphasized grassroots pressure on Congress to cut aid to El Salvador." But, Lent noted, the CISPES national leadership decided in August that it needed to refocus its projections.

"There has been a go-ahead by Congress for contra aid," he explained, "and thus a major escalation of the war in Central America. And given that there has been a greater awareness of the importance of the war in El Salvador within the Central America context," he said, "CISPES should have as a major focus the development of the Central America antiwar/anti-intervention movement."

Angela Sembrano, CISPES national coordinator, urged adoption of the shift toward prioritizing the April march.

She highlighted the possibility of making significant progress in orienting these anti-intervention actions toward involving new forces, especially in the labor movement and from church organizations.

The conference, attended by 65 representatives from CISPES affiliates, agreed and adopted a resolution for CISPES to allocate the resources needed to build broad participation in the spring mobilization.

The same weekend, a Mid-Atlantic regional conference hosted by the Nicaragua Network attracted more than 100 solidarity activists and Network members to Baltimore. Here, too, the April 25 mobilization was adopted as a central campaign for the spring.

Dangers for Nicaragua

Francisco Campbell, a representative of the Nicaragua consulate in Washington, D.C., explained that the conference was "especially timely because grave dangers face the Nicaraguan revolution — the war is intensifying."

Campbell described the deadly consequences of the deepening U.S. war on the people of his country. He urged those at the conference to help get out the truth about and organize against U.S. attacks on Nicaragua.

Debra Reuben, coordinator of the National Nicaragua Network, explained, "The war in Nicaragua is now going to move faster than ever before. The U.S. escalation must be opposed and requires greater unity than ever before."

One of the largest workshops at the conference was organized specifically to discuss the spring mobilization. The workshop was chaired by Steven Slade, a national leader of the Pledge of Resistance. It was attended by other leaders of anti-intervention groups, including Reuben and Beverly Treumann, director of the Nica Spanish-language school in Esteli, Nicaragua.

This workshop decided that the April action should be set as a central priority for the spring. A similar recommendation also came from almost every other workshop at the conference. It was supported over-



Militant/Jim Levitt

November 2 antiwar demonstration in Seattle

whelmingly at the plenary sessions of the conference.

The meeting also decided on a plan to organize a national tour of representatives from Nicaragua and South Africa to tell the truth about conditions in their countries and to help build for the spring demonstration.

Successful fall actions

The momentum for the April 25 actions was advanced by the success of antiwar actions held in regional centers around the country on October 25 and November 1 and 2.

National Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, which coordinated these actions, reported that they attracted more than 30,000 participants. More than 8,000 marched in the largest demonstration in Los Angeles, with thousands more in Washington, D.C.; New York; Chicago; Boston; San Francisco; Austin, Texas; Atlanta; and other cities.

In a round-up of the fall actions, the *Guardian* newspaper — which helped promote them — quoted several local coalition leaders about future perspectives.

Dave Hostetter of the Washington Peace Center and a leader of the Washington-area coalition, which mobilized more than 1,500 protesters on October 25, commented that "a unified action from the Mid-Atlantic bodes well for a bigger and better action in the spring."

Irving Beinin, who is part of a committee delegated by the New York October 25 coalition to discuss the spring action with other groups, stated that October 25 "was a

good stepping-off point for future coalition actions."

Discussions on April 25

In a letter reporting on the success of these fall actions sent out on November 11 to its national endorsers and regional contacts, Judy Freiwirth reports on plans for the April 25 weekend.

"April 24-25 has been selected as the date for a series of actions in Washington, D.C. — including a march and rally, a non-violent civil disobedience action on the 24th," Freiwirth writes, and "possibly a religious event and a lobbying day. Discussions are also taking place about a West Coast action on the same weekend."

"The primary political focus is U.S. policies in Central America and South Africa, and to a lesser extent disarmament and domestic issues will be addressed," she continues.

Knowledge about the projected April 25 action, even before a formal call has been issued, is becoming increasingly widespread around the country, and support is growing. Announcements about the march and pledges to mobilize for it have been reported at anti-intervention forums, meetings, and solidarity group social events from Atlanta to New Orleans to Lawrence, Kansas.

At its national conference held over the November 15 weekend in Iowa City, 125 activists in the Progressive Student Network adopted a resolution to use their resources to help build student participation in the march.



Militant/Della Rossa
Protester at November 1 demonstration in Los Angeles.

of strictures on the CIA role in the Nicaragua war, and in the decision to train contra troops in the United States or Puerto Rico.

This situation was described in a "Proposal for Modification of Spring Program," written by Michael Lent, CISPES Program Coordinator, for the CISPES National Executive Committee. It was circulated to participants in the CISPES Mid-

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At the plant gates, mine portals, and picket lines; at antiwar actions and demonstrations against apartheid in South Africa; at schools, the *Militant* is there, reporting the facts and participating in the struggles.

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If you already have a subscription, by renewing now for six months or a year you'll receive a free issue of *New International* (cover price \$5.00), a magazine of Marxist politics and theory published in New York. The current issue features the article, "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," by Jack Barnes.

The Militant

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Secret U.S. talks with Iran reveal no shift in policy

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The recent revelation of secret, high-level U.S. discussions with the Iranian government and the sale of some arms to that country has fueled a heated debate over the implementation of U.S. policy toward Iran.

For several weeks, the big-business news media has been saturated with coverage of this question. Every utterance by key administration officials has been seized on in an attempt to discern a shift in Washington's stance or to detect possible divisions within the White House. Various congressmen and ruling-class spokespeople have sharply criticized the arms shipments, accusing the Reagan administration of "bartering with terrorists."

But whether or not some politicians and pundits view the U.S. moves as a "blunder" or have tactical differences with the way the contacts with Iran were conducted, the debate in governmental circles actually reveals considerable unanimity on policy toward Iran.

On the one hand, this policy reflects virulent opposition to the gains of the Iranian revolution and hostility to the Iranian government's refusal to tailor its policies to suit Washington.

On the other, it includes a readiness to probe for openings with any forces within the capitalist government of Iran that might lean more toward accommodating U.S. capitalist interests there and throughout the region.

A deep-going revolution

The massive, popular revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the shah in 1979 was a big blow to U.S. imperialism. It deprived Washington of one of its most reliable regional allies. The U.S. bases in Iran were shut down, and some 45,000 U.S. advisers were expelled.

This victory inspired the oppressed and exploited throughout the Middle East.

Within Iran, workers formed factory committees and won improvements in their wages and social benefits. Exploited peasants seized land left vacant by fleeing landlords. The oppressed nationalities fought to assert their rights.

The deep anti-imperialist sentiments of the Iranian masses were expressed in the huge demonstrations held to support the students who occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran from late 1979 through the end of 1980.

In face of such popular sentiments, the new Iranian government extended support to anti-imperialist struggles elsewhere in the region. It established friendly ties with revolutionary governments in other parts of the world.

At the same time, the regime, composed of businessmen and figures in the religious hierarchy, is dedicated to preserving capitalist rule. Over the past seven years this regime has made headway in restricting the democratic freedoms of the Iranian working people and blocking a land reform and labor rights.

But so far it has not felt confident enough for a head-on confrontation with the masses. Moreover, the governing circles themselves are beset by political and factional strife, reflecting the contradictory pressures bearing down on them.

Embargoes and war

One source of considerable pressure has been Washington. Its goal has been to wear down the Iranian people and spur forward those sectors within Iran that are most favorable to reaching an accommodation with imperialism.

To this end, Washington seized billions of dollars worth of Iranian assets in the United States and halted Iranian oil imports. It staged an unsuccessful military raid on Iran in April 1980. Diplomatic relations were severed. As a justification for such moves, Iran was smeared as a center of "international terrorism."

When the regime of neighboring Iraq massively invaded Iran in September 1980, Washington hoped to use the war to further its goals.

Although the U.S. authorities claimed they were "neutral" in the conflict, in reality they favored the Iraqi dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. The Saudi Arabian monarchy, a close U.S. ally, provided Saddam with \$35 billion in aid. U.S. diplomatic relations with Iraq, cut in 1967, were restored.

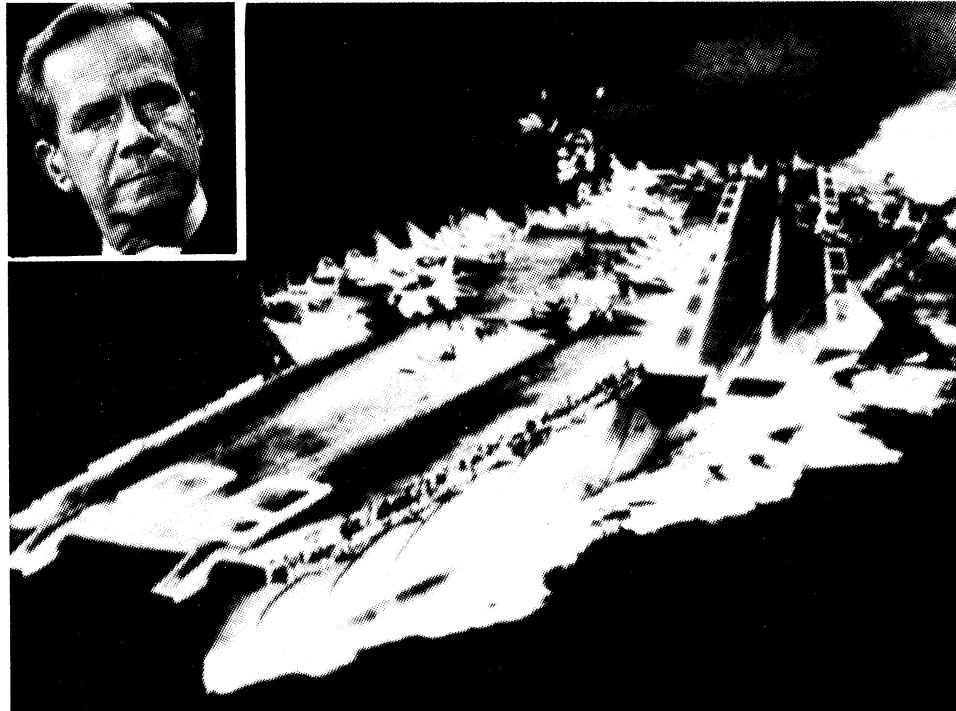
But after six years, the Iraqi attack has clearly failed in its objectives. The Iranian working people have mobilized in their millions to fight off this aggression.

Secret probes

Alongside their direct pressures and attacks on the Iranian revolution, the U.S. authorities have also sought to maintain some contacts with Iranian officials and army officers. This is not new. During the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, for example, the Carter administration conducted secret negotiations with some Iranian officials.

According to press revelations and the Reagan administration's own admissions, the most recent round of contacts began in mid-1985. In May 1986 former national security adviser Robert McFarlane visited Tehran for several days.

Despite a U.S. arms embargo on Iran, several shipments of arms and spare parts were sold to Iran during the course of these discussions. The Israeli regime helped arrange the transfer of some of them. Ac-



Reagan aide Robert McFarlane (inset) made a secret trip to Tehran. But talks with Iranian officials mark no letup in U.S. pressures against Iranian revolution, such as provocations by U.S. naval battle groups in Persian Gulf.

cording to U.S. officials, the arms sales were intended as a sign of "good faith" in the negotiations.

In a November 13 televised speech, Reagan maintained that the talks were aimed at reestablishing some contacts between the two governments, exploring a negotiated settlement to the Iran-Iraq war, and eliminating "state-sponsored terrorism and subversion" — Washington's term for Iranian support to groups in other countries that are in conflict with proimperialist governments.

Reagan also said that he hoped to "effect the safe return of all hostages" in Lebanon. Three U.S. citizens held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon were released during the course of the secret talks.

In a meeting with congressional leaders, Reagan, according to one participant, argued that the contacts in Iran were with "nonradicals who have a greater interest in

U.S. ties."

Some U.S. officials, however, criticized the arms shipments, arguing that such an approach undercuts the Reagan administration's proclaimed policy of not dealing with "terrorists." Nevertheless, they have generally agreed with the effort to probe for possible shifts in Iranian policies.

Like many other U.S. foreign policy initiatives, these moves were carried out in the utmost secrecy. They only came to light on October 31 when a Lebanese magazine, *Al Shiraa*, got wind of McFarlane's trip to Tehran and broke the story.

Since then, Iranian officials have reiterated their readiness to improve relations with the U.S. government. But they have also continued to denounce Washington's aggressive stance toward Iran and other countries in the region, its aid to the Israeli regime, and its holding of Iranian assets in the United States.

New sponsors back rights suit

BY JOE SWANSON

DETROIT — The ability of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) to gain wide support among unionists was demonstrated at the Labor Notes Conference here.

PRDF spokespersons who are steelworkers, machinists, coal miners, auto workers, and garment and textile workers were active throughout the November 14–16 conference.

They brought unionists by the PRDF literature table, participated in workshops, and held numerous individual discussions about the victory won by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance in their lawsuit against the covert activities of the FBI and other U.S. government cop agencies.

The PRDF, which was established in 1973, raises funds and helps publicize the ongoing court case.

Over 100 copies of a recent PRDF fund letter were distributed to conference participants and 17 unionists added their names as PRDF sponsors.

The new sponsors expressed the opinion that the ruling in the case brought by the SWP and YSA provides added protection for unionists and others fighting against the employers' attacks.

A local leader of the Communications Workers of America explained in a workshop that the company and the government are working hand in glove through the courts and cop agencies to step up drug testing, lie-detector tests, and company spying. He said the attacks are designed to weaken the unions and intimidate workers as the employers escalate their drive for profits.

New PRDF sponsors obtained at the Labor Notes Conference include Dave Chmielewski, vice-president of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 438 in Union Grove, Wisconsin; Wayne Wallace, field representative for the United Rubber Workers union in Opelika, Alabama; Ruth Kiernan, executive vice-president of Communications Workers of America Local 1039 in Trenton, New Jersey; Selwyn Rogers, a member of UAW Local 262 in De-

troit; Alfredo Rodriguez, an organizer for Hospital Workers Union Local 1199 in New York; and Bud Schulte, a steward for United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 789 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A week earlier several new sponsors were added at the national conference of the Mobilization for Survival held in Minneapolis. Dave McReynolds, a leader of the Socialist Party, became an endorser as did Mobilization for Survival activist Leslie Cagan. Dave Dellinger, who has backed

the PRDF in the past, reaffirmed his support.

PRDF supporters in nearly 40 cities around the country are discussing setting ambitious goals for signing up dozens of new endorsers in each area. They are placing a special emphasis on signing up new endorsers in the labor movement. Union backers of the PRDF are discussing the case brought by the SWP and YSA with their coworkers and officers from their local unions.

PRDF Political Rights Defense Fund

Help us win more victories for democratic rights

Now that a federal judge has ruled that the FBI's spying against the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance was illegal, the case is going back to court to determine what will happen to the millions of secret files the government spies accumulated.

Every supporter of democratic rights has a stake in helping bring about another victory against the FBI in the upcoming hearings. The Political Rights Defense Fund needs your endorsement and your financial help to make the next stage in this battle a success.

- I want to be a sponsor of the Political Rights Defense Fund.
 Send me a copy of the federal court decision against the FBI. Enclosed is \$10.
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Send to: Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

More aerospace workers are reading the 'Militant'

BY BOB CUSTER

LOS ANGELES — Over the past few months there's been a heightened receptivity by aerospace workers in Southern California to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder Press books.

My coworkers have shown particular interest in coverage on South Africa and Nicaragua, especially with the latest demonstrations against apartheid and because of the U.S. government's war drive in Central America.

Since the beginning of the sub-

scription drive here, sales to aerospace workers of the Pathfinder Press pamphlet by Fred Halstead — *The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota* — have amounted to more than 250. In addition, 65 have bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Regular plant-gate sales outside McDonnell Douglas — Long Beach have helped to familiarize workers inside the plant with the two publications. One coworker who occasionally purchased the *Militant* at our plant gate has since bought a

subscription, a Nelson Mandela T-shirt, and the book *Teamster Rebellion*.

Coworkers have bought some 50 subscriptions at the McDonnell Douglas — Long Beach plant over the past year.

When anyone tells me that workers are "apathetic," I point out how many people in our building have bought subscriptions; have purchased pamphlets and books on South Africa, Grenada, Malcolm X, and the Hormel strike; and have participated in anti-apartheid demonstrations.

In the Los Angeles area, International Association of Machinists and United Auto Workers contract negotiations have been going on with McDonnell Douglas, Lock-

heed, and Weber Aircraft. At McDonnell Douglas the company is demanding takebacks and has given notice of contract termination. In response, the United Auto Workers (UAW) has set a strike authorization vote for November 23.

Retirees have been especially vocal in objections to the company proposal for workers and retirees to pay certain costs on health insurance. A two-day protest picket line was held outside the Long Beach plant during shift change. As many as 500 Machinist and UAW retirees attended. A number of them bought the Pathfinder pamphlet on the meat-packer's fight.

Recently, mass meetings for voting on contract proposals have

been called by the unions at McDonnell Douglas, Lockheed, and Weber. Sales teams sold between 20 and 30 *Militants* and meat-packer pamphlets at each meeting.

At Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas-Torrance meetings, sales teams set up tables that received a lot of interest.

Over 1,000 Socialist Workers election campaign leaflets were also given out at the McDonnell Douglas-Torrance Machinists meeting. Greg Jackson, the SWP candidate for lieutenant governor, works at the Torrance plant.

Bob Custer is a member of UAW Local 148 and works at the McDonnell Douglas — Long Beach plant.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

nia to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder Press books.

During the drive, at least 10 young people joined the YSA, and many more are considering joining.

• New members won to the Young Socialist Alliance.

During the drive, at least 10 young people joined the YSA, and many more are considering joining.

• International sales.

The *Militant* and *PM* are internationalist publications. Many of the articles in the *Militant* and *PM* are firsthand accounts of working-class struggles in other countries.

An attractive feature of the *Militant* and *PM* is the reporting team based in Managua, Nicaragua. This bureau has been providing extensive and up-to-date coverage of the revolutionary developments in that country since 1979.

A look at the most recent issues of the *Militant* also shows articles from Canada, Mexico, Sri Lanka, India, Israel, Zimbabwe, Greece, England, the Philippines, Iceland, and many other countries.

There are regular *Militant* subscribers in England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and many other countries. Many signed up during the fall subscription drive.

Collection of the \$100,000 Fall Publications Fund means we can continue to offer special subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM*, as well as other publications such as *New International*, a magazine of Marxist theory and politics, and Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets.

Like the subscription campaign, the \$100,000 Publications Fund success was a result of a broad effort. Many contributors included longtime readers of the *Militant*. Some were new subscribers to the publications; others were first-time purchasers of Pathfinder Press books.

Renewal campaign

As many of you know, the business office has been sending out a series of differ-

ent colored notices reminding you when your subscription expires. In the last three weeks, we've averaged five renewals per day, most for one-year subscriptions.

Many supporters who participated in the 10,000 campaign are also talking to new subscribers in their area about renewing their subscriptions. This includes talking to coworkers on the job and students on campus, as well as visiting subscribers at their homes.

Subscribers are being invited by salespeople in many cities to attend weekly *Militant* Forums and other activities that *Militant* and *PM* salespeople are actively participating in.

This includes the regional socialist educational weekends occurring around the country — December 5-7, 12-14, and 19-21. A feature of the conferences will be a talk on the current U.S. political situation, followed by a discussion. Classes on such topics as: imperialist roots of the U.S. war drive in Central America; the state of the trade unions; the fight for women's liberation; the farm crisis; the coming revolution in South Africa; and democratic rights and the class struggle will also be given. Check with salespeople in your area for more information. (See directory on page 12.)

Thank you again for your support and effort in making it possible to win 10,000 new readers of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and collecting \$100,000 for the Fall Publications Fund.

(Next week's issue will run the final subscription scoreboard because many subscriptions sold as of November 15 will not arrive at the business office until after our press deadline.)



Militant/Jim Levitt
Socialist literature table at recent Seattle antiwar demonstration.

Fall Subscription Scoreboard

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	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	% Sold		Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	% Sold
New Paltz, N.Y.	5	—	9	—	180	New York	500	250	478	303	104
San Francisco	170	80	199	109	123	Detroit	260	30	266	34	103
Columbus, Ohio	18	2	23	1	120	Miami	125	40	127	43	103
Charleston, W.Va.	100	0	115	3	118	Greensboro, N.C.	140	10	144	9	102
Milwaukee	100	30	121	32	118	Louisville, Ky.	115	10	118	9	102
San Jose, Calif.	200	100	216	122	113	Philadelphia	175	50	193	34	101
Washington, D.C.	160	40	173	51	112	St. Louis	235	5	228	14	101
Boston	235	65	269	60	110	Toledo, Ohio	100	5	99	6	100
Capital District, N.Y.	125	10	134	14	110	Des Moines, Iowa	200	0	188	2	95
Birmingham, Ala.	150	3	163	4	109	Phoenix	100	75	84	83	95
Newark, N.J.	375	125	348	190	108	Cincinnati	90	10	86	7	93
Portland, Ore.	135	15	152	10	108	Kansas City, Mo.	160	15	149	14	93
Chicago	300	50	286	90	107	Cleveland	125	15	116	13	92
Houston	290	60	310	64	107	Tidewater, Va.	60	5	60	0	92
Los Angeles	300	200	334	201	107	New Orleans	90	10	85	4	89
Salt Lake City	105	15	118	10	107	Oakland, Calif.	200	30	148	42	83
Pittsburgh	100	5	101	10	106	Dallas	225	75	153	63	72
San Diego	100	60	104	66	106	Price, Utah	50	5	37	1	69
Seattle	200	35	210	36	105	Denver	135	10	87	11	68
Twin Cities, Minn.	250	20	265	18	105	Omaha, Neb.	125	0	67	4	57
Atlanta	140	10	146	10	104	Austin, Minn.	125	—	50	—	40
Baltimore	140	5	145	6	104	National teams	—	—	654	353	—
Morgantown, W.Va.	130	—	135	—	104	Other	—	—	681	58	—
Totals					8,500	Totals			8,374	2,214	106
to be on schedule					8,500	to be on schedule			8,500	1,500	100

Socialist campaign: a voice for working people in struggle

BY FRED FELDMAN

"The struggles against war, union-busting, and farm foreclosures will be there after the elections, and the Socialist Workers Party will be there fighting along with other working people," declared Tom Jaax at a November 2 preelection rally in St. Paul, Minnesota. Jaax, a laid-off garment worker, was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota.

"Our campaign, unlike those of the Republican and Democratic politicians, has centered on issues that are vital to working people," Jaax stated. "We have defended the Nicaraguan revolution, and have argued for and participated in united actions to oppose Washington's *contra* war."

"We have supported and publicized the fight of meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota, and elsewhere against Hormel's union-busting actions," the candidate continued. "We pointed to the example these workers set by using their union to fight for their interests, and to reach out for support to the labor movement throughout the United States and in other countries."

"We have stood on the side of the farmers who are fighting against foreclosures and for a farm price system that guarantees them a living income," Jaax explained.

Working-class fighters

These were themes struck not only by the SWP campaign in Minnesota, but by all 62 socialist candidates who ran for office in 23 states and the District of Columbia in the past elections.

Unlike the lawyers and businessmen who crowded the Republican and Democratic tickets, the SWP candidates were working people. They included rail worker Deborah Lazar, who ran for mayor of Washington, D.C.; auto workers such as Alvino Carrillo, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Kansas City, Missouri; coal miners such as David Hurst, who ran for U.S. Congress from Utah's 3rd C.D.; and oil refinery workers such as Willie Mae Reid, the candidate for gover-

nor of Texas.

Many of the campaigns opened with a massive effort to get thousands of people to sign petitions supporting the socialists' right to be on the ballot. More than 40,000 signed up in New York, 30,000 in Illinois, 9,000 in Ohio, and thousands more in other states.

As a result of this effort, 25 socialist candidates were on the ballot. In Ohio, West Virginia, and Massachusetts, however, officials barred the socialists from the ballot, even though they had collected more than the required number of signatures.

In some states, such as California, the number of signatures required was so massive as to compel the candidates to seek write-in votes instead of petitioning for a ballot spot.

The socialist candidates actively supported strikes, antiwar and anti-apartheid protests, and actions in defense of working farmers.

In Georgia, senatorial candidate Maceo Dixon supported striking Hapeville auto workers. Sam Manuel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, went to Watsonville, California, to express solidarity with striking cannery workers at a city council hearing there.

Theresa Delgadillo, SWP candidate for governor of New York, urged workers and farmers to back the strike of dairy farmers who are demanding decent prices from the big dairies for their milk.

Speaking in Austin

Jaax and August Nimtz, the SWP candidate for lieutenant governor of Minnesota, spoke to 60 people October 28 at a meeting of the Austin United Support Group, which has played a central role in rallying support for the fighting Hormel meat-packers.

Previous support-group meetings had heard Democratic and Republican candidates. One meat-packer summed up how he saw the differences separating the



Militant/Michael Baumann

New York gubernatorial candidate Theresa Delgadillo (right) backing strikers at Hebrew National meat-packing plant.

Socialist Workers slate from the other candidates: "Every other politician and party has beat on us, but these guys haven't."

The support-group meeting listened closely as Nimtz, who had just returned from a two-month stay in Nicaragua, described both the impact of the brutal war Washington is waging and the gains Nicaraguan workers and farmers are making despite this.

Across the country, the SWP candidates' strong support for Nicaragua contrasted with the open hostility to its revolutionary government expressed by Republican and Democratic contenders.

Jon Hillson, the SWP candidate for Congress from the 8th C.D. of Massachusetts, appeared on several platforms with his opponents. "It's time to say 'enough' to a U.S. Congress in which not a single voice speaks up to say that the Nicaraguan revolution has been a great advance for the Nicaraguan people," he declared at one such meeting.

Jane Roland represented the campaign of Rich Stuart for U.S. Senator at a meeting of 250 students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. A representative of Democratic candidate (and now senator-elect) Terry Sanford also attended.

"It was students at A&T who helped inspire the movement for Black rights in the 1960s when they sat in at segregated Woolworths lunch counters and demanded to be served," Roland said. "Today we need a

similar fighting movement to stop the U.S. war in Central America."

Amy Husk, candidate for U.S. Senate from Oregon, was endorsed by the newspaper *Just Out*, which orients to Portland-area gays, lesbians, and supporters of their democratic rights.

The October issue declared: "Husk has been an activist in the women's movement for more than a decade and is a member of NOW and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Husk has visited Nicaragua and calls for an end to U.S. aggression in Central America. Employed as a textile worker at Pendleton Woolen Mills, Husk is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. A vote for Amy Husk says no to mainstream politics."

The socialist campaigns placed all of today's battles and issues in a broad political perspective. "We explain the connection among these struggles," Jaax explained in his speech to the St. Paul rally. "We recognize them as not being conflicts between working people and individual employers, bankers, or individual warmongers," he said, "but as a struggle against a ruling class that exploits and oppresses us."

"Electing Democrats and Republicans who say they have good intentions is no answer," Jaax pointed out. "The solution is to take political power out of the hands of this ruling class and place it in the hands of the working class and farmers — just like what has happened in Nicaragua."

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BY MALIK MIAH

The efforts of 16 national traveling teams were key to surpassing the national subscription goal of 10,000 new readers to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

This includes two teams still on the road today: in the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico and the state of Hawaii.

Young Socialist Alliance national leader Laura Garza heads the team in Puerto Rico. She phoned in from Mayagüez to report that the team set up a table at the University of Puerto Rico there with the aid and sponsorship of the FUPI (a pro-independence student federation).

"The president of the FUPI chapter stayed with the team all day, calling over his friends and helping to sell subscriptions," she said. "In two days at the university, almost 70 subscriptions were sold."

Rafael Cancel Miranda, a national hero because of his longtime participation in the fight for independence, showed the team the industrial "free zone" of Mayagüez. Cancel said this area has been heavily contaminated by U.S. tuna companies operating there.

She reported that Estudio Libre, a local bookstore where many activists gather, "bought two one-year subscriptions to *PM* and several Pathfinder Press titles in Spanish, and took extra subscription forms to place in their bookstore for their customers."

After nearly two weeks on the island, the

team has sold 160 subscriptions, most of them to *PM*. Its goal was 150.

YSA leader Greg Rosenberg, head of the Hawaii team, reports especially good sales to workers. "Of the 42 new *Militant* subscribers," Rosenberg said, "a majority are trade unionists, with most also buying copies of the Pathfinder Press pamphlet *The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota*."

The team received an excellent response at the sugar mill in the town of Waialua, Rosenberg noted. This plant, which employs nearly 400 workers, is organized by International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 142. The ILWU represents 23,000 workers in Hawaii.

Rosenberg reported that *Militant* supporters "attended a union meeting held on the front lot of the mill where team member Mike Downs, an ILWU member from Los Angeles, explained why the team was in Hawaii." Downs described the current stage of the Hormel company's attacks on meat-packers and the importance of building solidarity with these workers. His remarks were received with applause, Rosenberg noted.

"Afterward, seven ILWU members bought subscriptions," Rosenberg reported, "along with the pamphlet on the Hormel meat-packers' struggle, which many had heard about."

The team also sold outside the Dole Pineapple Cannery plant gate in Honolulu, selling 12 *Militants*, four pamphlets on the Hormel strike, and one subscription.

Calif. health-care strikers rally support

BY ANÍBAL YÁÑEZ
AND GREG NELSON

OAKLAND, Calif. — In an impressive demonstration of strength and unity, more than 5,000 striking health-care workers and community supporters marched on the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan headquarters here November 13.

The militancy and breadth of the action was important as the strike, which began on October 27, is now in its fourth week. Kaiser is insisting that a new two-tier wage scale form the basis of further negotiations. "Unless the union accepts the two-tier concept as a framework for the negotiations, a settlement is not possible," Kaiser official Daniel Danzig told the *Oakland Tribune* November 12.

After more than two and a half months of negotiations, the workers rejected a proposal to cut pay for new employees 30 percent and freeze wages of current employees.

"We know from the experience of union brothers and sisters who have been forced to work under two-tier wage systems that employees working side by side at different wage rates would further endanger patient care services by sowing seeds of dissension," explains Local 250 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which represents most of the 10,000 striking workers.

According to a strike bulletin, Kaiser is the largest and richest health-care corporation in the world. Last year its revenues were more than \$4 billion, and its net profits were \$359 million. Arrayed against this powerful health-for-profit organization in its drive to wrest concessions that would squeeze the workers and shortchange patients is a coalition called United Kaiser Unions.

It includes Hospital Workers Union Local 250 (SEIU), medical laboratory technologists organized by Engineers and Scientists of California (MEBA), and Optical Workers Union Local 505 (SEIU), as well as cafeteria and office workers, nurses, stationary engineers, and others.

From the start, Kaiser workers have also looked for broader labor solidarity and community support to help in their fight. A few weeks before contract negotiations expired, members of the health-care workers' unions leafleted plant gates throughout the Bay Area explaining their demands.

After the strike began, they urged patients to go into Kaiser facilities despite the picket lines. "Don't take no for an answer when it comes to your medical care," ex-

plains a union leaflet. This way, the strikers have effectively undercut the company's attempts to blame the workers for any "inconvenience" during the "labor dispute."

An issue of the strike bulletin "On the Line" reported that more than 100 Northern California unions, representing hundreds of thousands of Kaiser enrollees, had sent telegrams to Kaiser Chairman James Vohs threatening to pull members out of the Kaiser Health Plan unless the corporation settles soon.

Kaiser Registered Nurses for Quality Care reports that more than half the nurses are refusing to cross the picket lines. The nurses held rallies throughout Northern California on November 3 in solidarity with the strikers.

Two hundred pickets and supporters marched outside the Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital in south San Jose on November 8. They had gathered the night before in an open field across from the hospital in a tent city. These activities were organized by the Strike Support Committee of the Central Labor Council of Santa Clara County.

Buses brought strikers and their supporters to the November 13 action from throughout the Bay Area and from at least a dozen cities and towns in Northern California. Many other unions joined the protest.

The march to the Kaiser headquarters stretched over a mile. When it arrived at the Kaiser offices, the chanting throng easily surrounded the steel and glass skyscraper.



Militant/Aníbal Yáñez

Ten thousand workers have been on strike since the end of October at Kaiser Health Care Plan facilities in Northern California. The workers are fighting Kaiser's attempt to impose a two-tier contract and other takebacks.

Black farmers discuss loss of land

BY STUART CROME

SUMPTER, S.C. — About 150 people met here on October 24 to discuss the crisis facing working farmers, particularly Black farmers. The majority of the participants in the South Carolina Land Use and Land Loss Conference were Black family farmers.

This was the first time a statewide conference of this type was held, and a wide range of ideas and perspectives was discussed. The meeting was sponsored by several state agricultural agencies and cooperatives.

The keynote speaker at the gathering was Booker Whatley, who has been active in assistance programs and lobbying efforts on behalf of working farmers. He mentioned a number of other farmer conferences taking place in November and De-

cember this year.

A panel of farmers featured Hezekiah Gibson, who blasted discrimination against Black farmers and the high rate of land loss Black farmers face. He pledged to continue to farm despite the many obstacles. "I intend to be the last Black farmer in the United States, even if I have to farm at the state penitentiary or the federal penitentiary," he said. "Blacks were brought here from Africa and never received the benefits from their labor."

Pointing to solutions, he stated, "First of all, small farmers need to come together and plan some strategies. For anything that happens from here on out, it's going to be up to us to make it happen."

Gibson and other speakers also pointed to the false promises of the Democratic and Republican party politicians. Joseph DeLaine, another panelist, said, "Politicians come up with a lot of rhetoric, and mostly what they're saying is lies . . . or let's say, untruths."

Manuel Walker, another farmer, said, "I can't see how the government and the president even planned to do us any good. Since 1979, I haven't been able to borrow money."

Also attending the conference were bank representatives and representatives of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). They spoke at a panel on financial resources for small farmers. No solutions to the crisis working farmers face were of-

fered by them.

Larry Rogers of the FmHA said that the only type of farm that has a chance today are the "part-time" operations that have nonfarm income as a supplement. He blamed "unfair competition" and the \$150 billion annual trade deficit for the problems facing farmers.

Reynolds Wilborn, the regional vice-president of the Federal Land Bank, stated that \$13 billion is owed to federal banks in "non-viable" loans, that is, loans to farmers who are further in debt than the net worth of their property. "We will foreclose on hopeless cases," he warned.

J.M. Sprott of the National Bank of South Carolina put the blame solely on the government and said that the banks have no control over the situation. "We have to do what Congress tells us to do," he said. "The farm problem is not a production problem; selling is the problem," he continued. "Everyone makes a profit after the farm commodity is sold by the farmer." The only hope he could offer to small farmers was a prediction that in three years, land prices will increase significantly. He said, "The free enterprise system simply does not work with farming."

There was general agreement among the farmers in attendance on the need to continue these discussions and to provide more opportunities for farmers to get together and talk over these questions.

Campaign rights victory scored

BY JEANNETTE TRACY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A federal court has barred the Enro Shirt Co. from interfering with election campaign activity at the bus stop in front of its factory here.

Circuit Judge Earl O'Bannon issued the temporary injunction in response to a suit filed by the Socialist Workers Party. The American Civil Liberties Union provided legal counsel for the suit. The SWP is asking for a permanent injunction.

The company had attempted to bar SWP campaign supporters from distributing the *Militant* and other literature at the bus stop on the pretext that the road is a private one and that literature distribution is disruptive because it causes workers to gather in the area.

"This decision helps defend the right of all working people to express their political ideas," declared Marilee Taylor. Taylor,

chairperson of the Louisville SWP, was the party's candidate for U.S. Senate in the November 4 election.

The suit against Enro is part of a broader fight for the right to distribute political literature in Louisville. On September 6 *Militant* salespeople and socialist election campaigners were ordered to leave The Belvedere, a public plaza owned by the city, during the Kentucky Fried Chicken Bluegrass Festival. They were threatened with arrest and told they did not have the right to distribute literature within a one-block radius of the plaza.

Similar threats have been made against distributors of antiwar literature.

"We are not going to be intimidated," said Taylor. "We are going to exercise our democratic right to get out our ideas to working people. We will work with and support others who face this kind of harassment."

Cops herd scabs into Wis. plant

BY BILL BREIHAN
AND PAT GROGAN

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Four and a half years ago workers at Quality Aluminum Casting Co. here agreed to take a 25 percent cut in wages and benefits. In exchange they were promised job security, fair treatment, and a "spirit of partnership."

Today, the 197 members of United Auto Workers Local 445, joined by their families and supporters, are standing on the picket line as police in riot gear herd scabs into the struck plant.

When the contract expired October 1, the foundry owners demanded further cuts in wages and benefits ranging from 15 to 35 percent depending on job classification, the complete elimination of cost-of-living increases (COLA), and the gutting of seniority protection. The company's offer would scrap dental coverage entirely, cut vacations and paid holidays, and force workers to pay hefty — and sometimes prohibitive — premiums for medical care.

Treatment of workers in the foundry had been getting steadily worse. Harassment for absenteeism was intense, and virtually no excuses were accepted. One worker told the *Militant* he was disciplined because he left work to rush to the hospital where his wife had been admitted for a miscarriage. Supervisors carried out "vendettas" against workers who refused voluntary overtime.

The company's "final offer" would impose mandatory overtime and would even eliminate the two 10-minute breaks molanders and others in the hottest and most

strenuous jobs now have.

"We just can't live with it. We just can't live with what they want us to take. That's the bottom line," a worker with 22 years in the plant said, explaining their decision to strike. Others nodded in agreement.

The company's president, Charles McMullen, refused to budge an inch on any major issue in negotiations with the union. As the strike entered its sixth week, he announced the decision to hire scabs to break the strike. On November 3, the Waukesha city police, the Waukesha County police, and the sheriff's department showed up in force to herd the first 25 scabs across the angry picket line. The police formed a wedge with shields to clear a way through the strikers and their supporters.

Every morning at 6:30 a.m. the strikers show up in big numbers on the picket line. So far, police have arrested two and maced five others.

There is only one woman worker at the plant, but a big percentage of the picket line is women, as wives and other family members come out to support the strike. The ages range from the 87-year-old father of one of the strikers to small children.

Local 445 President Lupe Jimenez told the *Militant* that many unions in the Milwaukee area, where Waukesha is located, have already contacted the strikers to offer solidarity. Members of the Teamsters', Steelworkers', Machinists', and Allied Industrial Workers' unions have joined the picket lines.

Bosses use lockout weapon to push back steelworkers

BY FRED FELDMAN

It has now been almost four months since the USX corporation shut down its steel-making operations, locking 21,000 steelworkers out of their jobs.

The lockout began July 31 shortly after USX negotiators rejected an offer by the United Steelworkers of America to work past the contract deadline. The USWA offer was to continue under the terms of the 1983 takeback contract until a new pact could be negotiated.

The company demanded instead a \$3.50 cut in wages and benefits, no restrictions on replacing union labor with nonunion contractors, and reduction of job classifications from 33 to 9 — or the plant gates would close. These were even greater cuts than had just been negotiated with other steel companies.

The company negotiators knew, of course, that the USWA would have to reject this "offer." USX had already begun to shut down a number of mills days before.

The company is counting on convincing workers that victory is impossible. USX expects the resulting demoralization, plus mounting debts and mortgage foreclosure threats, to force the workers to accept company demands as the price of being allowed back to work.

Union negotiators had initially offered to accept a wage freeze and some benefit takebacks in the new contract. They proposed putting more restrictions on the use of nonunion contractors.

There were no further negotiations until USX agreed to reopen them on October 21.

Spread of lockouts

Many states allow workers who are victims of lockouts to receive unemployment compensation. USX, in an effort to prevent its employees from receiving their benefits, labeled its shutdown a "strike." Despite this, state officials in Ohio, Indiana, Texas, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania approved USX workers' request for compensation. Illinois and Utah officials said no.

The big-business media has mostly lined up with USX in calling the lockout a strike. The October 28 *Wall Street Journal*, for instance, labeled it "the first nationwide strike against the steelmaker since 1959."

Nothing could be further from the truth. In 1959 there was a strike. It was steelworkers, not the employers, who shut down the mills of all the major steel corporations. They did it for 116 days. The unionists countered company demands with their own calls for wage increases and job rights, and did not return to work until a contract that included some important gains had been approved.

But in the current conflict USX shut down the plants, and negotiations have revolved around *how much* steelworkers must give up before they are permitted to return to work.

Unlike strikes, which are weapons of the workers, lockouts are weapons of the employers against the workers. Moreover, the employers are using this weapon more often these days. "More and more companies are adopting the lockout tactic to force further concessions from give-back-wary unions," reported Winston Williams in the October 5 *New York Times*.

Recent victims of lockouts have included workers employed by Deere & Co., Oscar Mayer, Brooklyn Union Gas, and others.

Sometimes companies attempt to keep plants open by hiring scabs, while locking out union members. Some 370 workers, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, have been locked out by BASF Wyandotte Corp. at its Geismar, Louisiana, plant since June 1984. The company has run the plant with what it calls temporary contract workers.

So far USX has made no move to reopen the struck steel mills with scab labor. Such a move would be a serious escalation of the attack on the Steelworkers' union. The em-

ployers have so far refrained from a step that would be very risky for them.

Lockout sign of difficulties

The USX bosses' use of the lockout tactic also signifies the company's economic difficulties. The big U.S. steel firms face intensifying competition for profits with steel firms in other countries and at home.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldridge recently estimated that the current U.S. yearly steel-producing capacity of 128 million tons would have to be reduced by at least 40 million tons to enable U.S. firms to compete successfully for profits.

Such a shakeout means more plant closings and more bankruptcies and mergers among the big steel firms. The request by LTV corporation for protection under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy law is an example.

USX remains the strongest of the U.S. steelmakers and the only one to report a profit from its steel operations since the 1983 takeback contract.

But USX's problems and the resulting discontent among its stockholders was highlighted by the takeover bid of TWA Chairman Carl Icahn.

One area of intensifying competition among the steel barons is over who can best bolster profits by ripping the most out of steelworkers' wages and benefits, and by imposing the most brutal speedup and job combinations.

"Only a few basic steel companies may survive," USX negotiator J. Bruce Johnston wrote in a threatening letter to workers after the lockout began. "There are not enough seats in the steel lifeboat for everybody."

Preparing for lockout

Lockouts are risky tactics for the employers. They are aimed at wearing down, dividing, and demoralizing workers. But if the unions respond massively to the attack, the workers can seize the offensive and lockouts can be transformed into strikes. A big battle can result, and the bosses can be forced to retreat.

But that hasn't happened so far in the USX lockout. The company continues to hold the initiative.

The USX bosses have been preparing for a confrontation with the union since they and other steel employers imposed the \$1.4 billion 1983 takeback contract. These preparations included violating the contract by bringing in subcontractors to do union work, while laying off union members.

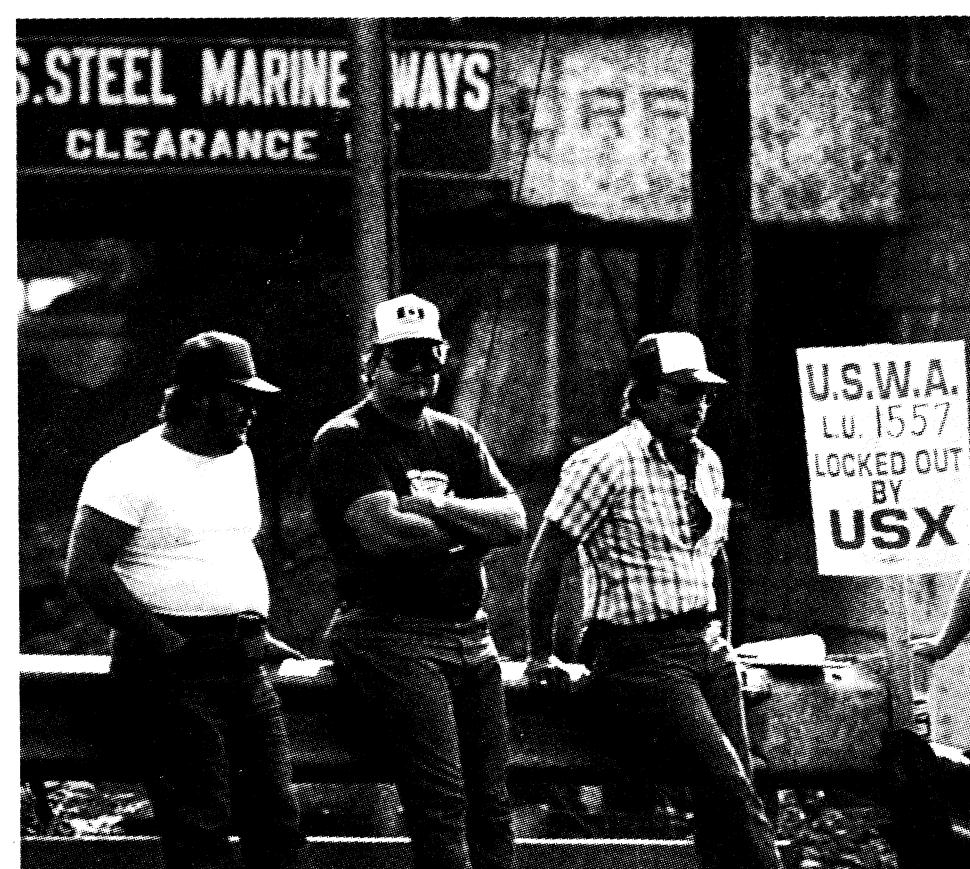
The purchase of Marathon Oil and Texas Oil and Gas also put the company in a better position to bear the costs of a lockout in its steel operations. While USX attempts to wait out the steelworkers, it continues to reap profits from workers in its other enterprises.

USWA officials responded to these steps by attempting to take advantage of the stiff competition among the steel companies. By agreeing to major takeback contracts in 1985 and 1986 with Wheeling-Pittsburgh, LTV, National, and Bethlehem Steel, union negotiators hoped to isolate the USX owners and confront them with the prospect of losing customers to competitors during a lockout.

When negotiations began with USX, USWA officials had already given up an arm and a leg. They faced USX in a weaker, not a stronger, position.

USWA officials have continued their course of attempting, wherever possible, to collaborate with the employers to improve the companies' profits.

The contract signed with Armco, three months after the USX lockout began, further weakened the union's bargaining position with USX. The contract took back \$3.25 an hour from workers in the Baltimore mill, \$2.25 from workers in the Kansas City, Missouri, mill, and froze wages at the works in Ashland, Kentucky.



Locked out steelworkers outside gates of USX mill in Clairton, Pennsylvania. Transforming the lockout into a union fightback against USX is needed.

The USWA officialdom met USX's savage use of the lockout weapon with what the officials portray as a high-powered campaign. The USWA convention last August pledged union resources to the fight.

A committee of top AFL-CIO officials has been set up to organize labor solidarity with the USX workers. The committee has promised to raise funds, mobilize other unionists to join picket lines at USX plants, hold rallies against the lockout, leaflet Marathon Oil outlets about the antilabor attack by USX, and take other steps.

But, in fact, there has been no broad mobilization even of USX workers — much less of the ranks of the USWA and the labor movement as a whole.

Picket lines at plant gates have been continued, and scores of workers have been arrested for defending their right to picket and opposing company efforts to ship steel from the mills. Rallies of several hundred opponents of the lockout have been held in Gary, Indiana; Lorain, Ohio; and other areas.

The militancy of steelworkers on the picket lines during the four months of the lockout shows the anger that has built up against four years of takebacks by USX. That anger needs to be mobilized for a real fight against the company's blackmail.

Turning the situation around would require using the resources of the USWA and

the AFL-CIO to mobilize as many of the 21,000 USX workers as possible and their 23,000 laid-off brothers and sisters to get out the facts and mobilize solidarity in the labor movement.

A top priority should be appealing for support from workers at Marathon Oil, Texas Oil and Gas, and other USX operations that have not been shut down.

USX workers could fan out to meetings of union locals and other union bodies across the country, and in Canada and other countries as well. They could explain the threat that the lockout and contract takebacks demanded by USX pose to all unions. Reaching out in this way to the ranks of labor would lay the basis for truly massive labor rallies and demonstrations against USX.

The accomplishments of the Austin, Minnesota, meat-packers in getting out the truth and winning solidarity from the labor movement for their fight with Hormel indicates what the much larger force of 45,000 USX steelworkers could do.

Taking such steps now could begin to transform the company lockout of USWA members into a union fightback against the employers' offensive. Barring a fightback, the prolonged lockout is likely to produce a contract that deals a major blow to the USX workers, the USWA, and the whole union movement.

Oil workers, local residents protest refinery danger

BY CLAIRE MORIARTY

MARCUS HOOK, Pa. — Local residents joined unionists here November 3 to protest a BP/Sohio plan to pull refinery operators off their work stations and train them to perform maintenance tasks.

The plan, which was implemented by BP on the day of the rally, would leave the refinery understaffed and the nearby community vulnerable in case of accident.

Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-234 President Wayne Slivenski explained, "They're taking operators off their units, offsite, and out of position if an emergency should happen. Some operators would have to run a quarter mile to get back to their units. In the meantime, a catastrophic accident could occur."

"Some units are only being staffed by one operator," added union shop steward John Lamplugh. BP had promised to staff the units with additional qualified operators, he said, "but BP's idea of a qualified operator is any foreman who can yell 'Fire!'"

When informed of the plan, Local 8-234 called the November 3 rally at an emergency union meeting, then dispatched leafleting teams to warn area residents of the potential danger.

"We, the Executive Board of Local 8-234 and its members, care about your safety and well-being," read the union flyer. "It is for this reason that we are mak-

ing you aware of the critical situation that can make your and our safety virtually nonexistent."

"BP Oil doesn't care about your safety and well-being one bit," the leaflet continued. "All they care about is raking in enormous profits, at your expense."

The leaflet provided the phone numbers of BP management personnel and urged community residents to call them.

Several women from the neighborhood attended the November 3 protest, joining the 100 or so OCAW members massed outside the refinery. They carried signs reading, "BP puts profits before safety" and "Refining minus safety equals disaster."

One resident, Steelworkers union member Rose Smith, said she had called the mayor to complain. "Residents don't have a union to protect us," Smith said. "This company is making millions, and it wants to cut workers' jobs at our expense."

BP first raised its plan during contract negotiations last February, then withdrew it after a similar show of strength by Local 8-234. Now, the union has filed notice that it will strike on January 31 unless the company backs off.

"What BP couldn't get during negotiations they're now attempting to get during the life of the contract," said Slivenski. "They don't feel we're unified enough to accomplish anything, to fight them on it. The rally today was to show them we are."

'What unites us?' Burkina Faso president speaks in Nicaragua

Thomas Sankara, president of the West African country of Burkina Faso, was a featured speaker at a massive rally in Managua, Nicaragua, on November 8.

The demonstration celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the 10th anniversary of the death of FSLN founder Carlos Fonseca. Fonseca was killed in combat by troops of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Sankara spoke on behalf of the 180 international delegations that came from political parties and national liberation movements in 80 countries.

Sankara became president of Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) in 1983 as the result of a revolutionary upsurge in that country.

The translation is by the *Militant*.

* * *

Comrades, members of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Comrades, members of the foreign delegations. Militant brothers and sisters:

First of all, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome we have received here in Managua. I also want to express the pride we feel in speaking in the name of all the foreign delegations.

We come from far away, some from very far away, thousands of miles away. But what is important is what unites us with the Nicaraguans, who are so different from us, apart from the color of our skin.

What unites us with Nicaragua, which is so far from us? It is not geographical distance. We are united in establishing the freedom and well-being of the people. We are united to establish justice for the people. And we are united because we are resolute in the face of the enemies of the people.

All the delegations here measure the strength of the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. We from around the world join your struggle. Throughout the entire world, we certainly admire your struggle. Your struggle is just. It is just because it is anti-imperialist. It is just because it is against the oppressors and the assassins of the people.

Your struggle is just because it is against colonialism. And your struggle is just because it is the struggle of all the peoples of the world.

The Palestinian people fight for freedom and happiness. The Namibian people fight for their independence. Many of our peoples around the world are fighting for their freedom.

In Africa, we are directly confronting colonialism, neocolonialism, and im-

perialism. The fascists and racists that exist in South Africa created apartheid against the Blacks.

Fight of all the peoples'

The struggle against apartheid is not only the struggle of Black people; it is the fight of all the peoples who want to live free and united. This struggle belongs to all the peoples of the entire world, and we Africans demand the participation of everyone. The people and the leaders who do not participate in the struggle against apartheid are traitors. They are traitors because yesterday the Africans shed their blood to fight against Nazism, for the benefit of the peoples of Europe and elsewhere. Today, it is a question of shedding blood against apartheid and for the well-being of our peoples.

Comrades, I would like to ask you to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of [Mozambique President] Samora Machel, that great fighter for African freedom.

I thank you.

We say that the struggle of the Nicaraguan people must be supported by each one of us throughout the world. We must support Nicaragua because if Nicaragua is destroyed, it would be a breach in the well-being of the other peoples of the entire world.

This is why we must wage a political and diplomatic struggle to support Nicaragua. We must support Nicaragua economically. We must popularize the struggle of the Nicaraguan people throughout the world.

And here we must congratulate all the peoples throughout the world who support Nicaragua, whether they are the countries of the Contadora Group, the countries of

the [Contadora] Support Group, parties, organizations, or other international organizations that have decided to support the just cause of Nicaragua. You have all my congratulations, because imperialism has many and varied maneuvers to try to stop you from supporting the Nicaraguans.

Salute Carlos Fonseca

Nicaraguan comrades, today we celebrate together the 25th anniversary of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Today we also salute the memory of Carlos Fonseca. The only way and the best way for each one of you to pay tribute to Carlos Fonseca is for the entire people to see to it that every square centimeter of Nicaragua becomes a square centimeter of dignity and freedom.

The *contras* must be destroyed. The *contras* are stinking corpses that must be destroyed. The *contras* are jackals that do not deserve any respect. The *contras* are people who have sold their hearts to serve imperialism.

But you, you have the duty of standing up to the bombardments, the mining of your ports, and against economic pressures. It is the duty of each Nicaraguan to repulse imperialism's puppets and marionettes, the *contras*.

We want to take the time to thank you in the name of revolutionary Burkina Faso. We want to thank you in the name of all the progressive and revolutionary countries that are represented here. Likewise, we want to thank you in the name of all the fraternal parties that are here.

Together with you, we say: Down with imperialism! Down with colonialism! Down with neocolonialism! Down with the



Militant/Ernest Harsch

President Thomas Sankara of African country of Burkina Faso spoke to massive November 8 rally in Managua, Nicaragua.

exploiters of the people! Down with the enemies of Nicaragua!

Long live the Sandinista National Liberation Front!

Eternal life to Carlos Fonseca!

Eternal glory to the revolutionary friendship between the peoples!

No pasarán!
No pasarán!
No pasarán!
Muchas gracias.

Assassination protested in Philippines

Continued from front page

investigate the assassinations and mandated it to track down those responsible "whatever the costs in political terms."

The president's decision to place top military men on the panel was criticized as making it less likely that the possible role of the armed forces in the killing would be thoroughly investigated.

The armed forces commanders have been openly hostile to the KMU. Last July Enrile denounced the union federation, blaming its rapid growth on a "systematic destabilization campaign in the industrial sector through party-sponsored labor strikes and mass actions."

The top military men have also denounced the KMU as a "front" for the Communist Party and have criticized conceding political rights to such organizations as the Party of the Nation. Red baiting attacks by the armed forces are frequently pretexts for terrorist attacks on these groups.

Death squads

The army also retains close links to scores of private armies linked to the landlords, capitalists, and top political figures. Many are officially sponsored by the armed forces under the title of "Civilian Home Defense Force."

The November 13 *Washington Post* reported that these paramilitary outfits have "become the lightning rod for protest from human rights activists, church leaders and members of the radical left, who see the citizen militias as legalized death squads terrorizing the population and often acting as private security forces for the landed elite."

Threats of military action against the government are now being made more openly. "We will move before the year is out," naval Capt. Rex Robles proclaimed to the *New York Times*. Neither Aquino nor Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos, who claims to support the government, have made any move to punish the plotters.

Rumors and threats of a coup are also being used to intimidate the Philippine workers and farmers. After the murder of Olalia, talk was widespread that protests against the assassination might be seized

on as a pretext for a military move.

In an interview with *Militant* correspondent Deb Shnookal in Sydney, Australia, KMU Secretary-General Bob Ortaliz said that those responsible for planning the killing of Olalia were "likely to have been the Enrile group."

"There have already been other cases of violence against the officers of the KMU and the house of the late chairman Rolando Olalia. The former secretary-general, Crispin Beltran, who was released from prison by the new government, has been visited twice by the military."

Ortaliz pointed out that Olalia had recently explained "that the KMU would support the Cory Aquino government against any attempt of fascist restoration" and that the federation had earlier called for a general strike against any coup attempt.

"We have been struggling for 18 to 20 years," Ortaliz said when asked whether he feared he would be the victim of an assassination attempt. "We have to take the attitude of 'live each day.'"

Texas abortion rights defenders picket phony 'pregnancy center'

BY NANCY COLE

HOUSTON — More than 100 supporters of a woman's right to abortion turned out here November 1 to answer the escalating attacks on area abortion clinics.

They picketed the Crisis Pregnancy Center, one of the growing numbers of fake clinics set up to trick women into antiabortion counseling. The same building houses Life Advocates, the major antiabortion group here.

Sponsored by the Coalition to End Clinic Violence, the picket line was called to respond to an invasion of an abortion clinic that took place September 20. It took Houston police four hours to arrest 18 trespassers while they disrupted clinic operations.

Among those in a small countermobilization on November 1 were some sporting T-shirts reading, "Jailed for Life. The First

He said the KMU was making several demands on the government "because there have been so many killings of our workers and our union leaders."

Ouster of Enrile

"First, we want justice for all the victims of repression," the union leader said. "Besides this, many groups in the Philippines have been calling for the ouster of Enrile, who is responsible for destabilizing the country. He is behind the escalation and orchestration of the anticommunist hysteria."

Ortaliz thanked "the Australian unions, your workers and your people for the support and solidarity extended to the KMU during our dark days of struggle against Marcos."

"Now our struggle is at a crucial point, so international solidarity assumes a vital importance. So we call on your trade unions, your workers, and your government to denounce this outrageous, and I would say dastardly, killing of my chairman and his driver."

Texas Baby Rescue, Sep. 20, 1986."

Longtime reproductive rights spokesperson Bill Baird was a featured speaker at a brief rally midway through the picket. He denounced the police department for its delay, urging the prochoice movement to sue the police for the September 20 action. Baird said he feared if such inaction by the police was not stopped in Houston, it would encourage other police departments to act similarly across the country.

Baird exposed the fraud of the so-called right-to-life movement. "These are the same people who are for the death penalty, the same people who were for the war in Vietnam, and the same people who vote against funding for food stamps, clothing and housing," he said. He urged the prochoice forces to continue speaking out against the attacks on abortion rights.

Socialism on Trial

by James P. Cannon

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Bosses fight union growth in Philippines

Crispin Beltran describes orientation of KMU union federation

Rolando Olalia, who was assassinated on November 13, was chairman of the three-month-old Party of the Nation (Partido ng Bayan) and chairman of the May First Movement union federation (KMU).

In the following interview Crispin Beltran, a 30-year veteran of the Philippine labor movement, describes the KMU's origins and its orientation since Philippines President Corazon Aquino's administration came to power.

Beltran was secretary-general of the KMU from its founding in 1980 until his detention by President Ferdinand Marcos' regime in August 1982. He is today a member of its National Executive Council.

Felixberto Olalia, referred to in the interview, was the founding chairman of the KMU. He died in December 1983, a few months after release from prison.

The interview was obtained by Deb Shnookal and Russell Johnson in Manila last August.

* * *

Question. Could you explain how the KMU was formed?

Answer. In 1980, during the most repressive years of Marcos, we organized the advanced elements of the workers to celebrate May 1. We were about 35,000 at that time.

At that May 1 congress our old man, [founding chairman] Mr. [Felixberto] Olalia, suggested we take the name Kilusang Mayo Uno or May First Movement. From then on we persevered in organization, expansion, and consolidation. Now, after a little more than five years, we have some 600,000 members.

On the other hand, there is the TUCP [Trade Union Congress of the Philippines], which was the principal trade union center up to now. The TUCP was organized in November 1975, with the assistance of the Asia American Free Labor Institute and the Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Marcos government.

According to initial estimates, 1.5 million members belonged to the federations that formed the TUCP. They provided a mass arena for the Marcos dictatorship to propagate its policies to the people.

Only now are we finding out how much it has declined. According to the records of the Ministry of Labor, the TUCP had only 221,000 members as of July 15. Its figure for the KMU was more than 480,000.

The KMU has definitely taken the upper hand in the affiliation of unions in strategic enterprises and industries. Of the largest 100 multinationals in the Philippines, 42 are already organized by the KMU.

Q. Has the KMU any relationship to the new party that is being formed?

A. The KMU has a very integral relationship to the Partido ng Bayan because its program is similar to the KMU's. The KMU should be identified with it, so we can project our political objectives in a more organized and comprehensive way. In fact, I and other KMU national officers are founding members.

Q. The KMU frequently speaks of genuine and yellow trade unionism. What does it mean by those terms?

A. Genuine and yellow trade unionism are exact opposites. Genuine unionism recognizes the basic contradictory relations between the capitalist and the workers. Our experience shows us that the workers are always oppressed, repressed, and deceived by management. And not only management, but in combination with the government.

The government in the Philippines is always represented by people who are either big capitalists or big *hacenderos* [landowners], so government policy reflects the interests of these small groups of people.

Even the state machinery is operating to protect the interests of the capitalists rather than the workers. The bias is always against the workers. If we recognize this antagonism and work for the advancement of the workers on this basis, we call it genuine trade unionism.

Now, it doesn't end there. We have an additional principle, which is the militant



Militant/Russell Johnson

Crispin Beltran (left) with Rolando Olalia at workers demonstration held in Manila last summer. Olalia was assassinated on November 13.

character of the union. By relying mainly on the legal machineries of the government we go nowhere in our struggle for the betterment of the workers. The main thrust of advancing the workers' struggle is through its organized strength. We call this militant struggle.

The combined force of the elite and the government are also supplemented by U.S. imperialism, by all imperialist countries for that matter, that deny the whole Filipino people its sovereignty. So we add to our orientation the nationalist framework.

"Yellow" means unions are used as instruments by the capitalists to subvert the interests of the workers. In fact, our yellow unions now are subsidized by imperialist and capitalist money in order to survive. This aid is given to these yellow unions in many forms. Even in the simple matter of a collective bargaining agreement between the workers and management, much money often changes hands. A predominance of this yellow unionism is found in the TUCP.

Q. How did you get arrested and how did you get to be released?

A. I was arrested on Aug. 18, 1982, five days after Bert Olalia, chairman of the KMU. About 100 local KMU leaders were also arrested.

At that time the KMU was very militant in protesting the dictatorship's repression against the workers and its antilabor and proimperialist policies. Marcos ordered a clampdown on the labor movement; that was how we got arrested.

This showed that, although martial law was allegedly lifted in 1981, all the structures remained. The labor code, for example, was never repealed, especially the antistrike law. We said the lifting of martial law in 1981 was hocus pocus.

After our arrest my co-detainees from the labor movement were gradually released on a temporary status or under house arrest. After awhile I was the only labor detainee left in the stockade. So, I began to think seriously about releasing myself.

The opportunity came on Nov. 21, 1984. It was not really a sensational escape. I used to give money to my guards and then ask them to go with me to my house during my trips to court. Clandestinely, of course, because if the higher-ups heard about this they would not allow it.

So on November 21, while I was drinking with my two guards at the house, I asked them to permit me to go to the toilet. Coming back from the toilet I jumped out of a window and ran as fast as I could towards the highway and hailed a passenger jeepney that drove me to Quezon City near the city hall, where we found a taxi.

After that I contacted some people in the underground who took me away from the Manila area into the provinces where they hid me from the military dragnet. While in hiding under an assumed name I helped organize the peasants.

After the new government was installed, I presented myself to President Aquino and she asked what I would like the new government to do about me. I told her nothing more than to be considered like the other political prisoners that had been released since she took office. She said it was okay and so I regained my legal status.

In the meantime, our lawyers filed a petition in the courts to dismiss my cases of rebellion and sedition, which were accordingly dismissed.

Q. What has the overthrow of Marcos meant for the trade union movement?

A. The overthrow means much because it must be remembered that the trade union movement was very much repressed and the workers were impoverished economically. When the new government took over, it promised liberalization in the polity on the trade union movement.

When the new president was the guest of the May 1 Labor Day celebration [of 200,000 in Manila] she promised to repeal the Batasang Pambansa 130 and 227 [Marcos' antistrike laws]. This declaration, however, has not yet been implemented. It remains only a promise.

The new minister of labor, "Bobbit" Sanchez, however, has from the time he assumed office sort of implemented this promise.

Before, the arbitration system operated against the labor movement. Now, the ministry mainly relies on mediation efforts to really try and convince both parties to settle their grievances. This is in spite of the complaints of the employers, who accuse him of being anticapitalist and procommunist.

The capitalists are using the ordinary courts to enjoin the strikes. When the ordinary courts issue injunctions, they immediately ask the assistance of the military.

There have already been several cases of military harassment and dispersal of picket lines resulting in injuries to picketers. These methods were the mark of the old regime.

Q. It seems that you can't walk down a street in Manila without coming across a picket line or pick up a newspaper without reading employer complaints about the strikes. What's behind this strike wave today?

A. The basic question is the workers' poverty and their promised rights. We are

all aware of the long period of repression during the Marcos time against the workers. Now there is a promise by the government to return their democratic rights. And yet, as they are being promised this, the economic conditions have not changed at all. There is more unemployment now than before because of the closures of many factories.

These are the basic conditions that have resulted in the many strikes that we have now. For instance in Cebu 30 strikes were under way simultaneously. The political leadership in Cebu charged that the KMU was destabilizing the economy there.

But, we should consider the fact that the minimum wage under our statutes is not being respected. The minimum is 57 pesos a day for eight hours work, but many, many workers in Cebu receive wages as low as 12 pesos a day. In U.S. dollars that is only about 60 cents for eight hours. How can you live with this 60 cents in eight hours?

Hearing the president's pronouncement on their rights and then living in the conditions that they are, it would be impossible for KMU to prevent them from striking.

Q. What's behind the closures of factories?

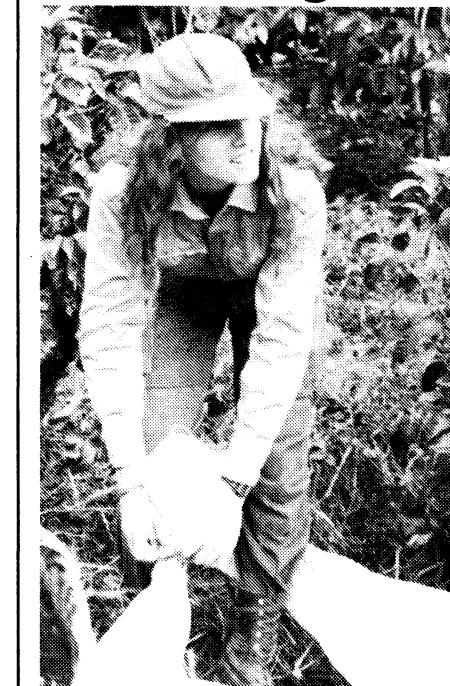
A. We see a combination of three reasons why factories are closing. First, there is really no capital, the government cannot lend additional capital to invest and support businesses. The credit is so tight. Interest rates are so high. So, for the small capitalists, it is very hard for them to continue in business.

Second, the backwardness of the economy that is the result of long domination and control by foreign monopoly capitalism is stunting business.

Third, there is no capitalist now in the Philippines that is interested in investing. They say they are afraid of the instability. In fact, Mrs. Aquino, during her dialogue with businessmen at the Manila Hotel, was forced to reprimand the investors for not helping her in the economic recovery program.

All the workers understand is that they are hungry and that they are oppressed. So they are demanding justice, both economically and in the recognition of their rights.

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Coffee harvest brigadista

A number of work brigades to Nicaragua are being planned for the next few months: A Women's Brigade Dec. 6-20; Third World Contingent Dec. 20 to Jan. 10; a Student Contingent Jan. 3-17. Other brigades are scheduled for Jan. 10-31; Feb. 7-28, and Feb. 14 to March 7.

Contact the Nicaragua Exchange, 239 Centre St., New York, N.Y. 10013. Telephone (212) 219-8620.

Mexican garment workers demand union rights

Press for bosses to grant compensation in aftermath of earthquake

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

MEXICO CITY — A new union of sewing machine operators here hosted a meeting of 50 garment workers and their supporters last month. The 19th of September National Seamstresses Union called the gathering, according to Secretary General Evangelina Corona, "so that we could exchange experiences" and deepen "fraternal links" with other unionists and international supporters.

The union headquarters, where the meeting was held, is a grim reminder of the union's origin in the aftermath of the massive earthquake here more than a year ago. It consists of tents and makeshift corrugated tin buildings around a paved-over empty lot where a thread factory once stood.

Tomb building

Across the street are the ruins of an 11-story building that once housed 15 garment factories. Now it has *Edificio Tumba* (Tomb Building) painted on the side. Thirty-six garment workers were killed when the building collapsed. Hundreds more, including union leader Corona, escaped only because their shifts had not yet begun.

Some 500 garment factories employing 40,000 workers were damaged in the earthquake. (Two million workers are employed in the garment industry in Mexico, according to a report at the conference, with about half of them working illegally at home.)

Participants in the meeting described how the union was born out of the struggle against bosses who tried to avoid their legal responsibility to compensate workers who lost their jobs because of the earthquake.

Romelia, an overlock operator at a T-shirt factory, detailed how she and her co-workers stood guard over the machinery for weeks to prevent the owner from taking it and disappearing. The furious owner, she said, told them to go home and take care of their children and leave him to guard the machinery.

"A lot of *compañeros* were afraid of the owner's threats at first," said another unionist about her own experience. "But we were already out on the street, there was not much more he could do to us."

'Had to organize ourselves'

Union executive committee member Isabel, a sewer for eight years, explained,



Militant/Matilde Zimmermann
Evangelina Corona, secretary-general of
the 19th of September National
Seamstresses Union.

"After the earthquake, we understood that we had to fight for better conditions. All the boss was interested in was saving his machinery, his production. We understood that we had to organize ourselves as garment workers to take the bosses on."

Initially the workers met in the street. They got together with sewers from other

factories and first formed the Union of Seamstresses in Struggle and then the 19th of September National Union.

The union, made up virtually 100 percent of women workers, has received support from other Mexican unions and is well known in the labor movement in Mexico City as a champion both of those dispossessed by the earthquake and of the demands of women workers.

Participants explained that no other garment union tried to defend workers against the employers' theft of machinery and evasion of legal responsibility to workers displaced by the earthquake.

In factories not organized by the Seamstresses Union, many sewers went back to work under terrible conditions and without any compensation for time lost. They worked for a "new" company with the same boss and at their same machine.

Fierce resistance to organizing drive

The union is on a drive to organize more factories. Several workers explained that it was only when they started to organize to affiliate with the 19th of September Union that they found out for the first time — usually from the boss — that another union had "represented" the plant for years.

One sewing machine operator, Octavia Lara, told the story of her workplace where they carried out a long struggle to get the 19th of September Union recognized and finally had an election only a couple of weeks before the meeting.

On the day of the election, a truckload of 40 thugs pulled up and entered the factory brandishing pistols and clubs. They tried to force the women to vote for the union affiliated to the Mexican Workers Federation instead of the 19th of September.

The armed goons were given the run of the place by the owners. They beat up

workers and forced anyone who admitted to voting for the new union to go back and vote again. Even under these conditions, the women voted 54 to 31 for the 19th of September.

Economic squeeze

Garment workers in Mexico, like other workers, are caught in a terrible economic crisis, with the peso worth less every day and prices rising automatically. The minimum wage has just been raised to 2,480 pesos a day, about \$3 at the current exchange rate. Most garment workers in factories make exactly the minimum wage and the hundreds of thousands who work at home in what is called "clandestine work" make much less.

In a visit to Rosy Bras SA, a garment factory organized by the 19th of September Union, the 120 workers who make bras were eager to talk about their union and what they have won through it. (A measure of their enthusiasm is the fact that, although we arrived at quitting time Friday afternoon, they stayed around to talk and demonstrate each operation.)

Working conditions at the factory — light, ventilation, work space, an employee lunchroom and lockers — were better than at some U.S. garment factories I have worked in.

Among those attending the meeting from the United States were three representatives of the United Farm Workers; a striking Watsonville, California, cannery worker; several students from the University of California, and community organizers who work with women workers.

Matilde Zimmermann is a garment worker in San Francisco, California, and a member of International Ladies Garment Workers' Union Local 213.

L.A. garment unionists hold solidarity rally

BY SETH GALINSKY

LOS ANGELES — Workers and supervisors watched from the windows as laid-off employees from Manny Industries and other garment workers began setting up for a "solidarity mass."

By late morning on November 12, banners from International Ladies' Garment

Workers' Union (ILGWU) members were visible in the parking lot across the street from the factory. A hand-painted banner said, "Los trabajadores de La Manny, no se venden, ni se rinden. (Workers at Manny don't sell out, and they don't surrender.)"

Dozens of unionists from 13 unions also joined the protesters.

When the lunch bell rang at 11:30, the first groups of workers poured out of the garment plant as if they were in a parade. They wore red and black T-shirts that said "Contract or fight" in English, Chinese, and Spanish.

The workers were met with loud applause and chants of "Obreros unidos, jamás serán vencidos (the workers united will never be defeated)." All but a handful of the 225 currently working in the plant participated in the rally.

Max Mont from the Jewish Labor Committee lambasted Manny Industries management for trying to lower wages by 12 percent when the contract expires December 5. He also denounced the proposed elimination of three holidays and cutbacks on vacations and medical insurance payments. Most workers at Manny currently earn less than \$4.50 an hour.

For several months, the mostly Mexican workers in the plant have been preparing for a possible strike. Delegations of workers from the shop have visited student, union, and religious organizations to begin building strike solidarity.

Six bulletins written by the workers discussing the issues in the dispute have been distributed to everyone who works in the two Manny factories.

Other speakers included Western States ILGWU officials Steve Nutter and Miguel Machuca and Catholic priest Luis Olivares.

Olivares attacked unjust employers who try to enrich themselves at the expense of the poor.

After the speeches, the chanting workers headed back into the plant before the end of their lunchbreak.

The solidarity action was covered by both Spanish-language television stations, the main Spanish-language newspaper *La*

Opinion, and several radio stations.

A leaflet put out by the workers explained, "We want to win a better contract, but we also want to be an example for the thousands of workers in the garment industry in Los Angeles who have no union and sometimes don't even earn the minimum wage or any benefits at all. It's time to say 'Viva la causa.'"

Seth Galinsky is a member of ILGWU Local 482 and is currently laid-off at Manny Industries.

Benefit to raise funds for cultural center in Nicaragua

A benefit to raise funds for a Caribbean cultural center in Managua, Nicaragua, is scheduled for December 6 in New York. The program includes: Bev Mickens, a political satirist and comedienne; Claudia Hommel, who will perform her Caribbean cabaret, "Canciones a la Vida"; and David Schmidlapp, who will show his five-projector Nicaraguan slide collage.

Local 1199 of the Hospital & Health Care Employees Union has donated its auditorium for the event. It is also opening its gallery space for a special benefit exhibition and sale of paintings and photographs by Central American and North American artists. Margaret Randall will be among the photographers participating.

Funds raised will be donated to the June Beer House in Managua. The Nicaraguan Artists' Union is building this center to display art from Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. June Beer, a well-known Atlantic Coast painter, died in March 1986.

The benefit is sponsored by Ventana, a North American artists' and cultural workers' organization in solidarity with Nicaragua.

The art show opening is at 6:30 p.m. The performance at 8:00 p.m. will be followed by a dance and party. Local 1199's auditorium is located at 310 West 43rd St. in Manhattan. Admission is \$10.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

'PM' on int'l book fair in Cuba

The Third International Havana Book Fair drew publishers from 45 countries and eight international organizations to the Cuban capital. One thousand publishing houses were represented.

Fifteen nations from Central and South America and the Caribbean showed exhibits. Australia, all of Eastern Europe, China, North Korea, and Angola were represented among others. Namibian and Palestinian activists had booths about their liberation struggles.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* includes coverage on the fair's most celebrated publications and displays, as well as the participation, for the first time, of a delegation of publishers from the United States.

This issue also contains an article on the current austerity drive against the people of Columbia.

JSuscríbete ahora!

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Irish republican party ends abstention policy

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

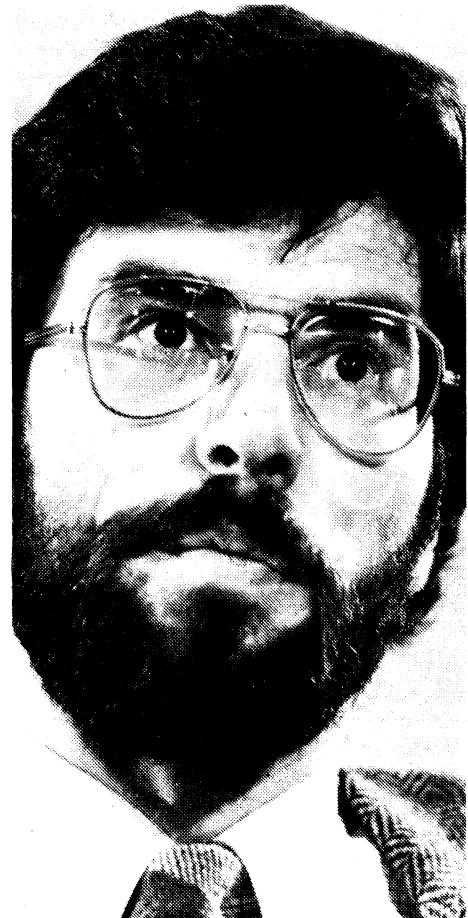
DUBLIN, Ireland — The 1986 national conference of Sinn Féin, held here at the beginning of November, will go down as a milestone in the history of this Irish republican party.

More than 1,000 people — including nearly 700 delegates — democratically debated and decided a wide range of issues. But the conference will be remembered most of all for its decision to overturn the party's longtime position of abstaining from taking seats in the Dáil, the lower house of the parliament of the south of Ireland.

The motion, put forward by the party's leadership, was adopted by 429 votes to 161, thus securing the two-thirds majority needed to change the party constitution.

For 65 years, Sinn Féin, which supports the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), has refused to enter any British or "partitionist" assembly, either in the occupied northern part of Ireland or in the formally independent south of the country. The party has put forward candidates in the elections, but they have refused to take up their seats if victorious.

Since most people in the south will not vote for candidates on this basis, the policy has tended to cut Sinn Féin off from the



G.M. Cookson

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams led move to end long-standing policy of boycotting parliament of the south of Ireland. Sinn Féin, which supports Irish Republican Army, is active in nationalist population's struggle to end British rule in north of Ireland.

CIA gunrunner sentenced in Nicaragua

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Eugene Hasenfus was sentenced November 15 to 30 years imprisonment for supplying arms to the U.S.-backed mercenaries attacking Nicaragua, known as *contras*. This is the maximum sentence allowed under Nicaraguan law.

Hasenfus was captured October 6 when the C-123 plane he was on was shot down in southern Nicaragua as it flew arms and ammunition to the contras. The other crew members, William Cooper and Wallace Sawyer, both U.S. citizens, and Freddy Vilches, a Nicaraguan, died in the crash.

Hasenfus told Nicaraguan authorities and the press that he had carried out 10 such flights into Nicaragua. He said the plane would fly from the El Salvadoran air base of Ilopango to the Honduran base of Aguacate. There it would be loaded with arms and ammunition.

In the accusation presented on October 20, the prosecutor set out to prove that the supply operation carried out by Hasenfus is part of official U.S. government policy aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan government. The U.S. government, through the CIA, finances, trains, and

mass of working people, leaving the political field more or less free for those parties that in practice prop up British rule in the north.

Abstentionism an obstacle

In his opening address to the *ard fheis* — as such a conference is called — Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams reminded the delegates that the leadership of the IRA had already decided to back a reversal of the previous abstentionist policy.

He stressed, however, that the IRA's decision was not binding on the conference delegates. "The assembled delegates of an *ard fheis* are the authority," Adams said. "You are the leadership."

Adams stated that the question of entering the Dáil "is wider than one of principle or tactic and it is not unique to Ireland, nor postpartition Ireland."

"It is a question," Adams went on, "of whether a struggle such as ours can be advanced by opening up another front in a parliament of the establishment which oppresses us and the interests we seek to represent."

Adams pointed out, "As with all such questions, the answer lies in the people's attitudes to those institutions."

After reviewing the origins and evolution of the republican movement's stance on abstentionism, Adams concluded that the position had become an obstacle to Sinn Féin reaching out to broader forces today.

"The only feasible way to break out of our isolation," he said, "to make political gains, to win support for our policies, to develop our organization and our struggle is by approaching people at the level they understand."

'Cease being spectators'

To reverse the abstentionism policy, Adams said, would mean to "cease being spectators of a struggle in the six counties [the north] and become pioneers of republicanism in the 26 counties [the south], putting our policies before the people, confident of the logic of the alternative which Irish republicanism offers."

"We are committed," Adams emphasized, "to the reconquest of Ireland by the Irish people. This means the expulsion of imperialism in all its forms — political, economic, military, social, and cultural. It means the establishment of a real Irish republic and the organization of the economy so that all its resources are under Irish control and organized to bring maximum benefit to the people in a 32-county state in which Irish culture and national identity is strong and confident."

Brian MacDonald, head of Sinn Féin's publicity department, stressed that this need to develop an all-Ireland *political alternative* was at the heart of the discussion on abstention.

MacDonald said that as a credible political organization "we have to be serious about coming to power. We must not hand

supplies the contras. Hasenfus, the prosecution said, is a tool of this policy.

The prosecution showed that without arms shipments, the U.S.-backed contras would not be able to carry out attacks against the Nicaraguan people and government. Therefore, the supply operation carried out by Hasenfus was an indispensable part of the crimes carried out by the contras.

Hasenfus was sentenced to 30 years for violating a public security law. According to Nicaraguan law, this crime involves carrying out "actions aimed at subjecting the nation totally or partially to foreign domination or reducing its independence and integrity." He was also sentenced for forming "part of an association of three or more persons organized with the permanent objective of committing crimes."

In his confessions, Hasenfus explained that he and Cooper had flown similar supply flights in Southeast Asia. This, the prosecution showed, proved that it was not by chance that Hasenfus was once again working with Cooper in Central America.

Initially Hasenfus appealed the decision. But on November 19, he withdrew it to pursue a pardon.

over our revolution to capitalist and establishment interests within this state. Our objective now is to build a credible political alternative to those interests."

"Such an alternative," MacDonald went on, "will be complementary to the armed struggle within the six counties. The injustice and repression down here is just another dimension of the injustice and repression suffered in the six counties. We have to fight north and south."

Proposal stirs debate

Some of those who favored retaining the abstentionist position argued that its reversal would signify a "sellout" or involve an ending of the armed struggle in the north. These charges were denied by delegates favoring the reversal.

Sinn Féin Vice-president Martin McGuinness countered the suggestion that reversal of abstentionism would be applauded by the British government. "They fear this movement," McGuinness said of the British authorities. "They fear this leadership. They have every right to fear us because in or out of Leinster House [seat of the Dáil] we head the most dangerous and committed revolutionary force in Ireland for 65 years."

In fact, immediately following the conference the Dublin government of Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald issued a prepared statement urging all "democratic political parties" to join together in a campaign to ensure that no Sinn Féin representative was elected. Every major British paper picked up on the statement.

Following the conference as well, a few of the delegates who opposed the change in policy walked out of the party and set up a new organization, called the Republican

Sinn Féin.

Led by former Sinn Féin president Ruairí Ó Bradaigh, the proabstentionist current claimed the issue was one of "fundamental principle." Ó Bradaigh justified the walkout, saying that abstention was "inalienable, immutable, and absolute."

Although much of the mass media played this up as a significant split, it was not. It involved only a small number of ard fheis delegates. Many delegates who had sided with Ó Bradaigh in the conference debate and vote did not agree that the difference justified leaving the party.

U.S. aid to 'contras' condemned

Although the debate on abstentionism overshadowed the rest of the conference proceedings, a number of other issues were discussed as well, including political prisoners, youth, social and economic policy, the party's press, culture, and the party's position on abortion.

A half hour of the conference was devoted to discussing foreign policy. The main resolution adopted reaffirmed Sinn Féin's basic "position of neutrality and nonalignment."

The resolution supported attempts "to achieve unity in the Palestinian liberation movement" and defended the Palestinian people's "right to a homeland and the formation of a democratic Palestine." It condemned the South African regime, called for "effective sanctions" against it, and supported the struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples to "overthrow these repressive systems."

It likewise condemned the U.S. government's policy in Central America, in particular its "arming and financing of the *contras* in Nicaragua."

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

South Korean students demand U.S. get out

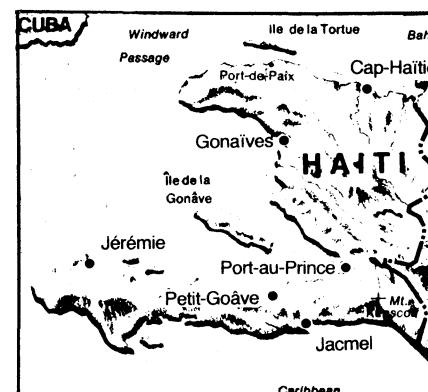
Following an air and ground assault on Seoul's Konkuk University October 31, South Korean police arrested nearly 1,300 students who had been occupying campus buildings for several days.

The protest action began October 28 with a rally by 2,000 students, coming from 26 campuses around the country. They condemned the dictatorial policies of the military regime headed by Gen. Chun Doo Hwan and demanded the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from the country.

As news of the police assault on Konkuk University spread, thousands of students at 19 other schools around the country occupied buildings and held demonstrations in support of the arrested students.

200,000 in Haiti protest junta policies

In Port-au-Prince and other cities across Haiti, several hundred thousand people poured into the streets November 7 to protest the repressive policies of the military junta headed by Gen. Henri



Namphy.

In the capital alone, an estimated 200,000 turned out in response to a call by a coalition of 23 political, labor, human rights, religious, and other groups. The action was called to demand

the release of Charlot Jacqueline, a young literacy worker who was arrested and has not been heard from since.

Protesters also condemned the continued presence in the government of members of the Tontons Macoutes, the disbanded secret police of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, who was overthrown in February.

"Down with the macoutes!" "Down with U.S. military aid!" and "We need a people's revolutionary government" were among the slogans chanted by demonstrators.

In the provincial capital of Jérémie some 20,000 demonstrated, and thousands turned out as well in Petit-Goâve, Jacmel, Cap-Haïtien, Gonaïves, and other cities.

Police, troops, and suspected members of the Tontons Macoutes opened fire on the demonstrators in Port-au-Prince and several other cities, leading to some serious injuries.

Israel confirms jailing of nuclear technician

An Israeli nuclear technician who publicly exposed the Israeli government's secret production and stockpiling of nuclear arms is being held in police detention there, officials admitted November 9.

The technician, Mordechai Vanunu, had disappeared from London in late September, just before the London *Sunday Times* published a report based on documents and photographs he had supplied. He was widely believed to have been kidnapped by Mossad, the Israeli secret police, and taken back to Israel.

Vanunu had been employed at Israel's Dimona nuclear power plant for 10 years. After being dismissed in November 1985, he left the country with the documents, which he later sold to the British newspaper.

The documents showed that the Israeli government had secretly built nuclear warheads at the Dimona facility for 20 years and had stockpiled 100 to 200 of them.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Socialist Educational Conference: Why We Need a Revolution in the United States. Speaker: Al Budka, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Additional classes Sat. and Sun. to be announced. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

Can Peace Be Achieved? The Socialist View. Sun., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. 137 NE 54 St. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge

Nicaragua's Vice-president Sergio Ramírez Speaks at MIT. Sun., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. Kresge Auditorium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ausp: MIT COCA and Central America Solidarity Association. For more information call (617) 492-8699.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Fall Publications Fund Rally. Speaker: Malik Miah, circulation director of the *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 22, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

Young Socialist Alliance Educational Weekend.

Fall Publications Fund Rally. Sat., Nov. 22, 8 p.m. Translation to Spanish.

"The Coming Revolution in South Africa and the Role of the African National Congress." Sun., Nov. 23, 10:30 a.m.

"The Cuban Role in Africa." Sun., Nov. 23, 1 p.m.

Speaker: Malik Miah, circulation director of the *Militant*, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2 per event. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Immigration Laws: Attack on Workers' Rights. Panel Discussion. Speakers: Alvino Carrillo, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 31; Francisco Ruiz, instructor, History Department, Penn Valley Community College; Sister Teresa Cruz, assistant administrator El Centro. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

St. Louis

Winnie Mandela. Film about leader of anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. Sat., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Albany

For a Workers' and Farmers' Government. An educational weekend.

"The Crisis in Dairy Farming and How to Fight Back." Speakers: John Gaige, Socialist Workers Party, and striking New York dairy farmers. Fri., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Two classes (speaker: John Gaige): "The Farmers' Movement in the United States." Sat., Nov. 22, 1 p.m.

"The Struggle for a Workers' and Farmers' Government." Sat., Nov. 22, 4 p.m.

114E Quail St. Donation: weekend \$5, or \$2 per event. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Immigration Laws: Attack on Workers' Rights. Speakers: Richard Harvey, British human rights lawyer and counsel for Irish POWs; Claudia Slovinsky, National Lawyers Guild; Héctor Marroquín, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, threatened with deportation. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Nov. 21. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

Militant-Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Campaign Victory Party. Sat., Nov. 22, 8 p.m. until —. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

Benefit Dance for El Salvador's Radio Venceremos and Farabundo Martí Communications System. Sat., Nov. 22, 9 p.m. — 1:30 a.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St. (nr. 6th Ave.). Donation: \$10. For more information call (212) 533-6515.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Speakers: Zehdi Terzi, permanent representative of Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations; Isack Mudenge, ambassador of Zimbabwe to the UN, representing the Nonaligned Movement; others.

Opponents of international economic sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa often argue that sanctions will only hurt the workers of that country. But the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the largest union federation in South Africa, rejects such claims. Responding to these arguments, Jay Naidoo, the federation's general secretary, made the following statement, which we have taken from the November issue of COSATU News.

Sanctions are not here because of workers. They are here because of [President Pieter] Botha and the bosses. They must and will suffer from sanctions — not the workers.

Something like sanctions has been coming for a long time. For years and years, the ANC [African National Congress], PAC [Pan Africanist Congress], and our allies in the progressive movement internationally have been campaigning for the isolation of the South African government.

In the past two years, our struggle has grown so much inside the country that the eyes of the whole world have turned on us. Because of our struggle many countries have begun to think — what can we do to show Botha that we also hate apartheid? Sanctions is an attempt to pressure the government and bring an end to apartheid.

COSATU supports all forms of pressure on the Botha government. We know only too well how stubborn this government is. We know only too well that the only language the government understands is the language of struggle and pressure.

But the bosses are wrong if they think we intend to carry sanctions on our backs. We are suffering too much already.

Starvation wages, mass unemployment, suffering, and hunger — these are not caused by sanctions. We know these things already. They are caused by the policies of Botha and the bosses. Whether sanctions

make these things worse or not is not our big problem. Our big problem is how to end this system which breeds mass unemployment, poverty, and despair.

Long before sanctions were imposed, we organized ourselves into trade unions to fight these things. And we will continue to fight to defend jobs and for a living wage — sanctions or no sanctions. We will continue to fight for a society based on the needs of workers and not bosses' profits — sanctions or no sanctions.

Sanctions are not new to COSATU workers. For years already we have been asking, and often receiving, worker-imposed sanctions from our class comrades in other countries.

This is in line with COSATU policy, which says that the most important form of solidarity action with our struggle is international worker solidarity action.

Australian dockworkers have refused to off-load South African products; Scandina-

vian workers have come out on strike in solidarity with our struggle; and workers in many other countries have refused to handle South African products.

The Frontline States: The Struggle Against Imperialism and Apartheid. Speakers:

Hamedah Ghaniem, member of African National Congress of South Africa; Kathleen Geathers, member Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, just returned from Zimbabwe; Bobby Maouane, an IIE student from South Africa; Ed Velez, member International Union of

Why S. Africa's workers support sanctions

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vian workers have come out on strike in solidarity with our struggle; and workers in many other countries have refused to handle South African products.

The Fight Against the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. A panel discussion. Sat., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 861-6150.

USX Workers Locked Out: How to Fight Back and Defend Jobs. Speaker: Mary Zins, former Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

OHIO

Cleveland

The Frontline States: The Struggle Against Imperialism and Apartheid. Speakers:

Hamedah Ghaniem, member of African National Congress of South Africa; Kathleen Geathers, member Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, just returned from Zimbabwe; Bobby Maouane, an IIE student from South Africa; Ed Velez, member International Union of

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Report Back From El Salvador. Eyewitness report and slideshow by Elaine Kinch, organizer of Racine-Kenosha Central America Solidarity Coalition. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Report Back From El Salvador. Eyewitness report and slideshow by Elaine Kinch, organizer of Racine-Kenosha Central America Solidarity Coalition. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

In COSATU we know that this is the strongest form of solidarity action with our struggle. It strengthens workers in other countries. We know that we can never rely on the Thatchers and Reagans and bosses' governments in other countries to help our struggle. These people are opposed to workers in their own countries, so how can they help us?

Our most consistent and reliable ally is the workers of the world. COSATU will continue to turn to the international working class for help to strengthen our struggle, and we will continue to support all forms of pressure on the Botha government. And here we will make sure that it's bosses' profits — and not our jobs — which are affected by sanctions.

Jazz event to salute South Africa

"A Salute to South Africa," a jazz concert, will be performed by Brazilian composer Gaudêncio Thiago de Mello and his band Amazon at Saint Peter's Church in New York on November 25. The concert will feature special guest Odetta, a well-known folksinger and actress.

Thiago de Mello recently participated in a jazz concert that was part of cultural activities in Nicaragua celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

A review in the November 8 issue of *Ventana*, the weekly cultural magazine of the Sandinista newspaper *Barricada*, describes Thiago as "creating an atmosphere of communication between the audience and the artists — spontaneous and full of enjoyment."

"Sweet composition and melodic mis-

chievousness and strength of the musical arrangements" characterized the performance by Thiago's Nicaragua festival band of Cuban, Soviet, and Nicaraguan musicians. Thiago's music "offers a lesson worth rethinking," the review continued.

"Thiago de Mello gave us a practical demonstration of the tremendous latent potential to create jazz that lies within our resources and among the talent in our midst. It's possible for jazz to become a tool to help us regain our cultural heritage and express it in a fully contemporary musical language," *Ventana* explained.

The November 25 concert is sponsored by the St. Peter's Jazz Ministry. It will be held at 8:00 p.m. The church is at 54th Street and Lexington Avenue. Admission is \$10. For reservations and information call (212) 935-2200.

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Pathfinder bookstores.

ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 1306 1st Ave. N. Zip: 35203. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Zip: 85015. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-4434.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd Floor. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

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

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

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3640 Magazine St. Zip: 70115. Tel: (504) 895-1961.

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

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Zip: 02134. Tel: (617) 787-0275.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 2135 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48201. Tel: (313) 961-0395.

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

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

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

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 114E Quail St. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. **Socialist Books:** 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Padock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 2097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

Yule spirit award-winner —
A classified ad in the Morgan-
town, West Virginia, *Dominion*



**Harry
Ring**

Post: "Earn \$185 by Christmas — Start donating plasma today and meet your Christmas needs. This ad worth \$15 for new donors on first visit."

Improper and Un-American
— Eric Perryman and Reggie

Dean were expelled from Amador Valley High in Pleasanton, California, for declaring on emblazoned T-shirts their support to striking teachers. Also Dean had "strike" neatly lettered into a tall Mohawk.

Probably so — The U.S. representative in the "Miss World" contest in London drew protests from more substantially garbed contestants when she appeared in an apparently minimal, star-spangled bikini, plus beads and shooting stars. She said the outfit was intended to show "America's advancement in space."

And no refunds — Congress voted a \$5 immigration-inspection

fee for those entering this Land of the Free. Part of the money will be used to defray the cost of detaining the increased numbers of travelers denied entry because the government takes a dim view of them.

Progress report — NASA announced a new management structure designed to deal with problems uncovered by the Challenger disaster. A rear admiral at the space agency (founded in 1958) said the new system will assure that "everybody knows precisely who they work for and who works for them."

Balanced view — The EPA acted properly when it balked at setting strict limits on emissions of

cancer-causing vinyl chloride, a federal appeals court ruled. The judges said the Clean Air Act did not restrict the government to narrow "health-based considerations," leaving room to weigh such basic American factors as the cost involved.

Active-duty cops — A quick-on-the-draw cop from Tacoma, Washington, gunned down a reported knife-wielding suspect. He also killed a fellow cop trying to assist him. Meanwhile, in Spokane, Washington, a cop was awarded disability retirement after getting hooked on cocaine while working as an undercover narc.

Bum rap — Yuppies aren't

grabby, they're just trying to get by in a hard world, says Joan Wikstrom, a management prof at Catholic U in D.C. To maximize their limited time, they need microwave ovens, VCRs, telephone answering machines, and car phones. "They need all these things to make their lives doable," she said.

What can you expect for such modest fees — "Medical officials estimate that at any given time at least 5 out of every 100 doctors are so incompetent, drunk, senile, or otherwise impaired that they should not be practicing medicine without some form of restriction." — News item.

Play depicts violence of Pinochet regime in Chile

Interview in Buenos Aires. Written by Genrikh Borovik and directed by Joan Harvey. Performed by Fourth Wall Repertory Company. Performances every Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. through December 6 at the Fourth Wall Theater, 79 E. 4th St., Manhattan, N.Y.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

This two-act play focuses on the military dictatorship established in Chile following the 1973 military coup against the democratically elected government of Salvador

El Mercurio, a prominent Chilean daily, played a major role in this campaign. It sought to sow panic and divisions among the Chilean people and served as an organizing tool for those attempting to reverse the social gains working people had made under Allende.

Interview in Buenos Aires centers on Carlos Blanco, a Social Democrat and former journalist for *El Mercurio*, who is confronted with the effects of the inflammatory articles he wrote as part of the destabilization drive.

The play is set following the military takeover. The regime is attempting to pressure Blanco, who has been silent after the coup, to rejoin its propaganda apparatus.

Blanco claims to abhor the military regime's violence, but he realizes that he was an accomplice in bringing about the terror. Throughout the play he witnesses the destruction of those he loves, including his son who is transformed into a butcher for the government.

The play is worth seeing, and though the acting is uneven at times, it is well staged and keeps the audience's interest. Genrikh

Borovik — who lived and worked as a journalist in Chile for several years before and during the Allende government — succeeds in portraying the terror and violence following the coup. Borovik is from the Soviet Union and wrote the play in Mos-

cow in 1975.

The Fourth Wall Repertory Company is a group of political, non-professional actors who have consistently voiced their opposition to the Reagan administration's policies in the United States and abroad.



In scene from Genrikh Borovik's *Interview in Buenos Aires*, a revolutionary fighter confronts journalist Carlos Blanco about reactionary articles he wrote prior to overthrow of Allende government in Chile.

THEATER REVIEW

Allende. The takeover claimed Allende's life and the lives of thousands of other Chileans. Under Gen. Augusto Pinochet's regime, torture, imprisonment, and disappearances have become commonplace.

The coup culminated a three-year destabilization campaign, backed by the U.S. government, against Allende's Popular Unity government.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢

November 26, 1976

The Socialist Workers Party has again forced an unprecedented retreat on the FBI.

The agency has ordered its field offices to urge their informers to get out of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance.

This latest retreat was disclosed when Leonard Boudin, the socialists' attorney, questioned FBI Director Clarence Kelley for the SWP and YSA lawsuit against government harassment.

Syd Stapleton, an SWP leader who was present during Kelley's testimony, explained, "The fact is that Kelley was compelled to issue the order to informers on November 1 because he knew he was required to testify under oath in our suit on November 3."

The order told the Special Agents in Charge of field offices to "personally insure that all SWP/YSA cases in your office have been closed." They were also to "personally insure that the following statement is read as soon as possible to each informant who was furnishing information regarding SWP/YSA at the time these investigations were discontinued."

Kelley's message was "... we suggest that you remove yourself from the SWP and YSA

"You are not to report to the FBI information concerning the SWP, YSA, their chapters, leaders or members, nor are you to obtain any documents, copies of documents, any things, or other materials from the SWP, YSA, their leaders or members and furnish these to the FBI."

The SWP lawsuit has already exposed just how informers "obtain" materials. FBI informer Timothy Redfearn broke into YSA members' apartments to steal files.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

November 27, 1961

Price 10c

The United Nations investigation of the murder of Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba dismisses Belgian puppet [Moise] Tshombe's story that Lumumba escaped his guards and was killed February 12 by savage tribesmen. The report concludes that "the prisoners were killed on Jan. 17, 1961, after their arrival in a villa not far from Elizabethville and in all probability in the presence of high officials of the [secessionist] government of Katanga Province, namely, Mr. Tshombe, Mr. Munungo, and Mr. Kibwe, and that the escape story was staged."

But Tshombe and the Belgian officer in his service, who the evidence indicates fired the fatal shot, and Congo President Kasavubu, named by the investigators as responsible for handing Lumumba over to his bitterest political enemies, do not exhaust the list of murderers. Kasavubu was a creature of the UN intervention. He turned Lumumba over to Tshombe shortly after receiving \$5 million from the UN.

A writer in the anti-imperialist, anti-apartheid paper, *Torch*, which still manages to publish in South Africa, reports that upon the news of [UN Secretary-General] Hammarskjöld's death "people have been saying Lumumba's murderer has been murdered!"

Though oversimplified, this verdict of folk wisdom goes to the heart of the matter. The actual murderers and their immediate accomplices were but agents. The UN interventionists connived at and facilitated their crime — in this they were the servitors of imperialism, U.S., no less than Belgian and British.

BY MORRIS STARSKY

An organization called Accuracy in Academia, Inc. (AIA, Inc.) has set up its own private snooping operation on the country's university campuses.

This outfit, which operates through a network of informers at 160 colleges, sends student spies into classrooms to determine whether the professors' presentations are "balanced." "Balance" means favoring capitalism and U.S. foreign policy.

If the spies determine that a professor has a "leftist ideological bias," he or she is notified and given the opportunity to recant. A professor who does not cooperate with AIA, Inc. is denounced in its newsletter and targeted for a witch-hunt campaign in the campus and local newspapers.

So far, only one professor targeted by AIA, Inc., its first, has made national news. That was Associate Professor Mark Reader, who has taught at Arizona State University for 18 years.

Reader was targeted because he "over-emphasizes fears of nuclear war, power, and weapons."

Reader received a registered letter from AIA, Inc. noting complaints against him for "dedicating most of your class time to antinuclear propaganda and the nuclear threat."

The professor was also informed that a student spy had quoted him saying, "The Soviet Union is no threat compared to the United States' imperialist aggressions."

Reader denies making the statement, but insists that even if he had, he had a right to do so.

The letter also stated that AIA, Inc. had reviewed the reading list for Reader's course and found that only one side of many issues were presented. AIA, Inc. cited the presence of pronuclear freeze information on the reading list, but none on the "peace through strength" approach to avoiding nuclear war.

The letter was signed by Les Csorba, AIA, Inc.'s executive director, who earned his stripes as a red-baiter heading up the right-wing Students for a Better America at the Davis campus of the University of California. Csorba organized a witch-hunt campaign there against visiting professor Saul Landau, using information that went back 20 years.

AIA, Inc., established in 1985 with an annual budget of \$160,000, is a spinoff of Accuracy in Media. This group was set up in 1969 to combat "liberal" bias in the media. It spends \$1.7 million a year monitoring the press and television for "slanted" coverage.

The American Association of University Professors has condemned AIA, Inc. as a threat to academic freedom. The American Civil Liberties Union has issued a call urging university presidents and faculties to "discourage and discredit" AIA, Inc.'s methods and purposes.

April antiwar protest is needed

A broad consensus to support actions on April 24 and 25 is emerging among opponents of Washington's intervention in Nicaragua. In the past few weeks, activists at national and regional conferences and at local meetings of peace organizations and solidarity groups have registered their support for spring mobilizations in Washington, D.C., and the West Coast.

There is growing recognition that a centralized, national protest will be the most effective next step in organizing broad, massive opposition to U.S. aggression in Central America. And that an urgent need and political basis exists for making this action the largest yet held against Washington's dirty war in Nicaragua.

The current scope of activity throughout the country against Washington's mercenary war is considerable. The successful regional and local anti-intervention actions in October and November showed the mounting concern over the escalation of Washington's war against Nicaragua. They also advanced the formation of local coalitions opposed to the war.

Many activists are organizing or have participated in work brigades to Nicaragua; others are expressing solidarity by getting their cities to adopt a sister city in Nicaragua. Some are organizing meetings for Nicaraguan speakers touring the United States; others are holding art shows and concerts to fund specific projects.

The focus for many activists is protesting the war in El Salvador or providing sanctuary for Salvadoran political exiles in the United States.

Students across the country are organizing antiwar activities in their high schools and colleges.

The Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament that crossed the country from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., this fall attracted thousands of young people to its rallies along the way. They were looking for opportunities to express their opposition to the government's war policies, including in Central America.

Moreover, the revolt in South Africa against apartheid

has spurred tens of thousands into action in the United States. Many participants in the anti-apartheid protests are beginning to recognize the link between Washington's complicity with the South African regime and U.S. policies in Central America.

A nationally focused mobilization in April will offer a particularly good opportunity to unite in action hundreds of groups and tens of thousands of activists. It will help overcome the atomization that currently marks the opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America.

This unity will not only focus and give greater visibility to the antiwar forces, but will greatly influence other groups and individuals, convincing them to become part of the action. The momentum generated by building this action will attract unionists, religious organizations, students, anti-apartheid activists, and many others who have not previously been involved in antiwar protests.

A solid foundation exists for believing this is so. Millions of Americans are worried that the Reagan administration may be dragging this country into a Vietnam-type war in Central America.

They are also skeptical that Congress, despite the new Democratic majority in the Senate, will do anything to halt or slow down this process. The bipartisan support for Reagan's *contra* aid package in the last session of Congress showed that.

By issuing a call for the April 24–25 protests and getting going early to build them will give more time to win and organize broader forces for the actions. It will open more possibilities to reach the ranks of the labor movement with the call for the actions.

More than anything, the tangible preparations for the actions in both Washington and the West Coast — distributing leaflets, arranging buses, building meetings, seeking publicity, and organizing everything else that goes into mobilizing for a big protest — will persuade other people to participate.

Thousands of activists around the country have already circled April 24–25 on their calendars. Local groups are discussing it. Let's get rolling!

Religion and the class struggle

BY DOUG JENNESS

One proof often cited to show that religion and religious institutions are or can be progressive is their role in struggles of working people.

The prominent role of churches and clergymen in the civil rights movement in this country is pointed to. So is the active participation of Catholic priests in revolutionary struggles in Latin America, the Philippines, and other

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

countries. Some of these clergy have even developed a "liberation theology" that purports to blend socialist and Christian views.

These examples don't prove that religion is progressive. But they do show that many people with strong religious views join progressive, even revolutionary struggles.

The employers' drive to squeeze more profits out of working people is blind to religious views. It hurts all workers, including those who are religious and those who aren't. A picket line at most any plant or mine in this country, for example, will find some combination of workers holding Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or atheist views.

Working people are driven to strike and organize unions, and some day will wage a revolutionary struggle to overturn capitalist rule, *in spite of, not because of, their religious views*.

Socialist workers are among the foremost opponents of any attempt to restrict the participation of workers in the labor movement on the basis of religious views.

Discrimination, harassment, and prejudice based on religious views are the bosses' game. The employers attempt to utilize the workers' diverse religious views to pit them against each other.

When the employers get away with this, it weakens the labor movement and increases the confusion among workers about whom their enemies are and how to fight them. That's why expressions of religious prejudice on the job and in the unions are harmful and need to be combated.

The most effective antidote is the experience workers go through when they engage their employers in struggle. They discover that they have something in common — their class interests — that outweighs religious differences. And the problem with workers who scab or fink for the employers is not their religious views, but their breach of class solidarity.

As working people move into action against their exploiters, they strengthen their own class understanding in the process, regardless of their religious beliefs. They see more clearly how political life is determined by the class struggle, and what is necessary to advance the fight for their interests.

Through this class-struggle experience, workers begin to shake off the various forms of mystification, including religion, that are rampant in class society. They become more open to the scientific approach to society and politics that socialism expresses. They see that scientific socialism is a necessary tool in their march toward political power.

But this is a process. Recognition that religious institutions are instruments of class oppression and that religious dogmas serve to keep working people subservient and ignorant of their own class interests doesn't occur overnight.

That's one reason socialists strongly insist that when workers and farmers topple capitalist rule and establish their own government, freedom of religious expression and practice be guaranteed. Working people will not be persuaded to give up strongly felt religious views through force, but by discovering for themselves that these beliefs are obstacles.

In Nicaragua, for example, the Sandinista National Liberation Front has won the backing of the big majority of workers and peasants, who still hold onto elements of their Catholic beliefs. The Sandinistas have successfully integrated many of these working people into positions of responsibility in the mass organizations and the government. Some individuals who belong to religious orders even hold government posts.

At the same time, the Sandinistas are conducting a political campaign against efforts by the church hierarchy to place its claimed prerogatives above revolutionary law. As a result, class polarization is being deepened. And in the process, the Sandinistas are laying the ground to advance the Nicaraguans toward a scientific understanding of society.

The fact that some clergy who are closest to the toilers in their own class origins and day-to-day life join revolutionary struggles testifies to the power of deep-going class conflicts and revolutionary upheavals to change their thinking. It is not proof that religion is progressive.

Moreover, "liberation theology" simply reflects the attempt by some clergy to accommodate their religious beliefs to the popularity of socialism among the toilers they are trying to influence.

New smear of expelled journalist

Adding insult to injury, a government official made a scurrilous smear attack on Colombian journalist Patricia Lara. Lara was jailed here last month and then expelled from the country for reasons the government refused to state.

The mud-slinging attack on the journalist was made by Reagan's "human rights" point man, Elliott Abrams. He's secretary of state for inter-American affairs and spends a good deal of his time bemoaning an alleged lack of fairness and decency in countries like Cuba and Nicaragua.

Abrams charged Lara with being a Cuban "agent" and a "terrorist."

Lara had been taken into custody when she arrived here October 12. A prominent journalist in Colombia, she had been issued a U.S. visa to attend a ceremony at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, of which she is a graduate. The affair was to promote "inter-American understanding and freedom of information."

She was arrested at Kennedy airport when immigration cops said they found her listed in their "lookout" book. This contains the names of some 40,000 people to be barred from the country for holding dissident views or otherwise "endangering" the nation.

Lara was held in a maximum security center for five days before being shipped back to Colombia. Officials stubbornly refused to tell her, or the media, why this was being done, other than to cite the McCarthy-era McCarran-Walter immigration statute, which provides for barring various kinds of "subversives."

Pressed by reporters, an immigration official finally said that information about Lara is "confidential and classified and vital to national security."

But neither "confidentiality" nor "national security" prevented Elliott Abrams from giving the alleged reason

for Lara's victimization — after she was out of the country.

On CBS's "60 Minutes" November 16, Abrams shamelessly asserted, "She is a member of the M-19 terrorist organization in Colombia. She is an active liaison between that terrorist organization, which is in the business of murdering people, and the Cuban secret police."

Needless to say, Abrams didn't offer a shred of evidence for that triple smear — of Lara, M-19, and Cuba.

The Abrams smear came after Lara initiated a \$5 million damage claim against immigration officials.

And the charge of terrorism and murder comes with particularly poor grace from a man who serves as a Reagan liaison with some very real terrorists and murderers, the Nicaraguan *contras*.

Lara is employed by Colombia's leading daily, *El Tiempo*, and is the author of a best-selling book on the M-19 movement.

Her editor, who describes the paper as strongly pro-U.S. and "anti-communist," seems undisturbed by what he sees as her leftist outlook.

Lara herself says she's never been a member of any "subversive" group and is, in fact, a member of Colombia's governing Liberal Party, describing herself as a "liberal journalist."

But even that isn't the point. If someone can be jailed and then thrown out of this country for reasons the government refuses to divulge, under the cloak of a law that has been used to keep a host of internationally distinguished public figures out of the country, then clearly all our democratic rights are jeopardized.

And when such a reactionary business is capped by the gutter attack of a character like Abrams, it simply underlines the hypocrisy of the pious claim that this is all being done in the name of preserving freedom.

Unionists fight against antiabortion measure

BY ELLEN BERMAN

Recently a flurry of activity on women's rights took place among members of the International Union of Electronics Workers (IUE) Local 201 at the General Electric plants in Lynn and Wilmington, Massachusetts.

This activity was a response to an antiabortion amend-

A rally in Boston October 18, organized by a broad coalition of groups, was attended by 5,000 people. A smaller rally was held in Salem the next week. Salem is closer than Boston to where most GE workers live.

Several of us began wearing prochoice buttons to work and talking to coworkers about abortion rights.

One young worker strongly insisted, "It has to be up to a woman to decide. You've definitely got my vote." This turned out to be majority sentiment on the floor.

We thought it would be important to get coverage of the prochoice effort both in our union newspaper and in the local media.

A couple of us drafted a letter to the editor, which several women then took the initiative of passing around their work areas asking people to become cosigners.

One of these women had attended the national "March for Women's Lives" held in Washington, D.C., last March. She told me that in circulating the letter she got into lots of interesting discussions including some arguments with coworkers who oppose the right to abortion.

One woman collected 30 signatures going from machine operator to machine operator in her work area. She made a banner for the two demonstrations that read, "Members of IUE 201 support a woman's right to choose."

More than 50 signatures were collected at the Wilmington plant, which employs mostly women. Several workers at Wilmington decided to organize a plant-gate leafleting to urge a no vote on the referendum.

In just a few days we collected about 150 signatures for the letter that was printed in the union newspaper. The letter carried an announcement inviting union members to march as a contingent on October 18.

A similar letter to the editor was printed in the Lynn Daily Evening Item.

The chairperson of the Local's Women's Committee spoke at the Salem rally and received enthusiastic applause when she explained why the right to abortion is such an important issue for working women.

After talking to so many coworkers and seeing the overwhelming prochoice sentiment among our brothers and sisters, those of us who attended the rallies felt like we were representing many more than the 150 who signed the letters.

Our experience helped convince us of the leading role that union women and men can play in the ongoing struggle to defend abortion rights.

Ellen Berman is a machinist at the GE plant in Lynn and is a member of IUE Local 201.

UNION TALK

ment to the state constitution that was on the ballot in the November 4 elections. The measure, which has now been defeated by a 58 percent majority, proposed severely limiting a woman's ability to obtain an abortion by cutting off Medicaid and other funding to clinics and hospitals that perform abortions.

Although our union did not take an official stand supporting a woman's right to choose, several union members, including some union officials, joined in organizing a shop-floor effort against the ballot measure.

We wanted to get out the word to the 8,000 employees in the two plants about the challenge being posed to a woman's right to choose and to encourage coworkers to participate in two local prochoice demonstrations.

LETTERS

Gall

Hey guys! You have the gall to ask for money?

Your paper is one of the most biased, one-sided, one note piece of trash that I have ever seen. Any paper that prints a full page on its subscriptions in every issue is a waste of time.

Thank you very much,
N.W.
St. Paul, Minnesota

The plain truth

Just in time, I've taken out my pen to renew my subscription to our newspaper.

Recently I read a copy of the *People*, published by the Socialist Labor Party, saying that the *Militant* was nothing but a cheerleading section for other countries' revolutions.

Reading their paper, I noticed it didn't really have much news. It was mostly a doctrine on a weak type of socialism. Is this what we want from a weekly paper?

What I need from a newspaper is what I get from the *Militant*. The plain truth about what is currently going on in our world. Working-class news.

And it is so damn refreshing! Keep going.

In solidarity,
Eric Wells
Quincy, California

Curfew

In recent months there has been much talk in Detroit about "wiping out crime." The latest example of this was the campaign around "Devil's Night" arson. In the past few years, there have been a lot of fires around Halloween. They have usually been blamed on youths by the police and the media. This year, city officials decided to "get tough."

For three days, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was in effect for all those under 18 in the city. If you had to leave your home after 6:00 p.m., you were required to have a parent with you. Many people did not know this and were arrested even though they had an adult friend or relative with them.

Over the three nights, hundreds of young people were picked up, handcuffed to chains, and hauled off to a downtown gym. They were then forced to sit very quietly with the police officers yelling at them. One newspaper compared the police to "military drill instructors." Those who misbehaved by talking, laughing, or otherwise not being submissive, had to stand with their faces against the wall. Many of these youths had only committed the "crime" of going to the corner store or picking up a

friend from work. Some people connected this with the situation of Blacks in South Africa.

Mayor Coleman Young went so far as to say that a similar curfew might be made permanent if the problem of crime in the city does not go away.

The *Detroit News* went even further and called for the creation of decoy units like the STRESS units of the early '70s, except without the "terror associated with STRESS."

Why should we think these police will be any better than those who terrorized us in the past? That is what is at the heart of the curfew: an attempt to control and suppress the young people and workers and to gain acceptance for an increased police presence in our lives.

Naomi Craine
Detroit, Michigan

Women in East Africa

The Association of African Students at Portland State University sponsored a forum recently called "Feminism — Its Relevance for Women of Eastern Africa." The speaker was Fatma Allo, a journalist from East Africa who has worked in Uganda and Tanzania.

Allo talked about the living and working conditions of women in Africa. She pointed out that 80 percent of Africa's economy is based on agricultural production and that 80 percent of that work is done by women. Yet women can neither own land nor keep their earned wages.

But Allo said that women in rural areas are becoming very conscious of their rights. "Resistance comes from women being tied to this system for too long," she stated.

In Tanzania, Allo produced radio programs on problems facing women in East Africa. One of these took up the mandatory expulsion of pregnant women students by the Tanzanian schools.

Allo pointed to the media blackout in the United States of the "powerful" Ugandan people's movement. Instead, the media has chosen to print headlines such as "AIDS rampant in Uganda." (The audience was surprised to learn that anyone from Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia must now go through mandatory AIDS testing when traveling to London.)

To struggle for women's rights in Africa, Allo said, women need to organize throughout the world. "We think solidarity among Third World women is emerging," she said.

"One example we can look to is the women in South Africa who are in the forefront not only within



the African National Congress, but on all fronts."

Janet Post
Portland, Oregon

Important newspaper

It gives me great pleasure to be a reader of the *Militant* publication whenever I am lucky enough to receive a copy from one of the fellow prisoners here at the Huntingdon prison. However, I would like very much to become a steady subscriber to the *Militant* and soon I will be in a position to do so.

The *Militant* is such an important newspaper to me because it tells the naked truth about all issues on both the national and international level and helps me understand why socialism would be the system that we need to adopt in order to save this country and the world from complete disaster.

Long live the *Militant*! Long live the struggle for socialism! Forward ever, backward never!

A prisoner
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Park ban

Wayne County Circuit Judge Marvin Stempien ruled in favor of a suit brought against the City of Dearborn (a suburb of Detroit) by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The NAACP-ACLU suit was aimed at defeating Dearborn's voter-approved park ban. The ban would have closed Dearborn's 20 parks and 14 playgrounds to non-residents. Dearborn, according to the 1980 census, is a city of 90,000 citizens, 83 of them Black.

Dearborn officials proposed to enforce the ban with random iden-

tification checks.

Judge Stempien said the city's enforcement procedure inevitably meant discrimination and declared the city ordinance unconstitutional.

Joe Madison, a national board member of the NAACP, called the court ruling a victory for all Michigan citizens and an obstacle to widespread attempts to "re-segregate" America.

Dearborn Mayor Michael Guido said the city would appeal Stempien's decision.

Kibwe Diarra
Detroit, Michigan

Apartheid

I would like to thank you for sending me a free subscription over the last eight months. Your paper is very informative and is the only newspaper I know that tells the truth about these capitalists.

The *Militant* is right on track on South Africa. I am against apartheid.

The history of apartheid is an unfolding tale of class struggles in which the Afrikaans-speaking minority initially gained the upper hand through land seizures in a period when agriculture was still the dominant branch of production in southern Africa. It subsequently attempted to maintain this basis of domination by imposing a special kind of totalitarianism: one which pitted whites against Blacks and other racial groups. The economic absurdity of apartheid has even become apparent in the developed world, divestment being one indication of this.

Throughout the Third World,

dictatorships have been set up as tools of U.S. capitalism, and every last one of them has the same fatal flaw as South Africa.

A prisoner
Goodyear, Arizona

Immigration

Your editorial in the October 31 *Militant* on the immigration "reform" bill was right on target.

I'd only like to add one detail to show how phony the employer sanctions provisions really are. If you read the bill, you'll notice there are no provisions to require an employer to verify any documentation.

This is odd when you consider that an employer is subject to penalties under the bill for "knowingly" hiring an undocumented worker. It's going to be pretty hard to prove a boss hired someone knowingly when there is nothing to show he knew!

So all a boss has to do to comply with the law is merely ask for a Latino worker's papers and write down somewhere that he asked. Clearly, this does nothing more than hand the bosses, free and clear, a weapon for blackmail and exploitation of Latino workers and raises further obstacles to working-class solidarity.

J.W.
Indianapolis, Indiana

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.

Toxic spill devastates Rhine

Chemical firm ignored elementary safety precautions

BY HARRY RING

The catastrophic release of millions of gallons of chemically poisoned water into the Rhine River, one of Europe's most important waterways, was the direct result of corporate greed.

The huge spill, November 1, resulted from a fire that destroyed two warehouses at the Sandoz chemical company in Basel, Switzerland. Fire fighters dumped millions of gallons of water on the blaze. Combining with tons of lethal chemicals, this water then poured into the Rhine. The river runs through Switzerland, West Germany, France, and the Netherlands, where it flows into the North Sea.

The destroyed warehouses lacked the most elementary fire safeguards. The proenvironmental West German Green Party charged that five years ago a Swiss company had refused to insure them as too risky.

In Basel, an official said that in that area "the Rhine is now dead. The whole ecosystem is destroyed."

France's environmental minister termed it an "ecological catastrophe." His West German counterpart added that fishery experts believed that the entire Rhine's ecosystem has been destroyed for at least two years. He estimated that half a million fish had died so far.

The buildings where the fire erupted were originally built to house machinery. In 1979, with government approval, Sandoz converted them into chemical storage sheds.

The sheds did not have sprinkler systems or automatic fire alarms. The company felt the danger of fire was too minimal to justify spending money on such elementary safeguards.

By the same reasoning, Sandoz assumed there was little chance of a fire occurring at night, so the company-employed fire brigade only worked days.

The blaze, which began shortly after midnight, was spotted by a passing cop car. By the time fire fighters arrived, the entire storage area was in flames.

(Four days earlier, a leading for-hire fire prevention service inspected the sheds and found them "tip-top.")

With the complicity of the Swiss government, the chemical company's criminal conduct continued after the huge spill.

Benefit set for meat-packers

BY LAURA FLICKER

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Holding signs that read, "We need to eat just like the rich kids" and "We need a decent future," 30 children of meat-packers joined folksinger Arlo Guthrie at a news conference here November 6.

Held at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110 hall, the news conference was called to publicize the November 20 benefit conference featuring Guthrie, Holly Near, and John McCutcheon. Money raised by the concert, to be held at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, will go to the Austin United Support Group's Food Shelf.

The Food Shelf has helped to feed the families of the meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota, during their battle against Geo. A. Hormel & Company. More than 800 of the meat-packers who went on strike in August 1985 were prevented from getting their jobs back when Hormel imposed a settlement last September.

Guthrie pointed out that the children of the meat-packers suffer as a result of Hor-

France, Germany, and the Netherlands were not notified of the massive poisoning of the Rhine until 40 hours after it happened. It was only when dead fish began appearing in the river that the silence was broken.

This, a Sandoz official later explained, was the result of a "misunderstanding."

An apparently similar "misunderstanding" was disclosed November 11 when Swiss officials announced that on October 31, the day before the Sandoz fire, the Ciba-Geigy chemical company had spilled 88 gallons of a deadly weedkiller into the Rhine. The chemical, it was explained, was mistakenly dumped into the river before being detoxified.

As a result of the Sandoz spill cover-up, it wasn't until days later that tens of thousands of people living along the river were warned not to drink the water.

In West Germany, fire trucks were then pressed into service to provide drinking water for river area residents.

In the Netherlands, floodgates were closed to block the contaminated river water from entering tributaries and canals.

Officials said this meant greater amounts of poisoned water would flow into the already heavily polluted North Sea. All four affected countries have shut down plants processing water from the Rhine.

As two globs of poison more than 40 miles long floated downstream, the effect on fish was devastating. A West German wild life expert said it would be two years before many of the fish could be reintroduced into the river. And it might be a decade before eels can survive there.

Particularly dangerous was the release of 440 pounds of mercury. Those who eat fish contaminated with it face a special risk because mercury continues to accumulate in the body. Sufficient amounts bring neurological disorders, death, and defects in offspring.

The Rhine catastrophe has given new force to an already deep concern among Europeans about the grave environmental risks generated by profit-hungry corporations and governments that refuse to take meaningful action on the problem.

In Basel November 8, some 10,000 people marched in protest. The following day, Sandoz officials abruptly fled a public meeting on the issue when enraged citizens began hurling dead eels at them.



Protesters in Basel, Switzerland. Sign reads: 'Today the fish, tomorrow us.'

Judge bars sandblasting of meat-packers' mural

BY MAGGIE PERRIER

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In a victory for meat-packers struggling against the Hormel Co., Mower County Judge James Mork issued an injunction November 12 prohibiting further destruction of the mural on the side of the Austin, Minnesota, Labor Center.

A hundred artists and meat-packers and their supporters had joined together to paint the 16-by-80 foot mural during the strike against Hormel by Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Dedicated to South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, the mural has become a symbol of workers struggling against corporate greed.

UFCW trustees, who have occupied the Labor Center since placing the union's Local P-9 in receivership, began having the mural sandblasted on October 8. Extensive damage was done before the meat-packers and their supporters obtained a temporary restraining order.

The trustees say the mural should be removed because it is a reminder of a "bitter" strike.

At the November 12 hearing, Judge Mork said that since the trustees were only temporary tenants of the Labor Center they had no right to remove the mural.

In the weeks leading up to the court hearing, artist and art organizations joined in protests to save the mural.

A rally of 30 artists was held the morning of the hearing in front of the Hennepin County Government Center here in the Twin Cities. Kathy Buck, former financial secretary of Local P-9, explained to the rally that the mural represents the long history of struggle by the Hormel meat-packers from which other working people can learn.

The rally was sponsored by the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG), Medium West Gallery, and the Twin Cities Hormel Strike Support Group.

On the leaflet used to build the rally, Shannon Brady, the art director of MPIRG, said, "By destroying this historical piece of art, officials of the union of Food and Commercial Workers are simply trying to erase a part of history they don't like — the strike they helped break."

Over 400 artists around the country have signed petitions protesting the destruction. A hundred signatures were obtained at the November 7-9 conference of the Artists Alliance for Democracy held in Boston.

The destruction has also elicited outrage in the press. The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* ran an article on October 9 denouncing the sandblasting as "arrogant and inflammatory."

Writing in the November 8 issue of the *Nation* magazine, Alexander Cockburn said, "Determined to extirpate the memory and culture of P-9's struggle, the U.F.C.W. ordered sandblasting of the mural. No union shop would do the job, so the U.F.C.W. had to use its own organizers for the dirty work. A court order has temporarily halted the destruction of the mural, but too late to save the first targets of the sandblasters' attack: the word 'Solidarity' and the faces of the hitherto faceless workers."

Others who have protested the destruction include poet Meridel LeSueur; singer Charlie King; the South African performing group, Perspectives on Southern Africa; and Artmakers, an organization of New York muralists.

Maggie Perrier is a retail clerk and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 653.