

Nicaragua: 'contras' attack farm co-op

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

ISIDRO SOTELO COOPERATIVE, El Mono, Nicaragua — U.S.-backed mercenaries took advantage of the Christmas festivities here to launch a sneak attack on this farm cooperative December 27. They murdered six peasants, including two children, wounded five others, and destroyed \$300,000 worth of farm supplies, food, and clothing.

The 24 members of the Isidro Sotelo Cooperative raise cattle on 4,300 acres of land. Their farm is located in the mountains of central Nicaragua's Region V, about 18 miles northeast of the town of Camoapa.

The land used to belong to Lillian Somoza, sister of the former dictator Anastasio Somoza. After the 1979 Sandinista revolution, the new government expropriated the farm and gave the land to the peasants.

Isidro Sotelo is an important center for more than 800 peasant families from the cooperatives and individual farms throughout the area. Every week it hosts a peasant market, where hundreds of families come

Report on rally celebrating adoption of Nicaragua's constitution appears on page 3.

to sell their products and buy from visiting merchants.

The cooperative also houses two regional peasant supply centers, one run by the government and the other by the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers. They provide tools, clothing, food, and building supplies at controlled prices. Both centers were looted and burned by the contras.

Lazaro Amador, a leader of the cooperative, explained that all the men were members of the local peasant People's Self-Defense Militias. However, due to the Christmas celebrations that began December 24, their vigilance was not as good as usual, he said.

The mercenary force of 50-70 men was able to surround the small settlement without being detected and launch the attack at 2:00 a.m.

Seventeen peasants, armed only with rifles, fought back for more than an hour, while the contras fired mortars, RPG-7 rockets, and grenades at the compound. Then the contras forced their way into the settlement, looted and burned the two supply centers, and fled to the mountains.

Orlando Flores, a leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front in this area, said that the attack came as a surprise. The Nicaraguan army had largely driven the contras out of this area during 1986, and many peasants are now organized in the self-defense militias. The remaining mercenaries operate only in small groups, carrying out infrequent ambushes or kidnappings, he said.

In this case, however, the mercenaries were able to unite several small bands into one larger group that overwhelmed the cooperative and then dispersed quickly.

"This was a desperate action," said Pánfilo Guzmán, as he worked to rebuild the settlement. "The contras know they can't win, and so they do this."

"But they should watch out, because if they come back again, it will be different."

Government must jail Howard Beach lynchers!

Can a gang of white youths beat and kill Blacks and get away with it?
That is the question posed in the Howard Beach lynching.

If the murderers who killed Michael Griffith on December 20 are convicted and given the maximum sentence, it would be the most effective deterrent possible to others who would consider beating and killing people simply because the color of their skin is black.

But if the assailants go free, or simply get a slap on the wrist, it will encourage more Howard Beaches.

All those who want justice to be done have one obligation: press for mass protest

EDITORIAL

activities to demand that government authorities prosecute the attackers to the fullest extent of the law.

The majority of people in New York — and throughout the country — are outraged and disgusted by the assault on three Black men in Howard Beach.

This shows the potential to unite a broad range of organizations and individuals in action. Unions, high school and college students, churches, women's rights groups, antiwar organizations, anti-apartheid coalitions, Central American and Caribbean solidarity organizations, and Black, Latino, and Asian community groups can be won to a perspective of marching on city, state, or federal office buildings to demand justice for Griffith, and the two who survived the attack, Timothy Grimes and Cedric Sandiford.



Militant/Mike Lux

Protests are needed to demand that attackers be given maximum penalty

This is not just a question for the Black community, or a time for others to sit back and wait for Black leaders to come up with proposals for action. All opponents of racist violence have the responsibility to act.

Politicians, religious figures, community leaders, and many others have issued statements denouncing racism. Union officials held a news conference in Manhattan to condemn racism and explain how attacks like the one in Howard Beach hurt the labor

movement and all working people.

All of this shows the sentiment that can be mobilized for action. But when limited to general denunciations, such statements take the spotlight off the only demand that can end racist attacks such as the one in Howard Beach — jailing the assailants for as long as the law allows.

Other demands, such as calling for the resignation of Police Commissioner Benjamin T. Jones, are also important. **Continued on Page 14**

Amtrak blames workers for train crash

BY FRED STANTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The crash of Amtrak passenger Train 94 and three Conrail diesel locomotives north of Baltimore left at least 15 dead and 176 injured.

While government and corporation investigators and the media have concentrated on pinning the blame for the January 4 crash on rail workers, Amtrak employees here are talking about what can be done to make the railroads safer.

"The one thing we live in fear of," one road engineer told me, "is a freight train coming off a siding or derailling and obstructing the main line. At 110 miles an hour, there's nothing you can do." Union representatives from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) and the United Transportation Union (UTU) have pointed out the unsafe conditions that made such an accident inevitable: running high-speed passenger trains with only one operator in the cab (no fireman); extra-board work schedules that force crews to operate with insufficient rest; signals and other equipment that sometimes malfunction; and the operation of slow freight and fast passenger traffic over the same tracks.

Jerry Evans, the young Amtrak engineer who was killed in the crash, was working the extra board out of Washington. This means he had no regular work schedule but had to be available on call, to come to work on a couple of hours' notice, day or night. Evans and Ricky Gates, engineer on the Conrail diesels, lived in the Baltimore area and were good friends. Gates told federal investigators the crash resulted from a false signal indication.

Long before the last bodies were pulled from the wreckage, railroad and govern-

ment officials began casting their dragnet for scapegoats. They tested the Conrail crew for drugs. Company ghouls even took tissue samples from Jerry Evans' corpse.

Amtrak workers in Washington were told to write statements about the work they had done in preparing train 94 for the road. They could be blamed for loose seats and other equipment that flew through the cars in the crash. The foreman in charge of mechanical work on the train was asked how the engineer looked before the trip.

But while rail workers are being investigated and blamed for this tragedy, the real causes are not being investigated and corrected. Why did the companies' and politicians decide not to build separate tracks for passenger and freight operations? Why aren't freight engines that run on passenger tracks equipped with the same automatic safety devices as passenger engines? Why, despite evidence from previous accidents, did they decide not to rebuild passenger

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French rail unions' strike inspires broad labor backing

BY FRED FELDMAN

The nearly month-long strike against the state-owned French National Railways has inspired solidarity from many thousands of unionists outraged by the government's wage and job-cutting austerity policies.

The rail walkout is the longest in the industry since 1945.

The strike began December 18 at the Paris-Nord rail depot. It spread quickly to Nantes, Lyon, Toulouse, and other cities, eventually cutting rail service by up to 80 percent at the high point of the walkout.

The strike began without the sponsorship of the main unions representing rail workers, but quickly got their backing. The principal rail unions are affiliated to the three major labor federations — the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT), and Labor's Force (FO). In many

cases several unions will exist in the workplace.

There is no union shop in France, and a significant number of rail workers belong to no union. Many nonunion workers also joined the strike.

As the strike spread, workers at the Paris-Nord and Sotteville depots took the initiative in forming a national coordinating body, which the unions joined.

Backed by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, management provoked the walkout by announcing a plan to allow pay raises and promotions to be determined primarily by management, rather than by seniority.

Rail workers interviewed in the December 31 issue of the French socialist weekly *Rouge* described their deteriorating working conditions. Forced to lay over away from home, they often have only nine hours between shifts.

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Wisconsin packing plant hires scabs

BY JEANNE PORTER

CUDAHY, Wis. — Patrick Cudahy Inc. has announced that it has begun hiring scabs to try to break a strike by 850 meat-packers at its plant here.

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P40 were forced on strike January 3 after overwhelmingly rejecting a Cudahy contract proposal that would have cut wages from \$1 to \$3 an hour and weakened union rights on the job. UFCW staff representative Bob Waters said the wage offer would make Cudahy the lowest-paid unionized packing plant in the country.

Local P40 President Mark Rosenbaum has pointed out that the Smithfield corporation has risen from the 24th most profitable meat-packing company to the 12th or 13th since purchasing Cudahy two years ago.

Cudahy immediately took out full-page ads in both Milwaukee papers, urging people to put in job applications to replace the strikers. The ad stated that an applicant had to appear in person.

Cudahy's attempt to provoke the striking meat-packers was widely noted. Even Milwaukee County Sheriff Richard Artison accused the company of creating a public safety threat.

On January 9 the strikers received a letter from Cudahy explaining the procedures for withdrawing from the UFCW and encouraging them to cross the picket lines.

The scabs were not only brought into the plant through the back gate but were also guided through P40 picket lines by local cops. Several strikers were arrested.

Union members responded by beefing up the picket lines and calling on other unions in the area for help. The following day, auto workers, steelworkers, machinists, garment workers, and other UFCW members joined the lines.

Workers blamed for Amtrak crash

Continued from front page

seats and luggage racks to make them less hazardous in a crash? Why are there insufficient parts, personnel, and time to keep trains and signal equipment operating safely? And why are crews worked to the point of exhaustion while tens of thousands of rail workers are laid off?

Many are worried that more jobs will be lost as a result of this crash. Managers have stated that this accident may mean the end of Amtrak.

Hundreds of rail workers attended Jerry Evans' funeral. Many had to mark off sick from work to do so. The company refused to excuse them. "They didn't even fly the flag at half-mast," observed one conductor.

Fred Stanton works at the Amtrak rail yard in Washington, D.C., and is a member of UTU Local 1522.

The largest banner carried that day was an electric blanket stretched between large sticks of wood reading "SAS — Students Against Scabs." It was held by three students from Cudahy High School. Mike, an initiator of SAS, said the group was there because "we didn't want to see the community get shafted." Another student said, "If it doesn't stop here, what will happen to us when we get jobs?"

Throughout the day, the cops continued to help scabs put in applications. Cudahy says they will be paid \$5.75 an hour.

The company has hired Thomas Krukowski, a union-busting lawyer. Krukowski was also hired by Geo. A. Hormel & Co. before it provoked a strike at its Austin, Minnesota, plant in 1985.

The parallel between the Hormel battle and the Cudahy strike was noted by some Local P40 members. One striker recalled that Cudahy did contract work for Hormel during the strike.

"I saw these orders for Hormel, and I realized that one day it would be our turn. If all the unions got together, we could shut this country down and put a stop to it," he said.

Jeanne Porter is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1866 at the AC Spark Plug plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.



Militant/Bill Scheer

More than 800 members of UFCW Local P40 are on strike at Cudahy plant. The unionists rejected company demands for big takebacks in wages and benefits.

French unions back striking rail workers

Continued from front page

The workers explained that as a result of crew reductions and speed-up, "the engineer finds himself alone at the controls of his train, under all conditions and at all hours. The engineers are fighting not only for their own working and living conditions, but for the safety of all."

The strike, following the successful student struggle that defeated Chirac's attempt to push through legislation that would have tripled tuition at state-run universities, has put the government on the spot.

In addition to demanding cancellation of the government's plan, rail workers demanded a pay increase, shorter hours, better food and lodging on the nights they must stay away from home, and more say in work schedules that take them out of town.

Chirac has barred public employees from getting pay increases above 3 percent.

On December 28 the government announced it would resume negotiations, which had halted for more than a week. It also stated that the wages and promotions policy would be "suspended," suggesting that its final disposition be left up to a mediator.

The rail workers demanded that the plan be canceled altogether and that other demands be met.

The government's partial retreat at the

negotiating table was accompanied by stepped-up attacks on the strikers. Police forcibly removed pickets who were blocking railway tracks and occupying switching centers.

Workers at several depots voted January 9 to return to work. Strikers reportedly began returning to work and rail traffic increased.

Subway and bus workers also began a series of strikes. In addition to supporting the rail workers, they pressed the government to increase its offer of a 2.9 percent wage increase.

On January 3 and January 6 the union federations called one-day actions by public employees in support of the rail workers, which further crippled subway and train traffic across the country. On January 6 workers in the electric power and gas utilities also walked out to back the rail strikers. The one-day sympathy strike was extended after the utility workers rejected a pay increase of only 2.5 percent offered by the government.

And in response to a call from the CGT, some thousands of workers joined a rally in Paris in support of the rail strike.

The strike wave has heightened divisions in the government. François Mitterrand, the president of France and leader of the Socialist Party, met with a delegation of 150 rail strikers December 31. Chirac has been preparing to challenge Mitterrand in the 1988 presidential elections.

Chirac became prime minister after a

bloc of big-business parties won a majority of seats in the National Assembly in the elections last March. The Socialist Party lost popularity because it had presided over attacks on the living standards of workers and farmers in the name of austerity. Chirac has escalated the takeback drive.

Chirac's course has also drawn criticism from other parties in the three-party coalition that supports his cabinet. Raymond Barre, former prime minister, warned against an "overdose" of takeback measures.

Chirac has tried to gain ground against the strikes with a red-baiting campaign. He charged that the Communist Party — which plays a prominent role in the CGT — is attempting to "take in hand" the rail strike.

The strike by electrical and gas utility workers called by the CGT became a special target of the rightists. Chirac's political supporters organized rallies estimated at several thousand in Bordeaux and Marseilles January 10 to oppose the strikes.

On January 12 the *New York Times* reported that several thousand rightists marched in Paris to oppose the strikes.

Despite these attempts to mobilize public opinion against the strikers, the January 13 *New York Times* described a study by France's leading polling organization as indicating "the public's belief that ultimate responsibility for ending the strikes lay with France's conservative Government rather than with the strikers."

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Nicaragua's new constitution enacted at public ceremony

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Thousands of Nicaraguans attended a public ceremony here January 9 for the enactment of Nicaragua's new constitution. A significant number of international guests participated, which was a blow to the U.S. government's attempts to organize a boycott of the gathering and isolate Nicaragua diplomatically.

The most prominent international guest was Peruvian President Alan García. Guests also included parliamentary leaders from Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba, Spain, and the Soviet Union, as well as a delegation from the West German Social Democratic Party.

In a major speech to the rally, García said that Peru "will stand in solidarity with Nicaragua in its struggle against intervention and aggression." He called for support for Nicaragua from "all the peoples of the world," and for unity of Latin American nations against the foreign debt.

After the rally, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega presented García with the Augusto César Sandino award. He cited García's role in "the broad movement converging for peace and political and economic independence... that is bringing together Latin American governments, political parties, and forces."

Constitution of a revolution under way

In enacting the new constitution, Carlos Núñez, president of the National Assembly, said it incorporated the experiences of popular participation gained in the seven years since the Sandinista revolution overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship. "It reflects a revolution under way," he said, incorporating "the gains and conquests of the people and their medium and long-term projection."

Ortega told the crowd that the constitution was another victory in their fight for independence, self-determination, sovereignty, and democracy. But it was also Nicaragua's contribution to other peoples in struggle, he said, singling out the people of Chile, Haiti, El Salvador, and South Africa.

How deputies voted on constitution

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's new constitution was signed by 87 of the 96 members of the National Assembly before being officially enacted January 9. The pressure of the broad popular support for the revolution here was reflected in the fact that deputies from six of the seven parties in the assembly signed.

All of the deputies from the Sandinista National Liberation Front, People's Social Christian Party, Nicaraguan Socialist Party, and Communist Party of Nicaragua signed.

The two deputies of the ultraleft Marxist-Leninist Party refused to sign, arguing that the new constitution had a "bourgeois class character and a political-judicial orientation contrary to the interests of the proletariat."

Ten of the 14 deputies of the capitalist Conservative Democratic Party (PCDN) signed. Those who refused included members of the "Sicilian faction" of the PCDN. This group is closely associated with the U.S. embassy here, and includes Enrique Sotelo, attorney for the CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus.

Deputies of the capitalist Independent Liberal Party (PLI) broke into a public faction fight over whether to sign the constitution. Party president Virgilio Godoy and two other deputies refused to sign. Godoy has long had close ties with the U.S. embassy and attempted unsuccessfully to have the PLI boycott the entire constitutional debate.

Six PLI deputies did sign, saying that not to do so "would be turning one's back on history." Godoy's faction then suspended two of them from the party's executive committee, and is threatening to expel all six from the party. — H.M.

"Why are we enacting this constitution?" Ortega asked. The crowd shouted back: "People's power!" "People's power!"

The constitution is to "defend the power of the people, so that we can continue to give land to the peasants," Ortega continued. The crowd applauded loudly when he explained that the government planned to distribute more than 350,000 acres of land to poor peasants in 1987.

Ortega pointed out that the U.S. government has criticized Nicaraguan democracy.

"We have our own opinions about U.S. democracy, which continues to deny the right to a job to U.S. poor and working people [and] that in the 1960s legally discriminated against U.S. citizens because of their black skin," he said.

Contrary to U.S. charges that Nicaragua is totalitarian, he continued, "hundreds of thousands of rifles have been distributed [here] to the people, the peasants, the workers. If the people didn't want this government, they could easily get rid of it. What better proof of democracy?"

U.S. military maneuvers

Ortega reported on new U.S. war maneuvers taking place in Honduras, a U.S. naval squadron led by the battleship *Iowa* heading for waters off Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, and public statements by Pentagon

officials that thousands of U.S.-backed mercenaries would soon enter Nicaragua.

He announced that, given the continuing U.S. aggression against Nicaragua, the state of emergency in effect here would be continued for another year. This measure, which suspends some civil liberties, was first introduced in 1982 as attacks by the U.S.-backed mercenaries escalated. It was lifted in 1984 and reimposed in 1985.

"We are forced to maintain the state of emergency," Ortega said, "and not because we want to. If the U.S. aggression would end, the state of emergency would end too."

Earlier that day, the capitalist Social Christian Party (PSC) and other right-wing groups held a small anti-Sandinista rally and march, for which they had obtained a permit from the Sandinista Police.

Participants included leaders of the PSC, the Social Democratic, Authentic Liberal, and Conservative parties, as well as the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) and two right-wing unions, the Federation of Nicaraguan Workers (CTN) and Federation of Trade Union Unity (CUS). U.S. embassy officials and Enrique Sotelo, attorney for CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus, also attended.

During the march, PSC members spray-



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Peasants at conference in 1986. Carlos Núñez, president of the National Assembly, said, "Constitution reflects a revolution under way."

painted walls and sidewalks with slogans including "Down with the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front]," "Down with the Patriotic Military Service," "Reopen *La Prensa*," and "Death to the Sandinistas." When one man tried to stop them from painting slogans on his home, they attacked him and knocked down the wooden wall of his house. Sandinista Police intervened and PSC leaders agreed to pay for the damages. There were no arrests.

Coalitions formed to build April 25

BY NORTON SANDLER

Two hundred demonstrators gathered in Dubuque, Iowa, on January 10 to protest army reservists from that state being sent to participate in U.S. military maneuvers in Honduras. Thirty protested the same day outside the Miami headquarters of Southern Air Transport, a CIA front company. And 250 attended a meeting at Judson Church in New York January 11, where Ricardo Espinoza from the Nicaraguan Mission to the United Nations described the impact of the *contra* war on that country.

These protests and meetings are typical of a wide array of antiwar activity under way around the country. Many groups and local coalitions are beginning to focus attention on the April 25 national demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

In addition to opposing U.S. war policies in Central America, the April 25 demonstrations will also demand an end to U.S. support for South African apartheid.

The Iowa protest called by the Dubuque Mobilization Committee was also attended by activists from Des Moines, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, and several other cities. Rally speakers urged the participants to join in the April 25 demonstration in Washington. Reservists from eight states and Puerto Rico are currently participating in joint maneuvers with the Honduran army. Another protest against the 150 Iowa reservists being sent to Honduras will be held in Des Moines January 27.

Several local coalitions will soon hold actions demanding an end to contra funding. Bills have been introduced into Congress to prevent \$40 million of the \$100 million appropriated last year from being handed over to Washington's mercenary army. The Reagan administration is pushing for release of that money and is also demanding an additional \$100-million appropriation.

Opponents of contra aid will hold a picket line in downtown Boston January 28, the day after President Ronald Reagan's State of the Union address. The action is being sponsored by a number of groups. A protest over contra funding is being organized for Washington, D.C., in February.

Pledge of Resistance spokesperson Stephen Slade told the *Militant* that his organization will be visiting offices of congressional representatives around the country in the next few weeks demanding an end to contra funding. Slade said some local chapters of that organization will also be staging protests against contra funding.

Angela Sanbrano, National Coordinator

of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), explains in the current issue of that group's newspaper, the *Alert*, that the demonstration provides "an incredible opportunity to make a powerful statement that the people of the United States want the U.S. out of Central America and Southern Africa."

"During the Vietnam war national demonstrations played a key role in ending the war," she added.

Debra Reuben, spokesperson for the Nicaragua Network, said that organization's local affiliates are planning a variety of activities in mid-February, including some protests and vigils. At that time, Reagan is supposed to give Congress his "findings," justifying the release of the \$40 million.

Reuben said the Nicaragua Network is participating fully in the April 25 action. "We think the joining together of South Africa and Nicaragua is a big step forward," she said.

Broad local coalitions

The initiation of several local coalitions shows the potential for building a powerful action on April 25.

More than 60 people attended a recent meeting of the Detroit March 29 Coalition to Stop U.S. intervention in Central America. That coalition bases its name on the date it picked for a Detroit action against the U.S.-backed war in Central America.

Rev. Thomas Gumbleton from the Archdiocese of Detroit, Congressman George

Crockett, City Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey, and Bernard Firestone from the Chicago and Central States Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) are among the signers of a widely circulated letter urging unions, community organizations, churches, and student groups to sponsor the March 29 demonstration.

More than 70 unions, church groups, and peace and solidarity organizations will meet in New York on January 20 to launch a New York Organizing Committee for the April demonstration. The initial meeting will be held at Hospital Workers Local 1199 offices.

A letter is being circulated inviting Chicago area antiwar and anti-apartheid activists to a meeting January 24 to begin building the April 25 demonstration. Signers include Rev. Clyde Brooks, president of the Chicago Metro Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Noel Beasley, Midwest director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union's Textile Division; Maria Torres, executive director of the City of Chicago Commission on Latino Affairs; Rev. Willie Barrow, national executive director, Operation PUSH; and Charles Williams, International representative of the International Association of Machinists. The meeting will be held at Columbia College.

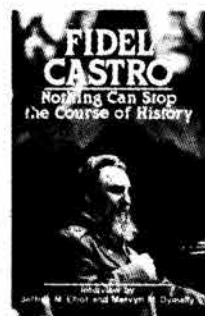
The Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Association on the island of Oahu in Hawaii announced that an action will also be held in Honolulu April 25.

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Anti-lynching protests force N.Y. governor to name prosecutor

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The decision of New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to appoint a special prosecutor in the Howard Beach case is a concession to deep public anger.

Cuomo's January 13 announcement that Charles Hynes will take over from Queens County District Attorney John Santucci constituted an admission that Santucci and the New York City police had failed to conduct a proper investigation and prosecution.

Since the lynch attack against three Blacks by a gang of white youths on December 20, there has been a growing conviction that the city administration of Mayor Edward Koch has been guilty of a cover-up in the case.

Cuomo: 'special level' of tension

In announcing his decision to assign a special state prosecutor, Cuomo noted that since the case began, "tensions" have risen "to a special level" and a special response is demanded.

Protest turnouts have been substantial. At one meeting in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn's principal Black community, more than 2,000 people jammed into a high school auditorium.

Anger has been especially sharp since a Queens County judge dismissed murder and assault charges on December 29 against three of the admitted attackers of the Black men.

Part of the official cover-up has been the claim that the district attorney was stymied by Cedric Sandiford's refusal to cooperate. One of the survivors of the attack, Sandiford charged he was being treated like a criminal, not a victim, and that the so-called investigation was a "masquerade." Sandiford's representatives said he would cooperate with the state investigation.

Everything that has happened confirms the truth of Sandiford's charge of cover-up.

The nature of the crime itself is clear enough. On December 20 Sandiford, his stepson Michael Griffith, and a friend, Timothy Grimes, went into a pizzeria in the white community of Howard Beach. Leaving, they were confronted by a gang of white youths who savagely attacked them with baseball bats and tree limbs.

Grimes escaped. Sandiford and Griffith were badly beaten. Fleeing his attackers, Griffith ran onto a highway where he was killed by a car.

Plenty of evidence

The police have admissions from three of the participants in the gang attack and a number of witnesses, including three whose existence the police have only reluctantly divulged.

Initially, Cuomo flatly refused to appoint a special prosecutor. The federal government has also approached the case gingerly and reluctantly.

On January 8 a Justice Department spokesperson conceded there had been top-level meetings to discuss entering the case. He disclosed that FBI agents have been

N.Y. racist gang attacks Latinos

NEW YORK — A coalition of Hispanic organizations demanded a special prosecutor in the case of Rafael Gonzalez and George Torres. The two youths were severely beaten by racists and then abused by cops.

The assault occurred in Ozone Park December 19, the night before the Howard Beach lynch attack. Ozone Park is adjacent to Howard Beach and covered by the same police precinct — the 106th "stun gun" precinct.

The youths were chased by a group of white men and beaten with what appeared to be a pipe. They identified several of their attackers, but only one was booked. Torres said one of the cops told him, "You spics come here and make us look bad — you are troublemakers."

questioning witnesses since the attack occurred.

However, he asserted, the suspects turned up so far are all juveniles and, if convicted as such, would do time only until they turn 21, leaving the federal agency reluctant to prosecute. He did not explain why it would be better for the criminals to go free now.

There is already ample basis for an effective prosecution. The New York police now admit to having at least three witnesses. These include two women who saw the racists beating Sandiford and Griffith near the highway where Griffith died.

Another located witness is the man who made the original phone call to the police, advising them that three "suspicious" Blacks were in the pizzeria.

One of the witnesses was located the day after the attack. But she was not asked to testify at the court hearing where the murder charges were dropped. This despite the DA's complaint that his hands were tied by a scarcity of witnesses, and despite the fact that the witness' account buttressed what Sandiford told the cops immediately after the attack.

According to the police account, the man who called them about the "suspicious" Blacks in the pizzeria left the scene immediately and didn't see the two cops who arrived promptly in response to his call.

According to Sandiford, the cops departed just as promptly, leaving him and his companions to face their attackers, who were arriving as the cops were leaving, and whose presence was plainly visible.

Witness No. 2

A second witness is a woman who called the 911 emergency number during the attacks and reported that a group of whites were beating two Blacks on the edge of the highway.

The same two cops who had been sent to the pizzeria were dispatched in response to her call. But, the cops said, by then the



Kwame Brathwaite

Cedric Sandiford (right), survivor of racist gang attack in Howard Beach, and lawyers for victims of the attack, Alton Maddox Jr. (left) and C. Vernon Mason, speak at news conference. Their exposure of cover-up by cops and city officials helped force appointment of special prosecutor in case.

area was deserted and they saw nothing.

There were other witnesses to the attack at the highway. But this was admitted by the cops only after a reporter discovered them during a house-to-house canvass of the area adjacent to the highway.

An account of what they saw was provided by Sam Howe Verhovek of the *New York Times*.

The principal witness told Verhovek that from their window she and her husband saw a Black man staggering down the street. Her husband turned away, assuming the man was drunk. Then the women saw four young whites race down the street, back the Black man against the fence, and beat him with what appeared to be a bat and sticks.

She screamed, "My God, they're going to kill him!" and ran to the phone and dialed 911. Meanwhile her mother went to the window, but by then the attack was apparently over and the assailants had fled. She told her daughter there was no need to call the police. The daughter, who says the 911 number rang at least five times, hung up.

The next morning, detectives canvassing the area came to the door, and they told their story.

The witnesses later told the reporter that the police investigators talked to them for "15 or 20 minutes" and that was the last they heard from them.

The DA's office interviewed them and an FBI agent came by only after the witnesses had talked to Verhovek.

Case of Willie Turks

Meanwhile, Charles Hynes, who will handle the state prosecution, attempted to give assurances that justice will now be done. He pointed to the case of Willie Turks, a Black transit worker who was beaten to death by a racist gang in New York City in 1982 in an attack very similar to the one in Howard Beach.

"Those defendants went to jail," Hynes emphasized.

Hynes was answered on this in advance by Tom Spence, an official of the Transport Workers Union, of which Turks was a member.

Spence participated in a January 9 union press conference in solidarity with the Howard Beach victims.

A statement against racist violence that was endorsed by dozens of union officials from several states was released at the press conference.

Spence told the media, "The goons that killed Willie — and there are plenty of witnesses — had their charges reduced. Less than five years after Willie was killed, they are walking the streets."

Unrelenting pressure is needed to ensure that the same thing doesn't happen with the killers of Michael Griffith.

Protest hits chokehold killing by cop

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

NEW YORK — Three hundred demonstrators marched on city hall in Middletown, New York, January 4 to demand justice for Jimmy Lee Bruce, Jr. A 20-year-old Black man, Bruce was murdered December 13 by a cop using a "chokehold."

The youth was arrested by two off-duty cops moonlighting as security guards at a movie theater in the nearby town of Wallkill, 70 miles north of New York City.

Bruce and several friends were kicked out of the theater for creating a "disturbance," according to the cops. Outside, one of the cops, Harold Simpson, used a chokehold on Bruce.

Bruce's friends described Simpson as continuing to apply the deadly neck hold even after Bruce had weakened and pleaded that he gave up. The hold cuts off the flow of blood to the brain, causing the victim to lose consciousness.

When the cops noticed that Bruce was "slumped over in the seat" of the patrol car, he was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Carrying signs that said, "A modern-day lynching" and "Police brutality must go," and shouting "Justice now!" the mostly Black demonstrators demanded that Mayor Daniel Johnson suspend Simpson and his partner, Gregory Warycka. The protest was organized by local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

By the end of the rally, Johnson announced that Simpson and Warycka would be suspended, with pay, until an Orange County grand jury is convened. Moments before the demonstration, according to the *Middletown Times Herald Record*,

Johnson told Bruce's parents and Black community leaders the cops would remain on restricted duty. No charges have been brought against them.

Orange County District Attorney Francis Phillips is conducting the investigation and says the grand jury will be called later this month. Phillips says he has found no evidence Bruce was murdered because he was

Black. "It was a coincidence that Jimmy Bruce was Black and the officer was white," he claimed.

The victim's mother, Maude Bruce, who is president of the Ellenville chapter of the NAACP, explained that if her son "had been white, it wouldn't have happened."

"I would not be satisfied until justice is done," she said at the rally.

Bumpurs killer goes on trial

NEW YORK — The trial of the cop who killed Eleanor Bumpurs in 1984 began here January 12. The cop, Stephen Sullivan, is charged with manslaughter in the shooting of the 66-year-old woman.

Sullivan and five other cops had come to her city housing project apartment because she had resisted eviction. She was four months behind on a monthly rental of \$98.65.

The cops claim Bumpurs was emotionally disturbed and that she lunged at one of them with a knife. Sullivan — part of a team trained to deal with the emotionally disturbed — responded with two bullets from a shotgun.

An initial indictment against Sullivan was dismissed and then reinstated by an appeals court. That court noted medical testimony that Sullivan's first shot had so shattered Bumpurs' hand that she could not have kept holding the knife. The court also pointed to testimony that at least five seconds elapsed before the second shot was fired.

Sullivan's lawyer, Bruce Smirly, asked that his client be charged by a judge, not a jury. A judge, he said, was more likely to

understand the shooting was justified. "The average lay person," Smirly observed, "might find it difficult to understand why the police were there in the first place, and why a shotgun was employed."

In the trial, Smirly tried to put the onus on Bumpurs' family, asserting lack of care.

He drew angry protest from spectators with the outrageous remark that the shooting might have been averted "if members of the deceased's family had complied with the dictates of a decent, civilized society."

Mary Bumpurs, daughter of the victim, responded that this was simply passing the buck. She also joined in a call for a special prosecutor, charging the present one was not doing an effective job. — H.R.

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What arms deal report does and doesn't say

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Even the doctored version of the Senate Intelligence Committee report that was leaked to the press and made public by NBC contains plenty of damaging information on the role of top government officials in the Iran-arms-contra crisis.

What's in the report

Based on secret testimony and documents from top government officials, the final draft concludes:

- There is "no information" that the president had advance knowledge of the clandestine arms sales to Iran.

However, there's quite a bit of circumstantial evidence that President Ronald Reagan did know, beginning with the first shipment in 1985, thereby contradicting his repeated denials.

- Probably \$8.5 million from one arms sale to Iran was diverted to the Nicaraguan contras.

- The State Department, which solicited \$10 million from the Sultan of Brunei for the contras, lost track of the money and has no idea how it was spent.

- At least some CIA officials knew about the proposal to take proceeds from the Iran arms sales and send them to the contras as early as March 1986.

George Cave, a former CIA agent who was part of the arms deal, had raised with CIA head William Casey sometime around then the idea of overcharging the Iranians and diverting the money to both the contras and the right-wing rebels in Afghanistan, who are trying to overthrow the Soviet-backed government.

Casey had testified under oath before four congressional committees that he didn't know about the transfer of funds until the White House told him in November. The initial committee draft described Casey's testimony as "less than candid."

- Vice Adm. John Poindexter, Reagan's former national security adviser, played a big role in diverting the money to the contras. The January 9 *New York Times* reported that sources on Capitol Hill explained that Poindexter had condoned the illegal action because "I felt sorry for the contras."

What's not in the report

Other interesting facts were deleted from the final product as a result of White House "editing."

The original version found that the White House and CIA violated several statutes and regulations.

This conclusion was removed from the final report at the urging of committee chair David Durenberger (R.-Minn.) on the grounds that "some senators had problems with it."

Deleted facts include:

- The president didn't comply with the executive order requiring him to inform the House and Senate of foreign spy operations "in a timely fashion."

- Details of a meeting between Vice-president George Bush and an Israeli government adviser in September 1985 to discuss the situation of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. Bush, who intends to run for president in 1988, has tried to keep his distance from the scandal.

- Facts about a letter from Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to President Reagan urging him not to falter on the arms sale to Iran deal.

'Inaccurate, incomplete, and sanitized'

The Senate Intelligence Committee had voted 7-6 on January 5 not to make the report public, over the objections of the White House and leading Republicans. Republican Sen. William Cohen joined the committee's six Democrats in voting not to release the report.

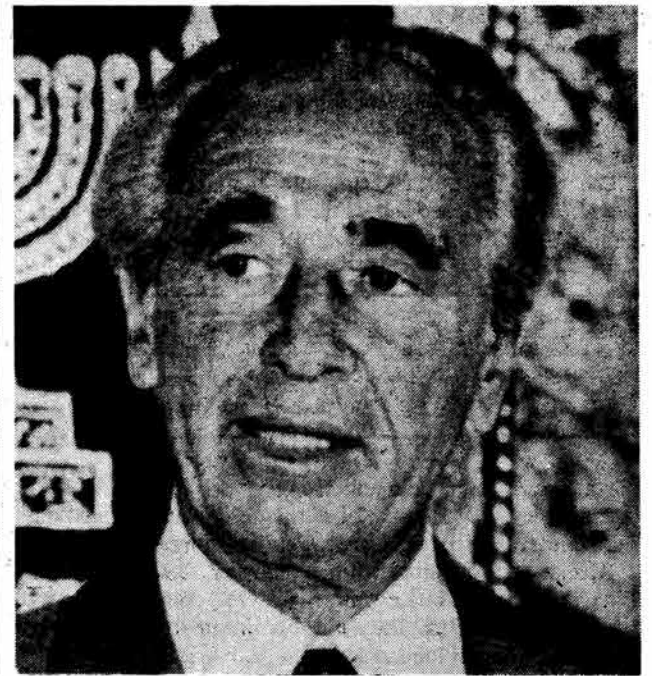
White House spokesperson Larry Speakes called it "the most complete compilation of available facts concerning the alleged diversion of funds to anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua."

Senate committee vice-chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy (D.-Vt.) described the report as "inaccurate and incomplete." He said it failed to answer either of his two key questions: Why were arms traded for hostages, and who in the administration knew about the diversion of funds to the contras?

And Robert Byrd (D.-W.Va.), Senate majority leader, said he objected to making



Secret Senate report on Iran-contra arms deal confirms illegal actions by U.S. officials. Deleted from final draft were sections on involvement of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (right) and Vice-president George Bush (center). Also left out was the conclusion that Reagan broke laws.



the panel's findings public because the report was "filled with gaps" and had been "sanitized" by the White House.

White House officials hoped that releasing the report would let out just enough truth to make a credible claim that there was no cover-up while slowing down and reversing the tide of investigations that have gotten going, which will no doubt uncover new and even more damaging facts.

"We think time is our worst enemy, and the quicker we get it released the better off we will be," a White House official said.

Congressional Democrats, on the other hand, sensed that the report was so incomplete that it would simply further undermine the credibility of the investigators as well as those being investigated.

Israeli government officials have objected strenuously to the spotlight on their role in the deal and have vowed to make the truth of their innocence known.

At the same time, there was a debate in the Senate over the scope and duration of the mandate of the 11-member Senate committee that will conduct the investigation of the crisis.

Democrats proposed a committee with open-ended funding and a sweeping mandate to look into not only the specific Iran arms sale and funds to the contras, but the "generation and use of any other money" for the contras as well. It would also be em-

powered to check out accusations that some of the money from the weapons deal went to candidates for public office who support funding for the contras.

The Democrats' resolution called for the committee to have its report out by October 30.

Sen. Robert Dole (R.-Kan.), Senate minority leader, said the date was too close to the 1988 presidential elections, which Dole plans to run in. He proposed that the committee complete its work by March.

In a compromise, the target date for publishing the Senate report was moved forward to August 1, but it can be extended to October 30 if necessary.

The committee proposal was passed on January 6 by a vote of 88 to 4.

The next day the House of Representatives voted 416-2 to create its own special committee to investigate the crisis.

'Skimming' funds of Afghan contras

Both committees will include in their jurisdiction the possible "skimming" of funds from a CIA-run Swiss bank account set up two years ago to finance the Afghan contras. The Saudi and U.S. governments were each supposed to deposit \$250 million in the account.

They will also look into the use of Swiss accounts and other covert funds to pay for advisers for the Afghan armed bands.

"The rapid increase in the amount of clandestine funds voted for Afghan rebels fighting against Soviet forces in their country would be 'reason enough' for the inquiry, according to one member of the House intelligence committee," reported the January 13 *Washington Post*.

From \$280 million in fiscal 1985, the CIA budget allocation for the Afghan contras grew to \$470 million in fiscal 1986 and \$630 million in the current fiscal year.

No quick end in sight

Meanwhile, the investigatory powers of special federal prosecutor Lawrence Walsh have been expanded even further than their original broad scope.

At a January 6 meeting between Walsh and Justice Department officials, Walsh was given jurisdiction to look into any Justice Department case involving sales of arms to Iran, support for the Nicaraguan contras, or both.

"Everything was made available to him," one federal official said. "Anything he wants, he gets. He was shown the store and told he can take anything off the shelf that he wants."

Walsh's investigation will not be concluded quickly. "Look for a year," said one government official. "Maybe you'd better look for two."

How CIA aids 'contras' in Costa Rica

Since the new year began, there's been a steady stream of revelations exposing the international scope — and corrupt nature — of the secret White House network of illegal aid to the contras who are waging war against Nicaragua.

A front-page story in the January 11 *New York Times* by James LeMoyné, based on interviews with U.S. and Costa Rican government officials and contra leaders, reported that CIA officers in Costa Rica had directly advised the mercenaries "on military organization and tactics, weapons deliveries and the formation of a new American-backed rebel group."

In addition, "senior CIA officers appear to have been closely involved with covert weapons shipments" to the contras that were carried out by U.S. flight crews based in El Salvador.

CIA officials have repeatedly denied that they've done anything illegal.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D.-Vt.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said that such activities are "a total violation" of congressional restrictions passed in 1986, which permitted the CIA to pass intelligence information to the contras but barred the spy agency from spending money on military operations or advice.

'Intelligence sharing'

Contra officials explained that CIA officers would meet them in Costa Rica, purportedly to share intelligence information. "They would ask the contras if they needed weapons, but told them not to make any di-

rect requests for deliveries," wrote LeMoyné.

Whatever weapons they mentioned would then be dropped to contra units by so-called private air crews. "You wouldn't believe how much you can do under the heading of 'intelligence sharing,'" said one mercenary leader.

This disclosure followed the sudden resignation in December of the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, Lewis Tambs. He made himself scarce after his role in overseeing construction of a secret airstrip in Costa Rica, used to ferry weapons to the Nicaraguan mercenaries, was reported in the *Times*.

Meanwhile, congressional investigators have found evidence that National Security Council aide Lieut. Col. Oliver North directly coordinated many arms shipments to the contras through Portugal.

Israel ships arms to contras

The Israeli government's repeated denials that it had anything to do with funding the contras were dealt a blow by the testimony of Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams. His assertions were contained in the secret Senate Intelligence Committee report on the Iran-contra deal. The report was leaked to NBC news.

According to the report, Abrams told the committee that the Israeli government sent a large shipment of Soviet-made arms to the contras by sea last September.

When asked about this after the NBC broadcast, Abrams claimed, "I have been

completely unaware of any Israeli arms shipments to the contras."

Congressional sources told the *Times* that Attorney General Edwin Meese said in his testimony before the Senate committee that North had met with an Israeli official about a year ago to discuss funneling aid to the contras.

Has anyone seen \$40 million?

A new question is shaping up in this governmental crisis: Whatever happened to all the money that North solicited from other countries for the contras?

According to the Senate report, last spring President Ronald Reagan asked the government of Saudi Arabia to cough up some dough for the contras. Supposedly, \$20-\$31 million was forthcoming.

But everybody in Washington claims they don't know where it went. The Saudi government has denied any involvement in the affair.

In addition, the \$10 million that was donated by the government of Brunei is also missing.

Combined with the \$10-\$30 million that was diverted to the contras from arms sales to Iran, at least \$40 million is now unaccounted for.

And on the last day of the year, still another investigation of the contra operation was announced by Rep. William Hughes (D.-N.J.), chair of the House Judiciary's subcommittee on crime.

His panel has begun checking into the charges that contras and their U.S. supporters are involved in drug trafficking and gunrunning.

— M.J.

'Please devote more space to successful methods'

BY MALIK MIAH

A reader sent us a copy of a letter he sent to Andrew Pulley in Detroit about a plant-gate column Pulley wrote at the conclusion of our fall subscription drive.

The reader wrote, "I see from the *Militant* that you personally got almost 8 percent of the Detroit

drive is a good time to pull this wisdom together.

"I would like to see the column 'Selling our press at the plant gate' devote less space to successful results and more space to successful methods."

He then gives an example of his technique: handing out old *Mili-*

itates, there are different techniques that can be used to sell the paper on the job, as well as outside plant gates. The purpose of this column is to pass on techniques and experiences of *Militant* supporters around the country in selling at plant gates.

The most important aim, of course, is to get working people to read the paper. This generally requires having political discussions, showing the potential reader what's in the paper, and explaining why it provides a point of view that can't be found in the daily papers.

Giving out old *Militants* to those not ready to buy a copy is one method. Some salespeople put up signs or pass out leaflets on the *Militant* so workers will know what the paper is about. Sometimes this latter method is the only

way to "talk" to workers rushing into work. A quick follow-up the next day or over the course of the week generally leads to a sale or two.

This points to the importance of organizing weekly sales. Workers at plant gates need to know the paper — need to see us each week. It may take a few weeks or longer before they even take the leaflet or old paper before buying a new issue.

Now that we are into the winter months, distributors in most cities must come up with different techniques to catch the attention of workers trying to get out of the cold. Where it used to be possible to talk to a few workers for a couple of minutes, or at a literature table, in warmer weather, it is more difficult when it's cold.

Our reader is correct to urge

supporters to send in columns on their "successful methods" of selling at the plant gates, as well as on their "successful results."

But I would add, we need more columns from readers who have had some problems selling and are discussing new ways to improve sales.

We need columns from distributors who are relaunching sales at plant gates after weeks of not doing so or doing so inconsistently.

What steps are being taken to turn around poor plant-gate sales? Are sales teams being organized? What's the response from workers at plants we used to sell at and only recently returned to? At new plant gates?

Please drop us an article. Columns only need to be approximately 60 to 70 lines.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

subscriptions. What can our strong salespeople teach the rest? I don't believe there are 1,001 good ways to sell papers or subscriptions. I think there are fundamentally just a few ways and that they can be taught. The end of the subscription

drive is a good time to pull this wisdom together. "I would like to see the column 'Selling our press at the plant gate' devote less space to successful results and more space to successful methods."

Well, as this supporter indi-

Subscription renewal drive off to promising start

BY MALIK MIAH

The *Militant's* business manager, Jim White, reports that since the beginning of November, 491 new *Militant* readers have extended their subscriptions. A total of 8,673 new subscribers to the socialist publication were signed up last fall.

Of the 491 who have renewed their subscriptions, 256 were first-time subscribers. More than half of the 491 took subscriptions for six months or longer.

At the time we launched the fall subscription campaign in September, our long-term subscription base, excluding subs bought by libraries and those paid for by our special prisoners' fund, was less than 1,000.

More than 100 readers who have renewed their subscriptions have received a free copy of *New Internationalist*. In addition, 17 readers have ordered a complete set of five *New Internationalists*.

The daily rate of renewal continues at 8 to 10. Most areas are only now beginning to plan out renewal activity. But our early results bode well for the campaign.

Diana Cantú, a garment worker in the San Francisco Bay Area, is heading up renewal activity among distributors in Oakland. She reports, "Eleven people have already agreed to renew their subscriptions."

I asked her in a telephone interview how they organized themselves.

"We've set up a renewal committee of three. The committee organizes all supporters of the paper in the area. We prepare 'renewal kits' with information in English and Spanish about the campaign that explains what to ask readers.

"On Saturday and twice during the week," she said, "teams of two call up *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* readers whose subscriptions expire soon. We first ask if they are receiving the paper. If not, we agree to check into it. Then we ask what they think of the articles. That is, our aim is to have a political discussion about the paper before asking about extending the subscription. So far, all of our discussions have been good."

Cantú also said "runners" are being organized to pick up the money after some-

one agrees to renew. These supporters take along Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets as well as leaflets on *Militant* Labor forums or other political events in the area such as antiwar and anti-apartheid meetings.

One recent subscriber, she reports, "not only renewed but bought a copy of the Political Rights Defense Fund booklet on the Socialist Workers Party court decision against the FBI, became a PRDF sponsor, and gave a \$15 donation."

I asked about reaching coworkers on the job who bought subscriptions.

"The approach is no different," she said. "Our renewal teams call these readers, too. This complements discussions these new readers may have with *Militant* and *PM* supporters on the job."



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Organized team effort to win subscription renewals is consolidating gains of last fall's successful subscription drive.

Robert Kopec joins staff of 'Militant' bureau in Nicaragua

Robert Kopec has joined the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* bureau in Managua, Nicaragua.

Kopec was born in the United States and grew up in Colombia.

From September 1980 to April 1985, he was a staff writer for *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Militant's* Spanish-language sister publication.

After leaving the *PM* staff, Kopec worked in a chemical plant in Houston,

Texas. He was a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 4-227.

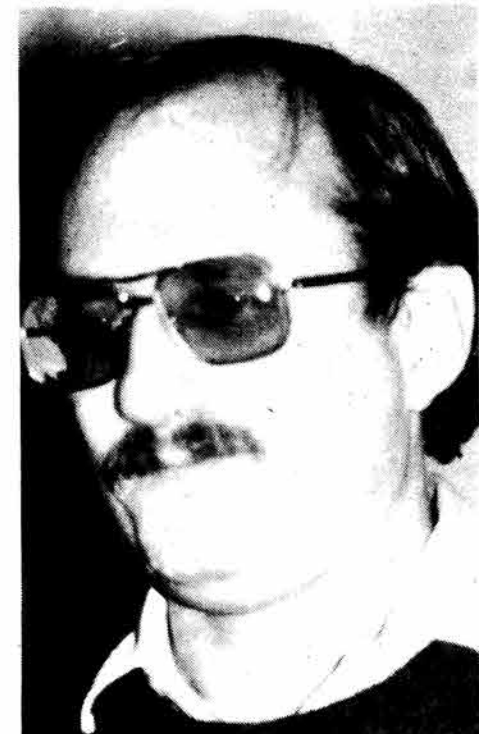
Kopec is a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

He is replacing Ruth Nebbia in Managua. Nebbia has returned to the United States where she will build the socialist movement and be part of the fight to stop the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua.

Kopec joins Harvey McArthur and Cindy Jaquith, the other two *Militant* staff members currently stationed in Nicaragua.

McArthur, previously a garment worker in Miami, came on the bureau staff in January 1986.

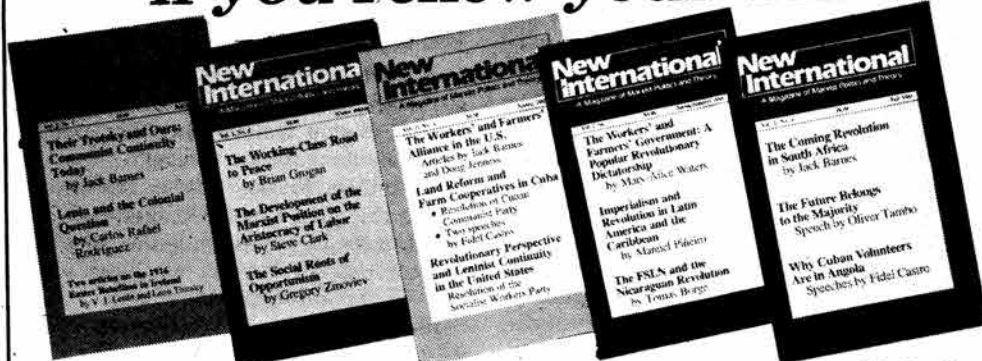
Jaquith, a former editor of the *Militant*, has headed up the Managua bureau since August 1985.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Robert Kopec

Special offer for 'New Internationalist' if you renew your 'Militant' subscription



If you renew your *Militant* subscription today, you'll receive free an issue of *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, published in New York.

Or for only \$10 you can receive all of the five issues of *New Internationalist* that have appeared — a big saving.

The following is a partial listing of the contents of the issues:

- Vol. 1, No. 1 — "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today" by Jack Barnes. "Lenin and the Colonial Question" by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez.

- Vol. 1, No. 2 — "The Working-Class Road to Peace" by Brian Grogan. "The Development of the Marxist

Position on the Aristocracy of Labor" by Steve Clark.

- Vol. 1, No. 3 — "The Workers' and Farmers' Government: A Popular Revolutionary Dictatorship" by Mary-Alice Waters. "The FSLN and the Nicaraguan Revolution" by Tomás Borge.

- Vol. 2, No. 1 — "The Workers' and Farmers' Alliance in the U.S.," articles by Jack Barnes and Doug Jennings. "Land Reform and Cooperatives in Cuba."

- Vol. 2, No. 2 — "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Jack Barnes. "The Future Belongs to the Majority," Speech by Oliver Tambo. "Cuba's Internationalist Volunteers in Angola," Speech by Fidel Castro.

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ANC leader discusses anti-apartheid fight in South Africa

The following is an interview with James Stuart, a National Executive Committee member of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. It was obtained by Sam Manuel in Luanda, Angola, in November.

Question. What is your assessment of the struggle against apartheid in the southern African region today?

Answer. The struggle for social justice in South Africa under the leadership of the African National Congress has reached a very important stage. We have successfully mobilized the masses of our people against the criminal system of apartheid.

The workers in particular are playing a central role, along with the youth.

We are reaching a stage today where the regime is facing the deepest crisis ever, a crisis from which it cannot emerge.

As you know, on June 12 [1986] Pretoria imposed a nationwide state of emergency. It sought through such measures to restore what it called a state of normalcy in the country. It intended to do so first of all by detaining between something like 20,000 and 25,000 members, cadres, and militants of the broad democratic movement and by imposing a news blackout — in other words preventing the world from knowing the atrocities committed against our people.

It has not succeeded. Since the state of emergency was imposed in June, through their actions, through strikes, and through armed actions, the people have proved that they will not be cowed by the violence of the state.

In a regional context the regime has stepped up its policies of destabilization and aggression not only against the Frontline States [Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Botswana], but against all the people of the region.

Q. How successful has the campaign to unban the ANC been?

A. The ANC is still an illegal organization in South Africa. It is illegal to be a member of the ANC.

But what has happened over the last decade or so is that our people have themselves imposed their own legality on the ANC. You find the ANC all over the place — in songs, in slogans, in its colors and its flag. People even speak of themselves as members of the ANC.

Q. What kind of solidarity do you get from Angola?

A. First of all, I must say that the whole continent remains unfree until apartheid has been removed in South Africa. Because of historic reasons and the geographic proximity of the Frontline States and because they are direct victims of the apartheid system, they have for many years acted as a group. All of these countries give us political support, and they also give us within their own limits material support.

Angola stands as a spearhead of the African revolution, not only because of the progressive nature of its policies internally, but also because of its support for the liberation of South Africa and Namibia. It has become the primary victim of South Africa's policy of aggression and destabilization. Angola, through the sacrifice and struggle of its people, has proved to the world that it is one of the most reliable rear bases and allies of the people of Namibia and South Africa. In Angola, we South African fighters feel at home.

Q. Botha and the Reagan administration charge that the ANC is dominated by communists. What kind of future do you see for South Africa?

A. I would like to make two points in response to your question. The first is that South Africa is a fairly developed country with a very large working class. If there are communists in South Africa and they form themselves into a communist party and they fight the regime, what is wrong with

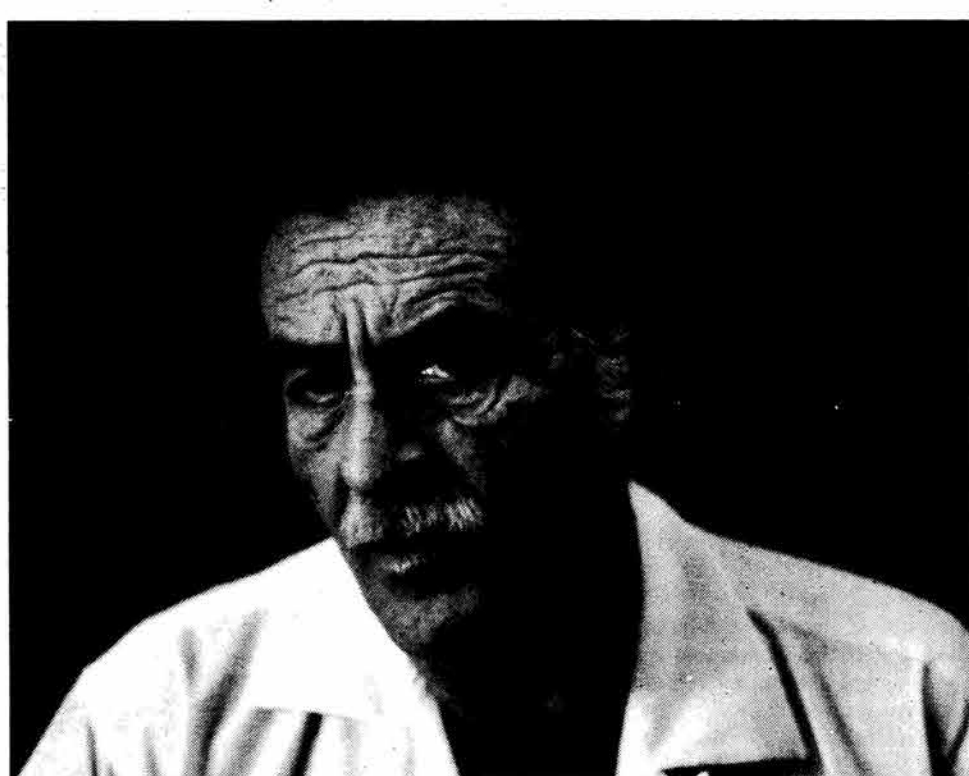
that? We certainly see nothing wrong with it.

Members of the Communist Party of South Africa have proved over many, many years that they are some of the most resolute fighters against apartheid. Those who have also been members of the ANC have proved themselves to be some of the most loyal and disciplined members.

As to the type of South Africa we would like to see emerge in our country: We would like to see in South Africa a multi-party system in which every South African would be free to stand for election or to elect those whom he wants to represent him in organs of government. Of course, no political party or organization that propagates and practices racism or aggression against neighboring states would be allowed to exist in the country. We would have to impose an absolute ban on such a party.

As far as the economy is concerned, our belief is that the economy should serve the interests of the people. We believe that at this stage, a mixed economy would best serve the people's needs. In other words, we would take over what is already nationalized in the state. Those companies and sectors of industry that were directly involved in the war against our own people and the people of the region we would obviously have to nationalize. But we are not going to adopt a general policy of nationalization of the economy.

We would impose certain laws that would regulate and govern wages and conditions of work, that would govern the role



Militant/Sam Manuel

James Stuart, National Executive Committee member of African National Congress.

and the place of the trade unions in industry and that would tax these companies.

Q. The recent bill passed by the U.S. Congress imposing some sanctions on South Africa also contained some provisions that are aimed against the ANC. Could you comment on them?

A. Yes. This is part of an offensive against the ANC. The bill calls upon the ANC, for example, to end the armed struggle and to sever its links with the South African Communist Party. It goes further to demand that the Frontline States expel the ANC.

So while the people of the U.S. have scored a victory in the face of very bitter resistance by the Reagan administration to

impose sanctions on South Africa, they must be on the alert all the time. They must not allow the Reagan administration to realize its objectives in so far as the ANC is concerned. Our first line of defense in the U.S. is among the progressive forces there.

We know that the U.S. intends to use vast sums of money, pressuring our friends in the region in order to immobilize the ANC. They are not going to do that here in Angola. They will use other forms of pressure. This is an effort to end the support of these countries for our struggle. I have no doubt that Africa will reject and resist this pressure and will not stop their support for our struggle, for the simple reason that it is their struggle as well as ours. It is a common struggle, a struggle of the entire African people.

Pathfinder, 'Militant' in London and Reykjavik

BY MALIK MIAH

LONDON. — After entering the cinema to see *Rosa*, a brief biographical film sketch of the turn-of-the-century German revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg, I noticed a display over the popcorn and candy counter: four books on or about Luxemburg. Three of the books are published by Pathfinder Press — *Rosa Luxemburg Speaks*, *Reform or Revolution*, and *The German Revolution and the Debate on Soviet Power*.

I was later told by Pete Clifford of Pathfinder-London that soon after the movie premiered in late August, Pathfinder asked the management of theaters showing the film if they could put up a display placard and take a consignment of books.

Eager to make a little extra money, the theater owners all agreed.

So far, Clifford reported, more than 40 *Reform or Revolution* and other Luxemburg books have been sold. In fact, Pathfinder's biggest sellers over the fall are the books by Luxemburg and on Germany — 525 copies of the *German Revolution* leads the list.

"We have the only books by the people themselves in the film," Clifford explained. "It's why the interest and sales."

In addition to distributing Pathfinder Press books in Britain, Ireland, Europe, and Africa, Pathfinder-London also promotes and circulates the *Militant*, *New International* (a magazine of Marxist politics and theory), and the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Clifford told me that there are over 125 *Militant* and *PM* subscribers in Britain and Ireland.

Many of these subscribers are former readers of *Intercontinental Press*, which merged with the *Militant* and *New International* last summer. Their subscriptions to *IP* were transferred to the *Militant* and *New International*. A few of these *IP* subscribers have renewed their *Militant* subscriptions, Clifford explained. But many haven't.

The big challenge, he said, is to convince these former *IP* readers and others of the value of getting the *Militant*. He pointed to the uniqueness of the *Militant*'s bureau in Nicaragua and the value of read-

ing about the class struggle in the United States.

Currently Pathfinder places the *Militant* in three bookstores including Collets in London, one of the largest bookstores in the country.

REYKJAVIK, Iceland. — This city became widely known to people in the United States and the world last fall when President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev held a summit here. At the time, little was said about the problems or views of working people on this island-nation near the Arctic Circle.

On my way back from London I stopped here a couple of days to meet with members of the Militant Socialist Organization.

They told me that the most important event during the summit — the one that wasn't reported by the international media — was a protest of 500 people against Washington's dirty war in Central America.

Although there is little or no unemployment, and the trade unions have suffered some recent setbacks, a layer of people are interested in radical ideas. Militant Socialist Organization members have sold Pathfinder Press books and some *Militants*. (English is read as a second or third language by a significant section of the population.)

Among those who have bought the *Militant* are activists in the Cuba-Iceland Friendship Society and the El Salvador Solidarity Committee.

Student conference to map plans for spring anti-apartheid actions

Student representatives from much of the northeastern United States will meet in New York City February 7-8 to discuss and map out plans for anti-apartheid protest actions this spring.

A number of anti-apartheid and regional student organizations have initiated the conference, including the American Committee on Africa, the D.C. Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, and the Columbia Coalition for a Free Southern Africa. These groups played a key role in building the October 10 and 11, 1986, protests that were held in at least a dozen cities and on more than 50 campuses to demand an end to U.S. ties to the apartheid regime.

A statement announcing the conference stressed that while the apartheid authorities in Pretoria continue to kill and imprison those fighting for freedom in South Africa, "companies such as IBM, GM, and Coca-Cola have announced phony 'disinvestments' in an effort to deflect the anti-apartheid movement. As U.S. student protests continue, campus administrations are taking a harsh line against demonstrators by imposing tough disciplinary penalties."

"In this context," the statement went on,

"there is a pressing need for student activists to share their experiences and discuss ideas for action as we prepare for a national sanctions campaign and local divestment battles in the spring."

The organizers of the conference have urged student representatives to bring their proposals for action to the conference. Among the proposals that have already been made is one by the American Committee on Africa for a series of actions from March 21 to April 6, with Saturday, April 4, designated as a national day of protest for sanctions and divestment.

Topics that will be discussed include how to pursue the campaign for corporate divestment from South Africa and how to counter the disciplinary measures that have been taken against anti-apartheid protesters on many campuses.

The conference will be held at Columbia University's Earl Hall, with registration beginning at 7:00 p.m. on February 6. For further information, contact: Columbia Coalition for a Free Southern Africa, Earl Hall, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10025; or American Committee on Africa, 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038, phone: (212) 962-1210.

Don Rojas kicks off U.S. speaking tour

Caribbean fighter speaks to hundreds in Boston

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Speaking on behalf of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, Don Rojas brought that body's message of unity and solidarity against the U.S. war drive to hundreds of activists here. He was on the first leg of a five-city tour, which started here January 10-12.

Rojas represents Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement on a 10-party coordinating committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations, which was founded in 1984. He was Bishop's press secretary at the time of the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government in October 1983.

The consolidation of the 32 organizations representing English, Spanish, French, and Dutch-speaking peoples of the region, Rojas told his audiences, is "unprecedented in the history of our peoples." It is a step towards overcoming the "artificial barriers that have separated us" and strengthens the "new trend of unity, solidarity, and cooperation" emerging among anti-imperialist fighters in the region, he said.

More than 100 Haitians, overwhelmingly young, turned out to hear Rojas January 10 at a meeting sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with Haiti.

A dozen youths asked questions about building a revolutionary party and the lessons of the Grenada revolution.

If the U.S. "confuses Nicaragua with Grenada," Rojas told the Haitians to a roar of approval, "they will be in for a very big surprise. Nicaragua is not Grenada."

More than \$350 worth of revolutionary literature, the bulk of it by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Fidel Castro, was sold at the meeting from a table set up by Pathfinder Bookstore.

On January 11 Rojas addressed a citywide meeting at Roxbury Community College, sponsored by the local tour committee and chaired by former Berkeley, California, mayor and World Peace Council member Gus Newport.

Rojas, coming from his residence in Cuba, will provide "the truth, which you can't get in the Western media," Newport said in introducing the Caribbean fighter.

A standing ovation greeted Rojas' plea for increased unity, solidarity, and action in defense of "sovereignty and self-determination" in Central America and the Caribbean.

A fund pitch by Boston Nicaragua solidarity movement leader Beverly Truemann raised over \$200.

Earlier in the weekend, Rojas met with Grenada Friendship Society activists and with leaders of Boston's Central America solidarity movement. This two-hour meeting was chaired by Peace and Solidarity

Alliance leader Michael Kozu.

Rojas addressed students and a meeting sponsored by the Black Studies Department and Afro-American Student Society at Northeastern University on January 12.

He was interviewed on Spanish and Creole radio programs and by the *Bay State Banner*, a newsweekly oriented to the city's Black community.

Broad sponsorship for Rojas meetings

BY MALIK MIAH

Broadly sponsored meetings for Caribbean-born revolutionary Don Rojas are being held in San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York this month.

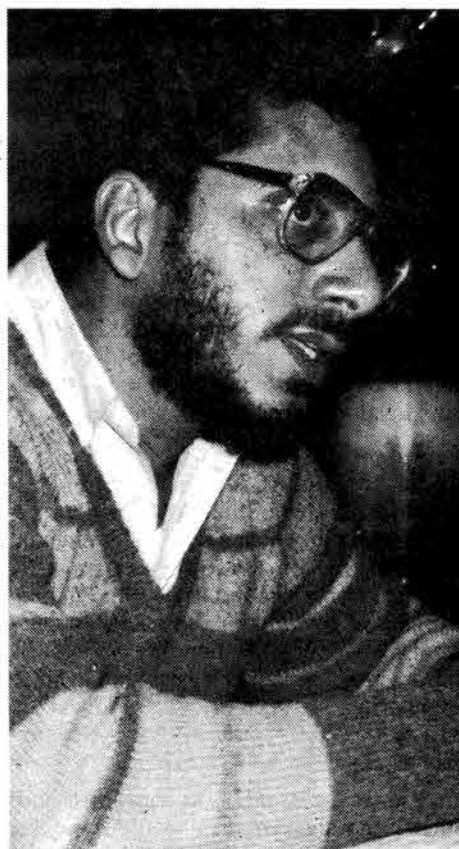
Rojas will be speaking in the San Francisco Bay Area January 16-17. (See calendar on page 12 for details of his engagements in the four cities.)

On January 19 he will speak in Chicago on the lessons of the Grenada revolution and its aftermath. The meeting is sponsored by the Chicago chapter of the Black United Front.

Rojas will be in Washington, D.C., January 21-22. On January 21 he will speak at a Capitol Hill press conference along with congressmen Mervyn Dymally and Ronald Dellums of California. Dymally is chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The next day Rojas will be the featured speaker at a citywide meeting at Howard University's School of Business Auditorium.

This event, entitled "Beyond Grenada: the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace," is sponsored by numerous organizations and prominent individuals. Among them: congressmen Walter Fauntroy and Dellums; National Alliance of Third World Jour-



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Don Rojas

nalists; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Nicaragua Solidarity Network; SANE; and TransAfrica D.C. Support Committee.

The list also includes: National Rainbow Coalition Inc.; Washington Office on Africa; U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society; African National Congress; Institute for Policy Studies; Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Fred Soloway of Washington Area Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean; and Peace and Solidarity Alliance.

Charging abuse of authority, Soviet gov't disciplines KGB officials

BY DOUG JENNESS

In an unprecedented admission, the Soviet government has publicly acknowledged recent disciplinary action taken against officials of the KGB, the Soviet Union's secret police agency.

The disclosure of KGB abuses appeared in a statement from the agency's top official, Viktor Chebrikov, published on the front page of the January 8 *Pravda*, the Communist Party's daily newspaper. The headline over the statement was, "Beyond the Limit."

Chebrikov stated that A. Dichenko, head of the KGB in the Voroshilovgrad region of the Ukraine, had been expelled from the agency for his involvement in arresting a reporter for *Sovetsky Shktyor* (*Soviet Miner*). The journalist, Viktor Berkhin, had been writing articles exposing

corruption in judicial bodies in the coal mining region.

Chebrikov said KGB officials in the Ukraine had also been "instructed to impose disciplinary punishment" against other officers of the agency who "committed unlawful actions."

Chebrikov's statement followed a January 4 article in *Pravda* reporting on journalist Berkhin's case. That article had not mentioned the KGB's role.

According to *Pravda*, Berkhin was arrested last July on trumped-up charges of "hooliganism." The only evidence of misconduct the KGB agents produced was that, several years before, Berkhin had been found in a hotel room dressed only in a T-shirt. This charge was "ridiculous," *Pravda* stated.

Held for 14 days

Berkhin's apartment was searched for five hours. He was then interrogated through the night and held for 14 days.

Pravda said the investigators tried to get Berkhin to finger a local *Pravda* correspondent who had written a critical article in 1985 about abuses of government officials in the region.

"The events, from a legal standpoint, are unbelievable," *Pravda* wrote. "But it was not judicial carelessness that drove the responsible parties — these were thoroughly preplanned actions."

The article added that the arrest was part of a pattern of illegal behavior, including the suppression of criticism, by authorities in the Voroshilovgrad region.

Pravda first reported the incident in November when the national prosecutor's office reviewed Berkhin's case and found the charges against him groundless.

Pravda also reported that the Voroshilovgrad prosecutor and his assistant had been relieved of their duties as a result.

The KGB agents have long conducted their investigations and ruthless activities pretty much as they have seen fit and well beyond the reach of public criticism.

Washington, D.C., Councilwoman Hilda Mason will open the meeting and introduce Rojas.

The Congressional Black Caucus is also initiating a meeting for Rojas.

The New York tour for Rojas has also won broad support. A citywide public meeting is set for January 24 at Columbia University's St. Paul's Chapel.

This meeting has been called by groups associated with the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America in the New York area, and endorsed by many other organizations.

Sponsors are: Socialist Bloc (Dominican Republic); Casa de las Americas; Committee Against Repression in Haiti; Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front (El Salvador); Grenada Foundation; Communist Party of the Dominican Republic; and Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

The initial list of endorsers includes: Black American Law Students Association, New York University; Columbia Students in Solidarity with Nicaragua; Coordinadora Salvadoreña; *Frontline*; Ghanaian Solidarity Committee; *Haiti Progrès*; Harlem Fightback; June 13th Collective of Guyana; National Black United Front, New York chapter; National Alliance of Third World Journalists; National Conference of Black Lawyers; New York 8+; and New Panamanian People's Alternative.

The list also includes: Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Socialist Workers Party; Sunshine Collective; Taller de Mujeres en Las Americas; Unity in Action Network; U.S. Peace Council; Venceremos Brigade; Abe Weisburd, Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos; and Young Socialist Alliance.

Rojas will also speak at the Park Slope Methodist Church in Brooklyn on January 27.

Among the Soviet people, the powerful police agency is one of the most feared and hated institutions in the country. It has been the principal instrument in repressing dissidents.

Further step

This makes the public acknowledgement of wrongdoing by the KGB particularly noteworthy. The admission marks a further step in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign to crack down on corruption in the government bureaucracy, which has led to the removal of many officials.

Since Gorbachev assumed the post of general secretary of the Communist Party in March 1985, he has promoted a series of reforms to restructure the economy. This has been accompanied by what the Soviet leader calls *glasnost*, or openness.

The Soviet newspapers and television have begun reporting on formerly taboo subjects, including battlefield aspects of the war in Afghanistan and protests such as the recent demonstrations in the southern republic of Kazakhstan.

Prison doors have been opened for many political oppositionists. Most notable was the ending last month of Andrei Sakharov's and Yelena Bonner's forced exile in Gorky. Sakharov has been permitted to publicly voice his criticisms of government policy and express his demands for an end to the Afghanistan war and freedom for political prisoners.

More leeway

More leeway has also been permitted to writers and artists. The most recent example was the formation of a new commission to honor Boris Pasternak, whose novel *Doctor Zhivago* has been banned in the Soviet Union since it first appeared in 1957 in Italy. The commission announced that it plans to publish the work within a year.

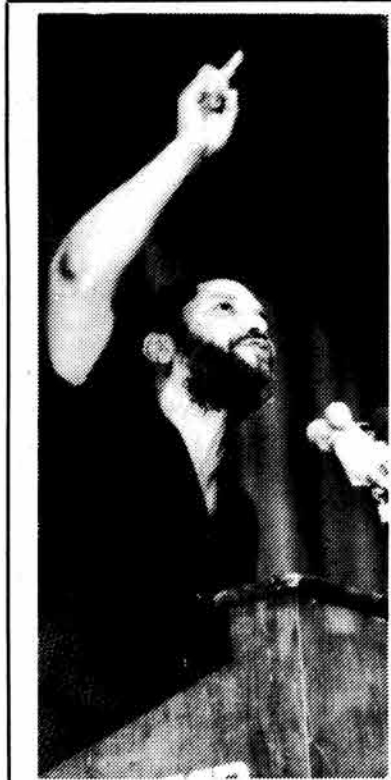
Official recognition in the Soviet Union of Pasternak, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1958 and died in 1960, has long been a demand of writers in his homeland.

Maurice Bishop Speaks

A collection of more than 20 major interviews with and speeches by the slain leader of the Grenada revolution and New Jewel Movement, including his June 1983 speech in New York City.

Contents also include a major new introduction covering the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the devastating blow dealt to the Grenada revolution by the murder of Prime Minister Bishop and other outstanding leaders of the New Jewel Movement; the October 20 statement by the Cuban government on the killing of Bishop and the other leaders; and the October 25-26 statement by Cuban President Fidel Castro on the U.S. invasion and Cuba's role in Grenada.

400 pp., \$7.95, published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for shipping.





Militant/Mohammed Oliver
Working people in Dominican Republic protest soaring food prices. Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative offered them no relief.

U.S. aid package in Caribbean: dead end for region in crisis

The following is the second part of an interview with Don Rojas, who represents Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) on the 10-party coordinating committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Rojas, who lives in Havana, is currently conducting a five-city speaking tour in the United States.

Rojas, a Caribbean-born journalist, was press secretary to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada at the time of the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government and subsequent U.S. invasion of the island in October 1983.

The interview was conducted in New York City by Steve Clark.

Clark: What have been the results of Washington's highly touted Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), launched three years ago?

Rojas: The CBI is another instrument of imperialist domination of our region.

The Caribbean Basin is currently in the grip of a serious social and economic crisis. It is a crisis of neocolonialism. It is a product of the economic dependency and underdevelopment that all Caribbean and Central American countries have inherited from their current or former status as Spanish, British, French, Dutch, or U.S. colonies.

The solutions to the crisis offered by imperialism and by the neocolonial regimes in the region simply deepen dependency and underdevelopment. The CBI is the latest of several ill-fated imperialist "development" schemes for our region.

Right after World War II, Washington announced Operation Bootstrap. It was supposed to transform the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico into a model of capitalism for the entire Caribbean and Latin America. But 40 years later, nearly one-quarter of the island's population is jobless, by the U.S. government's own understated figures.

Then, some quarter century ago Washington came up with the Alliance for Progress. It was President John F. Kennedy's liberal imperialist alternative for Latin America to the Cuban revolution. That, too, has been a miserable failure.

In fact, the one great "success" of the Alliance for Progress is the staggering foreign debt that many Latin American countries now owe to big imperialist banks and financial institutions.

Then, in 1980, largely in response to the Grenada revolution, Washington inten-

sified its destabilization of the government of Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley. In an election marked by rightist violence and fraud, a new government led by Edward Seaga came out on top.

The U.S. rulers promised that, with their help, Seaga's more subservient government would bring an economic miracle. Despite the largest annual U.S. aid packages to any Caribbean island, however, the social and economic conditions of the Jamaican people have grown worse.

What is Caribbean Basin Initiative

Clark: But tell us more about the CBI itself.

Rojas: The CBI was announced by Washington in 1982 and launched the following year. It was trumpeted as an alternative to the paths chosen by Grenada and Nicaragua. Both of these revolutionary governments were excluded from the CBI on political grounds. The U.S. trade and aid embargo of socialist Cuba also remained intact.

The CBI has three components.

First, the plan offered some \$350 million the first year. Of that, some 70 percent was set aside to help prop up the U.S.-backed regimes in El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Haiti.

By last year, the total aid figure had risen to \$1.1 billion a year — still nothing more than a pittance, divided inequitably among the 22 participating countries. The small islands of the eastern Caribbean get no more than a few million dollars each.

The CBI's other two components supposedly promote trade and U.S. investment. For example, it was supposed to allow duty-free imports into the United States of a wide variety of Caribbean products — both manufactured goods and agricultural commodities such as sugar.

But this has run head on into the rising tide of protectionism in the United States. The U.S. market is becoming more and more closed rather than more and more open to imports from other countries.

CBI's results? Imports from the Caribbean Basin into the United States fell by 22 percent in 1985 and by another 13 percent during the first half of 1986!

And Congress is now discussing steps to slam the door even tighter on textile imports. It has also sharply reduced quotas on sugar imports — with devastating consequences for the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Guatemala, Trinidad, and other Caribbean Basin countries.

CBI's investment component was supposed to open up the region to a flood of

U.S. capital, with a resulting expansion of jobs. But that has not materialized, either.

Why? Because what U.S. businessman in his right mind is going to open up a factory in the Caribbean to produce shoes or textile products if the U.S. export market is being squeezed shut?

All in all, the CBI is such an unmitigated disaster that even some of the most right-wing, proimperialist politicians in the region — such as Edward Seaga in Jamaica and Eugenia Charles of Dominica — have displayed the temerity in public to criticize it and demand more serious action by Washington.

Is there an alternative?

Clark: What then are the alternatives to CBI?

Rojas: The only workable alternative is the road to development that was taken by the Grenada revolution. The road that is still being taken in Nicaragua today.

That development path starts from the needs of the majority of working people, not a handful of capitalists — either foreign or domestic. It is an anti-imperialist path that attempts to lessen dependency on U.S. and other foreign capital.

This is not an easy road. It is fraught with difficulties, as we learned during the Grenada revolution. Imperialism will try to reverse it by terror, as the Nicaraguan comrades can testify.

But this is the only way out of the crisis. And it is a contribution in practice to the creation of what the Nonaligned Movement has advocated for many years — a new international economic order. In other words, the restructuring of international economic relations between the developed and underdeveloped countries to ensure a more just distribution of the world's resources and wealth.

Grenada's achievements

Clark: What did the Grenada revolution achieve along these lines?

Rojas: We registered some impressive gains. Despite the economic crisis that was hitting the Caribbean hard in the early 1980s, Grenada had the highest growth rate in the region — about 5 percent in 1982. Unemployment had been reduced from nearly 50 percent before the revolution to about 12 percent in 1983.

Medical care and education were provided for all citizens either free or at minimal cost. Roads, communication, water pipelines, and public transport were all improved.

Agricultural production increased. And we built the island's first agroindustries to process and market some of these commodities ourselves. We were upgrading the tourist industry. The construction of the new international airport would have marked an advance on both these fronts.

Moreover, union membership soared. Farmers, women, and young people formed their own mass organizations. And working people began to participate in shaping government priorities and policies.

Since late 1983, the U.S.-imposed government has reversed much of this progress. Joblessness has shot back up to more than a third of the work force. The agroindustries have been closed, and very little new industry has gotten off the ground. Economic growth has slowed to a snail's pace.

So, people throughout the Caribbean need to take another look at the Grenada

revolution as a workable model for development. You don't have to be a communist or a Marxist-Leninist. Simply take an honest look at what has happened in Grenada and the rest of the Caribbean since the end of 1983 and you will see that none of the economic strategies of the current governments in the region can solve this crisis.

Call it what you will — you can use different labels — but the common task of those of us in the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America is the struggle against poverty, against backwardness, against underdevelopment. It is a struggle for our dignity, a struggle for our independence from imperialist ex-



Even Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who came to office with U.S. backing, has criticized Washington's stinginess.

ploitation and oppression.

The Grenada revolution showed that it is possible to be victorious in that struggle. Unfortunately, the revolution was destroyed from within by the actions of a counterrevolutionary group led by Bernard Coard.

But the Grenada revolution did not collapse because of the political, social, and economic course that it had taken. Its collapse was not inevitable, and neither is it eternal.

A successful U.S. invasion of Grenada was not inevitable. Before the Coard faction had murdered Maurice Bishop and terrorized the population in October 1983, the Grenadian people were ready, arms in hand, to defend the revolutionary government. But Coard handed Grenada to Washington on a silver platter.

The Grenada revolution is a living example to be studied and to be followed. It is as relevant for today and tomorrow as it was for 1979 to 1983. The legacy of the revolution and the ideas of Maurice Bishop live on in the hearts and minds of tens of thousands of people in our region.

We in the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement are fighting to act on the basis of that legacy in Grenada. And that example is embodied in the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, as well.

HEAR

DON ROJAS

Press secretary to murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop
Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America

7:30pm
Saturday
January 24

Columbia University

St. Paul's Chapel

(Enter campus at 116th and Broadway entrance)

Don Rojas Tour Committee, PO Box 1859, New York, New York 10009 (212) 713-5139

Nicaragua makes big strides in health care

But U.S. war limits revolution's gains

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — One of the first things Nicaragua's revolutionary government did when it took power in 1979 was to begin building a public health-care system.

Nicaraguan Minister of Health Dora María Téllez described the gains in health care at a news conference held here late last year. She also described new health problems introduced by the U.S.-backed mercenary war.

Before the overthrow of the Somoza tyranny, health care was minimal for Nicaraguan workers and peasants. "You had what was called 'social security,'" Téllez explained, "which was mostly for the [government] bureaucracy and some city workers. They received privileged attention. Health care for the rest of the population consisted of hospitals that were ancient, that were falling apart, where there was no real attention given," she pointed out.

Téllez said there were "private practices that served part of the middle class." The rich went abroad for their health care, to cities such as Miami.

"Health coverage was restricted exclusively to the main cities of the country," Téllez said.

She explained why the government had a

malaria program then. It was simply "because of the costs incurred by the owners of the big processing plants and coffee and cotton plantations when malaria hit the workplace," she explained.

"What has been achieved in seven years of revolution? First, you'll find health workers wherever you want in this country," said Téllez.

More than 150 health centers have been built by the revolutionary government, as well as five hospitals. A number of health programs have been developed, such as nationwide campaigns to combat tuberculosis and malaria and to develop maternity and infant-care services, as well as general community health programs.

"In seven years we have had one of the most important reductions of infant mortality in the world," said Téllez, "from 135 infant mortalities for every 1,000 births to 70 infant mortalities for every 1,000 births." Compared to other Latin American countries, the advances made in Nicaragua are significant. "The infant mortality rate of Bolivia will make your skin crawl," Téllez said. "Out of every 1,000 births, more than 200 children die."

Nicaragua has also increased its number of doctors five-fold and established nursing



Militant/Bill Gretter

Nicaragua's minister of health, Dora María Téllez.

schools throughout the country.

Health care has not only been extended throughout the country and its quality vastly improved. For the most part, treatment in public hospitals and clinics is absolutely free. Patients pay a small amount for prescriptions.

The policy of other Latin American governments, except Cuba, is to cut back on public health expenditures today. "The tendency is toward reprivatization in health services," Téllez explained.

On a recent tour of public and private hospitals in the United States, Téllez said

she saw how reprivatization is also taking place there. "In the U.S. the budget for state hospitals has been drastically reduced," she said. "What determines if a hospital remains open or not? The demand and profitability of the hospital as an enterprise."

Effects of war

Today, the U.S.-organized war is Nicaragua's biggest health problem. Among the main targets of the *contras* are health centers and health-care workers. The constant need to rebuild what the *contras* destroy has slowed down new construction and progress in health programs.

In five years nearly 17,000 people — civilians, Nicaraguan soldiers, and *contras* — have been killed in the war. This is more than all the people who have died from common illnesses in Nicaraguan hospitals in the last four years.

"Health begins with life," Téllez explained, "and life is threatened so long as there is a government in the United States that finances, organizes, promotes, supplies, trains, and leads the mercenary forces."

"In Nicaragua people had common illnesses that you find in any underdeveloped Latin American country. What effects are introduced by the war? A land mine blows up a truck, kills some people, and wounds others. [You have] battles, ambushes, land mines by the *contras*, murders by the *contras*, kidnappings," she explained.

"This country has no reason to have wounded people," Téllez said. "It's not a 'natural' health problem." The expense of treating a wound is also much greater than that of treating a common illness.

More than 1,500 Nicaraguans are disabled from the war. "You are talking about disabilities in a population that shouldn't normally have them," said Téllez. "[We] have eliminated polio to prevent childhood disabilities, but now we have a war that introduces disabilities in the 18 to 22-year-old population."

Immunization programs are running into problems because of the war. Health workers often have to enter war zones accompanied by troops.

In the case of measles, for example, the average number of cases had been reduced from 2,000 to 60 per year. But this year, there was a measles epidemic, with more than 1,000 reported cases "in the very zones where immunization was made difficult because of the war," Téllez explained. Health workers successfully prevented the epidemic from reaching Managua, however.

The dislocation of thousands of peasants by the war also introduces health problems. The farmlands they have left are no longer producing food for the nation. This increases nutritional problems. Some of the resettlements for displaced peasants have no potable water, leading to serious diarrhea in small children. Diarrhea remains the main cause of infant mortality nationally.

But despite the war, Nicaraguan working people have maintained health care as a right, not a privilege of the few. They are especially proud of the fact that unlike most Latin American nations, they have conquered polio, with no cases reported in the last few years.

'Contras,' Honduran army train in Puerto Rico

The following article is taken from the December 12-18 issue of *Claridad*, a weekly newspaper published in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The translation is by the Militant.

BY MANUEL E. COSS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A contingent of Honduran army soldiers is carrying out training maneuvers at the Santiago National Guard camp in Salinas [Puerto Rico]. A National Guard official revealed to *Claridad* that the Honduran soldiers are being trained under an exchange agreement between the Honduran army and the U.S. National Guard in Puerto Rico.

The training of Honduran soldiers on the island coincides with the intensified participation of the Honduran army in the war against Nicaragua, which in recent days

has taken on the appearance of a declared war.

Meanwhile, reliable sources have informed *Claridad* of the participation by forces of the Puerto Rican National Guard in engineering projects in Honduras. Puerto Ricans collaborate with the U.S. military mission in Honduras in the construction of an infrastructure for the functioning of the counterrevolutionaries, the Somozaist ex-National Guardsmen encamped in the southern Honduran border area.

In the past, Puerto Rican National Guardsmen participated in maneuvers known as Big Pine I and Big Pine II, where they collaborated in the construction of an air strip now used to supply the *contras*.

In a recent issue of *Claridad*, an official of the Puerto Rican National Guard was

quoted as stating that he had a brief conversation with a Nicaraguan "soldier" in the area near the Santiago camp headquarters. According to this National Guard source, "It is very likely that *contras* were included in the Honduran contingent that is now training in Salinas." This coincides with information that appeared in the North American daily the *Washington Post* in which Puerto Rico was noted as one of the places *contras* are being trained on North American territory.

Although Gen. Alfredo Mora of the Puerto Rican National Guard emphatically denied that *contras* were being trained on the island, he did confirm that there is an exchange program with the armies of Honduras, Barbados, and Jamaica.

According to observers of the situation in Central America, the U.S. government, which is currently suffering a big credibility crisis, is trying to step up the confrontation in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area in order to divert North American public opinion.

At the beginning of this week, Honduran army troops were transported by North American helicopters to the southern border of Honduras.

According to various news sources, the Honduran air force bombed two Nicaraguan towns and fired at Sandinista positions in the border area. Because of these incidents, the Nicaraguan government asked the United Nations to send a delegation of observers to the border zone to corroborate these attacks.

The participation of the North American army in the Honduran military operation violates a U.S. congressional order that does not permit troops within 20 miles of the tense border area. Earlier, at the end of November, Honduran troops and Florida National Guardsmen carried out joint maneuvers scarcely 35 kilometers [22 miles] from the border, in the military "hot spot." Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, denounced the Reagan administration for seeking to involve its troops in a provocation that would be used to initiate a North American invasion.

The participation of Puerto Rican National Guardsmen in the maneuvers in Honduras and the training of soldiers of that Central American country in Puerto Rico confirms what has been pointed out by various sectors here, that the government of Rafael Hernández Colón has made a commitment to the North American government to participate actively in the aggression.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

PM's 10th anniversary

It was 10 years ago, on January 19, that the first issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* appeared.

PM has brought the truth to Spanish-speaking working people in the United States for a decade. That is not an unimportant task in a country with the fifth largest Spanish-speaking population in the world. Today *Perspectiva Mundial* has subscribers in 33 states in the U.S., as well as in 37 other countries.

For many people *PM* is the only source to follow closely the class struggles in the United States, including such important developments as the meat-packers' fight. And with a bureau in Managua it offers full, firsthand coverage of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The January issue features an article about the history and legacy of *PM*, as well as excerpts from issues over the past 10 years.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every month brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.



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Salvador union gathering: No to U.S. war

Large U.S. delegation witnesses devastation from earthquake and war

BY SETH GALINSKY
AND DON GUREWITZ

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — The earthquake that hit here last October left more than 200,000 people homeless.

Many of them now live in makeshift huts of corrugated tin and plastic set up on the sidewalks, in city parks and on roadsides, and even in cemeteries amid the tombstones.

We asked dozens of earthquake victims all over the city, the country's capital, if they had received any of the international aid that had been sent. All said no.

We were told that the aid ended up lining the pockets of military and government officials. Plastic sent to shield earthquake victims from rain, for example, ended up in some cases protecting cars in wealthy neighborhoods.

We were here for an international gathering called "In Search of Peace: A U.S.-El Salvador Conference," hosted by the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS).

The meeting took place November 22-23, and was attended by more than 175 U.S. delegates and 250 from El Salvador.

UNTS was founded at a conference in February 1986 attended by over a thousand unionists, peasants, and other activists. More than 90 organizations are members of UNTS.

UNTS has encouraged the formation of dozens of neighborhood committees to



Febe Velásquez, union leader who was freed by government torturers after an international protest, told conference, "Salvadoran people fight untiringly to build just and independent country."

fight for the rights of those made homeless by the earthquake.

FMLN: 'We are part of the people'

One of the places the U.S. delegation visited was Tenancingo. In 1983 this town

was partially destroyed in a murderous bombing attack by the Salvadoran air force. The residents fled.

About 30 families have returned to Tenancingo. We met guerrilla fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) there. The military can't defeat the rebel forces because "the people are with us; we are part of the people," they told us.

As we talked, we could hear the air force dropping bombs on the Guazapa volcano, which was just 12 miles away. Guazapa is partially controlled by the FMLN.

UNTS organized a demonstration against the war on the first day of the conference.

The Coordinating Committee of Workers' Solidarity (CST), in its statement supporting the march, condemned the arbitrary suspensions and layoffs of workers after the earthquake, as well as the military draft.

Most march participants were members of the UNTS-sponsored committees of earthquake victims. In working-class neighborhoods, the walls were covered with graffiti in support of UNTS and demanding freedom for Febe Elizabeth Velásquez, a trade union leader who was captured and tortured by the cops last year. International and domestic protests forced the government to release her. Velásquez is the secretary-general of the Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENAS-TRAS) and attended the conference.

'Our interests are the same'

Michael Urquhart, president of American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 12, addressed the conference on behalf of AFGE President Kenneth Blaylock.

Like El Salvador's, "our government also imposes austerity measures to finance its huge military budget," Urquhart told the delegates. "Our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador is based on the understanding that our struggles are the same, our interests are the same," he continued.

Marco Tulio Lima is a member of the executive committee of UNTS and secretary-general of the Confederation of Cooperative Associations of El Salvador (COACES). He described the attacks on the conference by the U.S.-backed government of José Napoleón Duarte. The government took out paid advertisements in newspapers attacking the conference.

Luis Argueta Antillon, president of the National University of El Salvador, also spoke. He stressed that the responsibility for the war lies with the government, not with the workers' and peasants' organizations.

A large delegation of leaders from the National Conciliation Party (PCN) also attended. The PCN was the party of El Salvador's military during most of the 1960s and '70s. Hugo Carillo, PCN secretary-general and vice-president of the country's Legislative Assembly, spoke and support-

ed the conference call for a dialogue between the Duarte government, military, and FMLN.

Other speakers included representatives of Salvadoran human rights groups and unions. U.S. delegates that addressed the conference included David Cortright, executive director of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE):

Fight for independence, peace

Febe Velásquez pointed out, "After seven years of the military-political conflict, the Salvadoran people continue fighting untiringly to build a just and independent country that guarantees peace, progress, and well-being for the people."

"As the people's struggle to construct true peace increases, the Reagan administration and the Christian-Democratic government [of Duarte] come up with new war plans."

The conference decisions were announced at a well-attended press conference.

These included:

- An end to all U.S. military and economic aid to the Duarte government.
- Resumption of the dialogue among all parties in the Salvadoran civil war.
- An end to all repression against trade unionists, peasants who are members of cooperatives, and the rest of the people.
- Immediate freedom for all political prisoners and a full accounting of all those who have been "disappeared."
- Aid for victims of the earthquake.

In response to a proposal from SANE's Cortright, the conference also voted to support the anti-intervention, anti-apartheid demonstrations that will take place April 25 in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Seth Galinsky is a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 482 in Los Angeles. Don Gurewitz is a member of International Union of Electronics Workers Local 201 in Massachusetts.

N.Y. meeting marks overthrow of Pol Pot tyranny

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — Fifty people attended a luncheon January 10 to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the overthrow of the murderous Pol Pot dictatorship in Kampuchea on Jan. 7, 1979. The event was organized by the Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos.

Guests included representatives from the Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cuban missions to the United Nations. The meal was prepared by Kampucheans resident in the United States. A slideshow based on visits to Kampuchea was presented.

A statement sent by the committee to Heng Samrin, president of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, was read at the meeting.

"We wish to congratulate you, the members of your government, and your people on your almost unbelievable successes in rebuilding your country from wasteland.... We support your country's close solidarity with Vietnam and Laos, which prevents your enemies from enslaving your people."

"We pledge to do all we can to prevent the United States from further attempting to destabilize your country and to help establish normal relations between our two peoples and governments," concluded the statement.

On the occasion of the eighth anniversary, Steve Clark, on behalf of the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party and the Militant, sent the following message to the People's Republic of Kampuchea:

"We are heartened by your successes over the past two years in driving the military bases of the counterrevolutionary bands off your soil, and by the progress you have made in rebuilding your country and bettering the economic and social conditions of the Kampuchean people."

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Pretoria tightens press censorship

South African security police raided the offices of seven newspapers in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth January 9, seizing documents and questioning staffers. The sweep followed the publication the day before in several publications of a full-page advertisement calling on the government to lift its ban on the African National Congress (ANC).

Sponsored by the 2-million-member United Democratic Front, the South African Council of Churches, and other groups, the ads appeared on the 75th anniversary of the ANC's formation in 1912. They quoted from imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela and from Albert Lutuli, a leader of the ANC before it was outlawed in 1960. In letters an inch and a half high, the ads demanded, "Unban the ANC."

To prevent other newspapers from running similar ads, the apartheid regime quickly passed a new decree prohibiting the publication of any ads or articles that include calls for the ANC's legalization. It also makes it virtually impossible to publish any news in South Africa about the ANC.

This decree came just a day after Pretoria refused to reconsider an order that *New York Times* correspondent Alan Cowell leave the country and that the *Times* not be allowed to replace him. This effectively cuts off the newspaper's firsthand coverage of South Africa. Similar expulsion orders are pending against other foreign journalists as well.

Vietnam repels new Chinese attack

Three Chinese army attacks on Vietnam's northern Ha Tuyen Province were repulsed by Vietnamese defenders January 5, according to the Vietnam News Agency.

The agency reported that the Chinese forces, taking advantage of overcast skies, fired 14,000 artillery and mortar rounds at hilltop positions inside Vietnam. Under support of this shelling, Chinese troops stormed across the border. According to the agency, some 500 Chinese troops were killed or wounded before being driven back.

This was the largest number of casual-

ties in a single attack since the Chinese invasion of Vietnam in 1979, when tens of thousands were killed on both sides.

During the recent congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Vo Dong Giang, a minister without portfolio in the Foreign Ministry, declared that Vietnam "is ready at any time and anywhere to normalize relations with China." He added that "so far no positive response has been recorded" from the Chinese side and that the Beijing regime remains hostile to Vietnam.

Arafat condemns Jordan plan for West Bank

Yasir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), has denounced a plan put forward by the government of Jordan to channel "development" funds into the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The five-year plan, which would provide aid primarily for housing for Palestinians, is seen by many within the Palestinian movement as a bid to promote figures in the West Bank who are more favorable to the Israeli occupation and to the policies of the Jordanian regime.

Arafat, in a January 3 interview, said that the plan would provide an opportunity to Washington and the Israeli regime to impose "a de facto normalization of relations" between Jordan and Israel. He said that the plan also aimed "at improving the image of the Israeli occupation."

Portugal to return Macao to China?

The Portuguese government is said to have made a decision to relinquish its rule over Macao, a small Portuguese colony on the coast of mainland China, sources close to top Portuguese officials told reporters January 7. Macao, according to these sources, will be returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999.

Located 40 miles southwest of Hong Kong, Macao has been under Portuguese colonial rule since 1557. Its economy today is based primarily on gambling casinos.

Portuguese and Chinese officials have held three discussions since June 1985 on Macao's reversion to Chinese rule. The final round is expected early this year.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and the Struggle Against Racism Today. Speaker: Colonel Stone Johnson, vice-president Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference, participant in civil rights struggle. Sun., Jan. 18, 6 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Fight for Women's Rights Today. Speakers: Pat Nixon, Socialist Workers Party, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

El Salvador: An Eyewitness Report. Slideshow and presentation on recent In Search of Peace Conference in San Salvador. Speaker: Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 482. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2803 B St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

San Francisco

The Freedom Struggle in the Caribbean and Central America Today. Speaker: Don Rojas, representative of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada. Sat., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. Third Baptist Church.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Come to a Pathfinder Bookstore Open House During Martin Luther King Day Parade. Mon., Jan. 19, 1:30 to 5 p.m. Refreshments and 10 percent discount on all book titles. 132 Cone St. NW. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

The Fight for Abortion Rights Today. Speakers: representative of the Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Lessons of the Grenada Revolution and Its Aftermath. Speaker: Don Rojas, representative of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Mon., Jan. 19, 6 p.m. Northeastern Illinois University Center for Inner City Studies, 700 E Oakwood Blvd. Ausp: Black United Front, Chicago chapter.

KANSAS

Lawrence

Behind the Crisis Rocking Washington: A Socialist View. Speaker: Roger Bland, Young Socialist Alliance. Tues., Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. Pine Room, Kansas Union, University of Kansas. Ausp: KU Young Socialist Alliance.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Can Racism Be Stopped? From Jefferson Parish to Howard Beach. Speakers: reverends Jerome Owens and Johnny McKinnies, West Bank United Ministers; Steve Ring, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

Abortion Is a Woman's Right! How to Defend It. Panel discussion. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Donation: \$2. Ausp:

Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Report from El Salvador. Slideshow and presentation by Don Gurewitz, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

Contragate . . . The U.S. Government Crisis, Its Meaning for Working People. Speakers: Russell Davis, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

A Memorial to Celebrate Janice Dorlaie's Life. Sat., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. Zion Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Ave. N. For more information call (612) 529-4191.

St. Paul

The Coming Revolution in South Africa. A class series sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance.

The Liberation Struggle in South Africa. In two parts. Sun., Jan. 18, 4 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 25, 4 p.m.

The Anti-apartheid Movement Here and Abroad. What Way Forward? Sun., Feb. 1, 4 p.m.

Classes held at 508 N Snelling Ave. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Book reception for Nothing Can Stop the Course of History. Meet Dr. Jeffrey M. Elliot, who conducted interview with Fidel Castro on which book is based. Slideshow on Cuba today presented by Maggie Perrier. Sat., Jan. 24, Cuban dinner, 6:30 p.m.; reception, 7:30 p.m. Donation: dinner, \$3; reception, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Howard Beach: Protest Racist Attacks. Speaker: Wells Todd, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers Local 93. Sat., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

The Fight for Women's Rights Today. A panel discussion. Speakers: Marcia Gallo, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, member United Auto Workers Local 31; others. Sun., Jan. 25, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

St. Louis

Stop Racist Attacks: No More Howard Beaches. Speaker: Joe Allor, Socialist Workers Party candidate for St. Louis Board of Aldermen, Ward 8, member United Auto Workers Local 110. Sat., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Grenada, the Aftermath: Current Caribbean and Central American Freedom Struggles. Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary to Grenada's murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, member of Coordinating Committee, Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Tues., Jan.

27, 7:30 p.m. Park Slope Methodist Church, 8th St. and 6th Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Park Slope Forum. For more information call (718) 499-1167.

Manhattan

The Freedom Struggle in the Caribbean and Central America Today. Speaker: Don Rojas, press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, member of Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. Columbia University's St. Paul's Chapel (enter campus at 116th St. and Broadway). For more information call (212) 713-5139.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Reagan's Secret Aid to the Contras: New Opportunities for Antiwar Protest. Speakers to be announced. Sun., Jan. 18, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cincinnati

The Truth Behind the Iran-contra Arms Crisis. Speaker: Peter Oanes, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 18, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

The Meese Commission Report: Does It Defend Women's Rights? Speakers: Shirleen Jensen, president, Cincinnati National Organization for Women; Bitsy Myers, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

The Fight to Keep Abortion Safe and Legal. Speakers: Sarabeth Eason, 11-year-old prochoice activist and recipient of Ms. magazine Woman of the Year award; Susan Lamont, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers Local 122; others. Fri., Jan. 23, 8 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Mexico One Year Later: The Popular Struggle Since the Earthquake. Speaker: Margaret McCrae, graduate student, Portland State University. Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Report Back from Central American Struggles. Speakers: Dave Worthington, president Painters Union Local 724; Robert Scafe, Young Socialist Alliance, student at Roosevelt High School. Sat., Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Imperialism vs. Revolution in the Middle East. Speaker: Barry Sheppard, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from trip to Israel, also eyewitness to 1979 insurrection in Iran. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

New Nicaragua Constitution: Codifying the Gains of Workers and Peasants. Speaker: Jim

Kendrick, Socialist Workers Party; others who have visited Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. 336 W Jefferson. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Crisis in the Philippines: Workers and Farmers Press Their Demands. Speakers: representative, FACE (Filipino Association for Community Education); representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Nicaragua: A Report Back and Slideshow from a Coffee Brigade Participant. Speaker: Dean Peoples, Socialist Workers Party. Wed., Jan. 21, 12:30 p.m. University of Washington, HUB 309. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Defense of the Cuban Revolution: Celebrate the 28th Anniversary of the Victory of the Revolution. Slideshow and presentation by Debbie Lazar, Socialist Workers Party 1986 candidate for mayor, member United Transportation Union. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Beyond Grenada: the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. The Struggle for Freedom in the Caribbean and Central America 1979-86. Speaker: Don Rojas, representative of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Thurs., Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m. Howard University School of Business Auditorium, 2600 Sixth St. NW. (across from Cramton Auditorium). Ausp: Congressmen Ronald Dellums and Walter Fauntroy, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, National Alliance of Third World Journalists, SANE, others. For more information call (202) 822-7483 or 544-0880.

Amandla. Come Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the African National Congress of South Africa. Speaker: representative of the National Executive Committee of the ANC., Sat., Jan. 24. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7:15 p.m. All Souls Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard streets NW. Donation requested. Ausp: ANC 75th Anniversary Committee. For more information call (301) 350-4323.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

The New Vietnam in El Salvador. Speaker: Dave Evans, Vietnam veteran and peace activist, will present slideshow on El Salvador. Sun., Jan. 18, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3044.

Morgantown

South Africa: the Fight Against Apartheid. A panel discussion. Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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

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

Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Columbus: YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409

Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave. Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

Angels of mercy — While insisting the idea was perfectly legal, the folks at the State Dept. have scrapped a plan to declare the *contras* a charitable organization so they could collect Food for



Harry Ring

Peace dollars. Said Elliott Abrams, the department's ideological flunky, "It was more than the traffic will bear politically."

Departing the ship? — A

slated TV show about Ron's upcoming birthday was scrapped when sponsors pulled out. Said the distributor, "Everybody already assumes that with the news coming out of Washington these days... it would be unwise to be associated with a Reagan program at this time."

For the legally hungry — Officials in West New York, New Jersey, a gathering point for Cubans who came here for the Good Life, announced free government cheese and flour would be available — for those with green cards.

Big Red Ted — As a political fund-raiser, both Labour and Tories in England sold Xmas gifts.

The Tories featured such items as fancy food hampers. The Labour Party catalog included a framed photo of top party official Neil Kinnock and a plush bear with a jacket proclaiming, "I'm a Red Ted." Red Ted outsold Kinnock four to one.

Democracy in action — We were touched when the Quilted Giraffe, an admittedly pricey New York beanery, opened a budget outlet, the Casual Quilted Giraffe. Drop by for an afternoon break and enjoy what one critic assures is one of the best malts in town for a mere six bucks. Or, for the same modest tab, a root beer float.

What's in a name — "VAL-

LEY STREAM, N.Y. — Harvey E. Pittluck, chairman of Profit Systems, Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiary, Profit Freight Systems, Inc., announced today that due to insufficient earnings the board of directors of Profit Systems, Inc., decided not to pay a dividend for the current quarter." — News item.

It ain't raining pennies from heaven — Because of the acid rain, BMW has stopped shipping luxury cars through the port at Jacksonville, Florida, a major entry point for imports. Last summer, one heavy acid shower damaged the paint on 2,000 of the big-ticket cars. On some, the paint was dissolved

down to the metal.

At the back door? — Michael Smith is suing the Jacksonville, North Carolina, Pepsi distributor that fired him for speaking out against discrimination on the job. Blacks are limited to the lousiest jobs and subjected to racial epithets and other abuses. Perhaps the final straw was the company Xmas party where whites were permitted to help themselves at a buffet dinner while Blacks waited for supervisors to hand them plates.

Tsk — "Yearly surveys since 1979 show a steady erosion in workers' respect for their bosses." — Richard Boyatzis, psychologist and management consultant.

Airline uses merger to push unions for takebacks

BY JEAN ARMBRUSTER

MINNEAPOLIS — Northwest Airlines aims to milk its merger with Republic Airlines last October for every penny it's worth.

The airline is trying to take advantage of disparities in wages, work rules, and job classifications in union contracts at the two airlines prior to the merger to impose deep concessions on the workers.

A representation election will be held later this month to determine which union will represent the merged work force.

In 1982 members of the machinists' union at Northwest defeated the company's attempt to use part-time workers on ground service and maintenance jobs. But part-time work was introduced at Republic following the last contract negotiations.

Northwest is now trying to make headway on this issue again.

Before the merger, Northwest mechanics, cleaners, and baggage handlers were represented by the International Association of Machinists (IAM). Ticket and reservations clerks were members of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC).

At Republic, the IAM also represented

mechanics and cleaners. Clerical workers and ramp attendants were organized by the Air Line Employees Association (ALEA).

Northwest recognized the IAM as the bargaining agent for ramp workers, cleaners, and mechanics following the merger. BRAC was recognized as the bargaining representative for the clerks and reservations agents. But ALEA petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for a representation election, and the NLRB ruled that both clerical and ramp workers must be part of the same union. Now those workers will have to choose between the IAM, BRAC, and the ALEA. The mechanics and baggage handlers will remain in the IAM.

Only 2,500 of the 15,000 workers voting nationwide will be former IAM members. If more than 50 percent of those eligible don't vote, the NLRB will construe the results as a vote for no union.

While there are several possible outcomes, an IAM victory would mean that airline workers would be in the same union from the ticket counter to the ramp to the maintenance hangars, putting workers in a better position to fight the bosses' attacks.

In the past, workers' struggles have often been handicapped by disunity be-

tween unions. A single union could potentially be a big aid to the workers in 1988 when the next round of contract negotiations are due.

Northwest IAMers have pride in the union. IAM union buttons and hats have been widely distributed, and the walls of airplane cargo bins read like handbills for the IAM. Many former ALEA and BRAC members are joining in the drive to have the IAM certified.

Discussions have been heated, and important questions have been raised:

- Should ramp and maintenance workers be in the same union as clerks, who don't get their hands dirty? Such questions are the result of previous strikes in which IAM picket lines were not honored. But all the workers at Northwest would be in a stronger position if they were in the same union.

- Since many ticket and reservations agents are women, can they be won over to supporting the IAM? Since these women are working for a second family income,

aren't they less likely to fight for better wages and benefits? These arguments are among the justifications the employers use for paying lower wages in predominantly female jobs. The militant response of both female and male flight attendants during the TWA strike last year clearly shows that women will fight for their union.

- Should mechanics be in the same union as unskilled workers? All airline workers are under attack. Being skilled is no protection against company assaults on union rights and decent wages. Unity is the best defense all airline workers have against the employers' attacks.

- Can the IAM win? The key lies in involving every IAM member in the campaign. Handshakes from the union officers won't win this one. Nothing is more convincing than the entire union membership showing in practice that "we are the union."

Jean Armbruster is a member of IAM Local 1833 at Northwest Airlines.

10 AND 25 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

January 21, 1977

The February 8 vote in the United Steelworkers of America for a new president and other top officers is of vital importance to Steelworkers, to members of other unions, and to all working people in this country.

This is no run-of-the-mill union election. Big issues are at stake.

The slate headed by Lloyd McBride defends the old policies of outgoing President I.W. Abel. Abel signed away Steelworkers' right to strike with the Experimental Negotiating Agreement.

He set up joint labor-management "productivity committees" that have wiped out tens of thousands of jobs.

He defends steel industry price hikes and joins the employers' call for import restrictions to protect their monopoly prices and profits.

Abel's policy has permitted the steel corporations to ignore union grievances; speed up production lines; discriminate against Blacks, Chicanos, and women; and throw job safety out the window.

The Steelworkers Fight Back slate, headed by Ed Sadlowski, stands for basic changes in policy and control of the union.

Sادلowski campaigns for membership control of all union affairs. For the right of the members to vote on their contracts. For the right to strike. For worker control of safety conditions on the job.

The Fight Back candidates explain how the organized power of union men and women is paralyzed by the union leadership's collaboration with the bosses.

"The workers and the boss have nothing in common," Sadlowski declares. "It is a class question."

It takes head-on struggle by the workers to defend their interests against the employers, day in and day out, in every way possible. That is why unions were or-

ganized in the first place.

But most giant unions like the United Steelworkers have become housebroken and bureaucratized over the years. Abel, McBride, and their fellow bureaucrats seek only to hang onto their high-paid posts and get along with the boss as best they can. And they certainly don't want dues-paying members interfering with their "union business." They are the kind of "leaders" once referred to by John L. Lewis when he likened the workers to "lions led by asses."

The Sadlowski challenge in steel is an opportunity for Steelworkers to get rid of some of these braying misleaders.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

January 22, 1962

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The Young Socialist Alliance held its second national convention in Chicago New Year's weekend. There were delegates from 16 cities, including students from more than 20 college campuses. The convention discussion and debate centered on the growing civil rights movement, North and South; the antiwar movement; defense of the Cuban revolution; and how most effectively to spread socialist ideas among students.

After three days jam-packed with discussion and exchange of experiences, a new national committee was elected and national officers selected. New national chairman of the YSA is Barry Sheppard.

The modest but steady expansion of the YSA's activity and influence was indicated in the regular circulation of the YSA monthly *Young Socialist*, which is now 5,000, with some special issues running double that number in the past year.

Along with the thrashing out of practical problems, one of the highlights of the gathering was a day-long theoretical discussion on the Cuban revolution and the class nature of the new Cuban state.

Minn. protest marks date of National Guard occupation

BY TONY DUTROW

AUSTIN, Minn. — One year ago, on January 21, 800 Minnesota National Guard troops swarmed into town to help Geo. A. Hormel & Co. reopen its plant here.

In the days leading up to the Guard's arrival, massive picket lines had foiled Hormel's attempt, backed by the courts and the cops, to get scabs through United Food and Commercial Workers union Local P-9 picket lines. The P-9 strike had begun Aug. 17, 1985.

A special edition of Local P-9's newspaper, the *Unionist*, had this to say about what followed: "Every day, the Guard escorts hundreds of strikebreakers — new workers, along with those Local P-9 members who have decided to cross their own picket line — into the plant, while barring P-9 strikers from the roadways."

Barbara Collette, a leader of the Austin United Support Group, told me, "It's a day I will never forget."

"A lot of us in the Support Group thought we should do a protest," she explained when I asked her about plans to commemorate the anniversary of the Guard's arrival in Austin.

She said that on Jan. 21, 1987, "we hope to get some media coverage to let people know the struggle is not over, that meatpackers are still out of work because of the use of the National Guard."

"We have to tell the Hormel company, the governor, everyone, that we still, a year later, feel what they did with the National Guard was an attack on the entire labor movement," Collette stressed.

The demonstration will begin at the plant at 5:30 a.m. on January 21 "with flashlights and signs, and we'll march from there to the corporate offices."



A year ago Hormel used National Guard to reopen plant with scabs.

Later, protesters will lay a wreath on the monument P-9 retirees dedicated to three ABC television crew members killed in a helicopter crash while filming Guard-troop movements.

Collette also explained that the support group is beginning preparations for a national rally in Austin on March 14. Publicity will soon be going out to unionists and supporters across the country.

"We want everyone to come even if they have questions about our struggle. They can get answers here. If you have never been to a rally in Austin, Minnesota, you have to come to this one," she said.

For more information, contact the Austin United Support Group at P.O. Box 396, Austin, Minn. 55912 or call (507) 437-4110.

Next steps in building April 25

The calls issued for national demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco on April 25 against U.S. intervention in Central America and apartheid in South Africa provide antiwar activists with an opportunity to actively participate in the fight unfolding over funding for Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua.

Worried that the governmental crisis has weakened support for the *contra* mercenary bands, the White House has initiated a political offensive designed to shore up bipartisan congressional backing for the U.S.-organized war.

Point man for the administration, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliot Abrams, precluded negotiations to bring an end to the war, calling instead for increased support for the *contras*.

"If this current U.S. policy is maintained, it seems to me the Sandinistas will not survive," Abrams said.

The Reagan administration will try to block attempts to cut off the \$40 million due to be handed over to the *contra* terrorists in February. And it is asking Congress to approve an additional \$100 million.

Washington has also initiated a new round of troop maneuvers in Honduras, near the border with Nicaragua, and has stationed a fleet of warships off Nicaragua's coast.

Most immediately, the congressional debate will center on the \$40 million approved last year with support from Democrats and Republicans as part of a \$100-million aid package. Bills have been introduced in Congress to block that payment.

What are the next steps those opposed to Washington's dirty war can take?

- Reproduce and distribute the call for the two national demonstrations on April 25 as widely as possible. That will help educate people about the war and initiate the process of convincing working people and students throughout the country to participate in one of the two demonstrations.

Antiwar activists should approach unions, student organizations, anti-apartheid fighters, religious and community groups, farm activists, and others to help get the call and other materials distributed widely.

- They can also run ads in local newspapers and on radio and television. They can obtain broad local sponsorship for the protest.

- Local coalitions can organize meetings and protest activity that help build momentum for the national demonstrations. Coalitions in Boston, Washington, D.C., and other cities are organizing local protests to demand rescinding of the *contra* funding.

- Unionists opposed to the war can begin by circulating the call and talking up the action with their coworkers. They can reach out to other workplaces and union locals to distribute the call too.

Union members and officers should be urged to sponsor and participate in local coalitions. Union activists can bring resolutions for support for the April 25 actions into local meetings, write articles for union newspapers explaining the stakes in the war, and begin ordering union buses and signing people up for the trip to Washington or San Francisco.

- On college campuses and at high schools, committees can be established to begin building the demonstrations. Debates, forums, panels, etc., can be organized to present and discuss the facts about Washington's war.

Having the two national actions called for the same day provides an opportunity for a large and visible mobilization by those opposed to the war. Actions in which the widest possible breadth of opposition to the war is registered also have the strongest political and educational impact.

From the factories to the campuses, from the farms to the churches, antiwar fighters for the next three months will be urging, "All out on April 25."

Jail Howard Beach lynchers!

Continued from front page

min Ward, more laws, and better education in the schools about racism also blur the focus of what is needed right now.

They let the city, state, and federal governments off the hook, and give them time to sweep this racist attack under the rug.

The facts in the case are crystal clear: a car with four Blacks broke down on the highway. Three Blacks walked to a pizzeria in Howard Beach. A bunch of young whites was sitting around at a party nearby. Someone said, "There's some niggers in the pizza parlor — let's go kill them."

Then the gang beat the men with baseball bats and tree limbs. When Griffith tried to get away, he was run down by a car.

No one claims the three Black men were trying to rob the pizza joint. Or that they had a gun on them and were threatening the gang of whites.

There is no ambiguity. It was a clear-cut case of lynching. And no amount of shilly-shallying by the cops or the district attorney's office has been able to blur that. Too many of the facts got out before they could do that.

Jon Lester, Jason Ladone, Scott Kern, and their seven or eight other friends didn't stop on their way to the pizzeria that night to worry about whether they would have to go to jail for a long time for what they were about to do.

That's not surprising.

It's a fact that in the United States cops, Klansmen, or other prejudiced whites can beat and kill Blacks and get off scot-free.

The responsibility for this atmosphere lies squarely with the city, state, and federal governments who refuse to vigorously enforce the laws against the attackers.

There are plenty of laws that say that people who do what these white youths did can go to jail for a long, long time.

And there's plenty of evidence of their guilt — including their own testimony.

That makes it harder to concoct a cover up, as is done most times when Black lives are involved.

But that's precisely what Mayor Edward Koch, Gov. Mario Cuomo, and the U.S. Justice Department will do if they think they can get away with it.

That's why it's so important to reach out to the millions of outraged New Yorkers of every race and nationality to mobilize a massive protest to demand that justice be done by jailing the attackers.

The *Militant* appeals to our readers in New York to go out and talk to every union, student group, church, and other organization that you know or are a member of, and to all your friends and family about the need to march and rally around the demands:

No more Howard Beaches!

Convict and jail Lester, Ladone, Kern, and the others responsible for the lynch attack!

Racist attacks and anti-Semitism

Racist attacks against Blacks have always gone hand in hand with other expressions of prejudice. And the lynching of Michael Griffith by a gang of whites in New York City's Howard Beach area is no exception. It has been followed by some open voicing of anti-Semitism.

These anti-Semitic slurs were directed at Mayor Edward Koch, who came under fire from racists for describing the murderous attack as racist and saying, "I'd expect this kind of thing to happen in the Deep South."

When Koch spoke at a church in Howard Beach on December 28 he was booed and shouted down by the white audience.

"Go home," some yelled. "You have no right to be here." One woman, who refused to enter the church, said, "Let him go to a synagogue."

At a church in a neighboring Black community on the same day, the mayor got a different reception. In the discussion period, many strongly challenged his false view that both Blacks and whites are responsible for racist attacks. There were no anti-Semitic slurs, however.

Koch's statement on the lynching also inspired a foul

outburst from Brookhaven, Mississippi, Mayor W.W. Godbold.

"That Jew bastard," Godbold said, "I believe that Jews like him who get in this office don't know the hell what they are talking about. It opens up wounds when he persists that the South has problems like this. . . ."

"The trouble we had in the '50s wouldn't have happened unless people like him came down here and stirred things up."

In response to outraged protests at his remarks, Godbold sank deeper into the reactionary muck. "I have some very good friends who are Jewish," he declared. "I was saying it to Mr. Koch only, to him personally, in reply to what he said about the Deep South."

These expressions of anti-Semitism reveal another dimension to the fight to prosecute Michael Griffith's killers and send them to jail. If the gang that lynched Griffith is allowed to get away with murder, racists from Mississippi to New York City will be emboldened to step up anti-Semitic provocations as well as vigilante attacks against Blacks.

Why the Soviet Union is not capitalist

BY DOUG JENNESS

ABC television has announced that next month it will air a 12-hour miniseries, *Amerika*, a fantasy of Soviet-occupied United States. The show is set in 1996, 10 years after Soviet troops have conquered this country. The invaders didn't need nuclear weapons, according to the script, because the U.S. people had been softened up by liberals, feminists, and general spinelessness.

This anti-Soviet spectacular transparently attempts to target those supporting democratic rights and social justice in the United States. It's dubious that many people are going to be persuaded by 12 hours of this drivel that a Soviet invasion is imminent.

For one thing, Moscow doesn't appear to be on the verge of invading. To the contrary it has taken recent initiatives to press for a nuclear test ban and arms-limita-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

tion accord and for a negotiated agreement to the seven-year war in Afghanistan.

Moreover, economic difficulties at home has led Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to launch a series of reforms. In addition to implementing some new economic measures, the Soviet government has released a number of political prisoners, permitted greater criticism of economic and social policies, and allowed more leeway to artists, writers, and journalists.

Not the threat of invasion, but curiosity about what is really happening in the USSR is what's on the minds of many people in the United States.

In the coming weeks we plan to report on some of the important policy changes in the Soviet Union and discuss what's behind them.

At the same time, it would be helpful to our readers if in this column some basic questions about the Soviet Union are taken up.

For example, is it actually another form of capitalism that exists in the Soviet Union? Is it imperialism? Is the bureaucracy a new ruling class? Does the government conduct revolutionary policies?

In response to the first question: there is a fundamental distinction between the Soviet Union and the capitalist countries. The Soviet Union has no big capitalists, landlords, or private bankers. There are no ruling families like the Rockefellers, Mellons, Duponts, Weyerhaeusers, etc., who own and control banks, factories, mines, transportation, oil wells, and vast tracts of land; and operate them for their own profit.

In the Soviet Union, neither factories nor any piece of big machinery can be bought or sold. Railroads, airlines, and shipping companies can't be purchased by private owners. Free medical care is guaranteed to all citizens, but there are no private hospitals or private insurance companies.

All land belongs to the state and can't be bought, sold, mortgaged, or rented for private gain. Consequently, real estate speculation doesn't exist. All foreign trade is in the hands of the state, rather than dominated by big commercial traders.

No stock exchange or commodities boards exist where parasitic entrepreneurs can get rich simply through speculation.

Moreover, huge sums are not wasted on advertising as in the capitalist countries.

In some capitalist countries such as Britain, France, and Sweden certain industries have been nationalized. These nationalizations are quite different, however, than what exists in the Soviet Union. That's because the handful of capitalist ruling families in these countries continue to dominate financial, commercial, and industrial activity. And that's why these nationalizations are often temporary and firms are returned to private ownership.

In the Soviet Union, however, the political power of the capitalist class was broken during the October 1917 revolution, when workers and peasants overthrew the government and established their own regime.

With this power, the exploited classes went on to expropriate the capitalists and landlords economically. They eliminated private ownership over the principal means by which goods are produced.

In the past 70 years the capitalists have been unable to restore their position in the USSR. Not even with the help of two imperialist military invasions (1918-20 and 1941-45).

The fundamental change in property relations won by working people has not been overturned; it would take a massive counterrevolution to accomplish that. It's for this reason that socialists describe the Soviet Union as a workers' state.

Next week we'll discuss whether or not the Soviet Union is imperialist.

Railroad accidents caused by company profit drive

BY JANE HARRIS

"It's very preliminary, but the Conrail train may have run a stop signal and was then run into by the Amtrak train."

Amtrak spokesperson Sue Martin was issuing the company's response to the January 4 collision between an

UNION TALK

Amtrak passenger train and a Conrail freight train. Fifteen were killed in the accident and 176 injured.

Railroad management is always quick to point to the nearest worker when things go amuck. But the rail companies' relentless drive to increase their profits is the real reason why accidents like this one are bound to happen.

A few months ago the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers undertook a study of engineer stress on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, where the collision occurred.

The report concluded that the corridor was dangerous for passenger safety since engineers were being forced to work under particularly stressful conditions.

The report listed the causes of stress: working alone in the cab, operating faulty equipment, being forced to operate trains in violation of normal safety precautions, inoperable safety devices, and faulty speedometers.

Rail companies have been campaigning for years to eliminate the position of fireman. They argued that since there was no more coal to shovel, the position of fireman had long ago ceased being important. They said firemen were just featherbedding and should be dropped from the payroll as part of helping the railroads save money.

Today, most engineers sit alone in the cab and run trains at speeds of up to 120 miles an hour. Firemen in reality used to function as assistant engineers. They would help call signals while acquiring valuable on-the-job

operating experience. Rail management today claims that type of training is unnecessary.

I used to work the Washington, D.C., to New York runs as a fireman, and I can state unequivocally that most engineers are delighted to have someone share the work load with them. After running 235 miles at 120 miles an hour, you can be worn out by the time you hit New York's Penn Station. Engineers on Amtrak's Metroliner are forced to turn right around and do the same run over again.

Train-operating employees are supposedly protected under the "Hours of Service" law, which says that workers must be given eight hours off between tours of duty. It also says no tour of duty can be longer than 12 hours.

But that law doesn't insure you eight hours of rest. It gives you eight hours to drive home, eat, sleep, and get back to work again. Engineers also can be called to work in a large geographic area. Some drive an hour or two just to get to work. It is not uncommon for an engineer to be operating thousands of tons of equipment on four hours' rest.

This is especially common in the summertime when both freight and passenger traffic is up. Instead of hiring more workers, the rail bosses push those already on the payroll past the point of exhaustion.

Reports of faulty equipment are regularly ignored by management. Many cabs lack accurate speedometers and radio communications, both needed for safe trains.

The exact cause of the Amtrak-Conrail crash most likely will be covered up. The finger will be pointed at the engineer, the dispatcher, or the signal system manufacturer.

Rail management, which puts workers in dangerous situations, won't be blamed. And the finger won't be pointed at the Federal Railroad Administration, a government agency that is supposed to oversee rail safety but



Wreckage of January 4 collision between Amtrak passenger train and Conrail freight train. Fifteen were killed and 176 injured.

winks instead at management safety violations.

The world's richest country should have safe railroads. But I'm afraid that because of the bosses' profit drive, we're headed for more crashes. In the meantime, we must continue to fight through our unions to try to enforce safety on the job and resist management attempts to cut back the work force even further.

Jane Harris is a locomotive engineer on layoff from Conrail. She is presently working for New Jersey Transit and is a member of United Transportation Union Local 800.

LETTERS

Abuse

I was outraged when I read an article in the *Boston Globe* about a judge, Paul King, who denied a battered woman's demand that her husband be temporarily evicted from their apartment.

"I don't believe she was beaten. I didn't see any bruises; most women bruise pretty easily," King said in an interview at the courthouse.

"The woman was wearing a winter coat during both court appearances," the *Globe* noted.

The judge said he was reluctant to "put a man out of his own house" and that he always inquires whether the husband pays the rent and where he would stay if ordered out. "I don't believe in breaking up families," said King.

The judge also described the advice he gives battered women: "I tell them: 'Hey, you married him. The next one might not be so easy to find, and who's going to support your kids?'"

"I call that reality therapy," he added.

The *Globe* later reported, "King will be prohibited from hearing criminal, care and protection, juvenile, and domestic-abuse cases for an indefinite period." The chief justice of the Massachusetts district court has barred him indefinitely from sitting in Dorchester Court. The chief justice said there'd been years of complaints.

E.B.
Boston, Massachusetts

We have a right to know

Christmas came and left me with some money, for a change, so I thought, why not give it to the only good newspaper in the United States?

Jerry Moped's letter in the December 19 issue really made me howl.

He asks, who are "we" who have a right to know what operations Lt. Col. Oliver North and other U.S. officials carried out to supply the *contras* attacking Nicaragua.

"We" are working people, who pay taxes every week — taxes that go to pay North's salary. So we have a right to know what the little rat is doing on "our" time.

Second, we are supposedly the people who elect the legislators who voted no to contra funding and who made it law that no federal government people can go around doing what Ollie did.

Finally, we are the "people" in the constitution, the ones in whose name this government supposedly does things, so we ought to know what is being done in "our" name.

J.W.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Revlon

When we think of corporate attacks on unions today, we tend to think of industries like auto, steel, meat-packing, airlines, etc. In reality, no union is safe from the employers' offensive.

Cosmetics is a multi-billion dollar international business. This business includes make-up, eye-shadow, lipstick, perfume, shampoos, antiperspirants, and so-called antiaging products.

The company I work for, Revlon, is one of the biggest of these corporate giants.

In 1984 Revlon listed 29,900 employees worldwide, with divisions in more than 30 countries, ranging from South Africa to Guatemala. Annual sales of its products topped \$2.3 billion. Publicly admitted profits on those sales were \$112 million.

Most of Revlon's domestic production comes from two unionized plants in the United States — in Edison, New Jersey, and Phoenix. Edison and Phoenix workers are organized in two separate units of United Auto Workers District 65. There are 850 workers in the Phoenix bargaining unit.

The starting wage for permanent workers at the Phoenix Revlon plant is \$5.12 an hour. Most of the workers in the lowest classifications are women.

The company claims it is losing money and must close one of its plants, saying a choice must be made between the two unionized plants and even lower wage nonunion plants in North Carolina.

Last month, workers at the Phoenix plant were informed of this "choice" and asked to "think of ways to save the company money."

A debate has begun in the local over how to respond to this plant-closure threat. One idea is that the union should undertake a serious drive to bring our brothers and sisters in North Carolina into the union fold and fight to raise their wages.

The other perspective, offered by officials of UAW District 65, is to give in at least partially to Revlon's ransom demands by agreeing to negotiate a lower scale for new employees in Phoenix and Edison.

To allow the introduction of a multi-tier wage structure would be giving the company an additional weapon to use against the union.

Andy English
Phoenix, Arizona

Boycott

Holiday travelers at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's main terminal were greeted December 28 with a sign reading "Boycott Hormel and TWA!" Below the sign a dozen boycott supporters handed out leaflets and staffed a literature table.

The action was called by the Twin Cities Hormel Strikers Support Group when it learned that Hormel and TWA had entered into a joint promotional effort. Their scheme was to offer first-class seating on TWA flights to regular ticket holders who also purchased a special Hormel Christmas package.

Members of the support group, Twin Cities-area unionists, and meatpackers and flight attendants who had participated in the strikes against Hormel and TWA were all on hand to leaflet passengers and employees at the airport. Two thousand pieces of literature were distributed.

John Daniel
Sarah Springer
St. Paul, Minnesota

Best news-bearer around

A friend let me read a copy of the *Militant*. I thought it was the most incisive news-bearer around.

I am from South America, and I've been here in the U.S. for about seven years. At this moment, I am incarcerated in a Texas prison.

If it's at all possible, I would like very much to receive the *Mil-*

itant. I understand that you send the paper free of charge to prisoners.

Your prisoner subscription paper would also be greatly appreciated and passed throughout this camp until the print falls off it. The Texas prison camps are probably the most impoverished in the nation — no pay, total slave labor. And I am in an Administration Segregation Camp, where I have been locked down two years.

A prisoner
Midway, Texas

South Africa documents

I am an inmate at Huntingdon State Prison, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. I am currently in solitary confinement, with an additional year to go.

It is my desire to further my knowledge and understanding of what is taking place to my people in South Africa. I would like to acquire the South Africa documents — the full text of African National Congress Freedom Charter and the founding declaration of the United Democratic Front.

A prisoner
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Soviet Union

In the fall of 1985 I had the opportunity to visit five major European cities in the Soviet Union.

The fact that there are no slums, that everyone has a job and a place to live, and that there is free medical care and education point to the benefits of a planned economy 69 years after Russian workers and peasants carried out the first socialist revolution.

While sightseeing on my own, I met an engineer, who gave me a tour of his city. After discovering that we had some common cultural interests, we discovered that we also admired the Cuban revolution and Fidel Castro. My new friend was also eager to hear about my experiences touring Nicaragua in 1983.

Twenty-five years after Fidel Castro proclaimed the indissoluble friendship of the Cuban and Soviet people, it's interesting to note that the internationalist role of Cuba is still appreciated and admired.

Jim Miles
Chicago, Illinois

Request

Just wanted to thank you for having continued to send the paper for almost six years now. Still depend on your coverage of certain issues and the expert analysis that you give.

Of special interest to me in the December 19 issue was Ernest Harsch's article on the "scramble" of the Reagan administration to put a lid on the Iran-Nicaragua escapade.

Sam Manuel also gave some excellent reportage on the U.S.-South Africa-UNITA complicity against the government of Angola.

It amazes me no end to see how people quickly associate the word "terrorism" with the likes of Muammar el-Qaddafi, Khomeini, and the Palestine Liberation Organization when mining ports in Nicaragua, bombing civilians in Libya, or invading an island smaller than Beaumont, Texas, (Grenada) is seen as something sanctified and the "democratic" thing to do.

Is U.S. propaganda that potent? I also wanted to make a special request of you: I have a brother who is incarcerated as well.

I told him that I would request, even at the expense of canceling my own subscription, that you begin to send him the *Militant*. It is my strongest wish to continue to receive the *Militant*, but he is in greater need of truthful and clear analysis of worldly events.

A prisoner
Huntsville, Texas

Correction

Last week's *Militant* provided the wrong street address of the Western States Mobilization office for the April 25 antiwar demonstration. It is c/o ILWU Local 6, 255 9th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103. Their new phone number is (415) 626-8053.

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.

Celebrations mark ANC anniversary

Rallies hail 75 years of struggle in South Africa

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — Over 450 people filled the auditorium of the Harriet Tubman School in Harlem on January 8 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC is leading the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Sikhulu Shange, from the ANC's Cultural Committee, recognized United Nations representatives in the audience from Benin, China, Lesotho, the Soviet Union, and Vietnam. The rally heard solidarity messages from over a dozen organizations, including the November 29th Committee for Palestine, the Venceremos Brigade, and the Organization for African Unity. Tannequil Jones of the Coalition for a Free South Africa presented the ANC with a check for \$1,500 for refugee relief assistance.

Don Rojas, a well-known Caribbean activist now on a U.S. speaking tour, was warmly greeted by the crowd. "I bring you greetings from an important new alliance — the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America," he said. "This is an organization that embraces more than 30 parties from 20 countries, including the Cuban Communist Party, the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front], and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. We stand foursquare with the struggle of the people of South Africa led by the ANC."

Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition said, "The turnout here tonight shows that the ANC lives in the heart and soul of fighting African people all over the world. . . . Imperialism is international and the revolution must be international. We feel very proud to say that we do something to make the ANC known in this country."

Hinyangerwa Asheke of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) also reaffirmed his group's firm solidarity with the ANC and spoke about the Namibian people's struggle for independence from South African rule.

All the main speakers condemned the murder of a young Black by a racist gang in Howard Beach.

Neo Mnumzana, chief delegate to the United Nations from the ANC, told the crowd, "The ANC was created in the context of the ascendancy of a white racist regime in South Africa. It was born in a hostile environment. The real achievement of the ANC is that it survived for 75 years."

"The question is why?"

"I believe that the answer is that we never for a moment lost sight of the fact that the ANC has no life separate from the life of the South African people — it is the articulation of their aspirations. This is the

secret of the survival of the ANC."

Mnumzana concluded his speech by saying, "You are voting with your presence here tonight for the freedom of the people of South Africa and therefore for the freedom of the people of the United States. We want you to push us along. We would like to remind you that the blood that unites us is thicker than the waters of the Atlantic that divide us."

The celebration closed with the singing of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*, the anthem of the South African freedom struggle; and with chants of "ANC! ANC! ANC!"

About 1,000 people packed a high school auditorium in Oakland, California, the evening of January 10 for a benefit concert for the ANC, on the occasion of the organization's 75th anniversary.

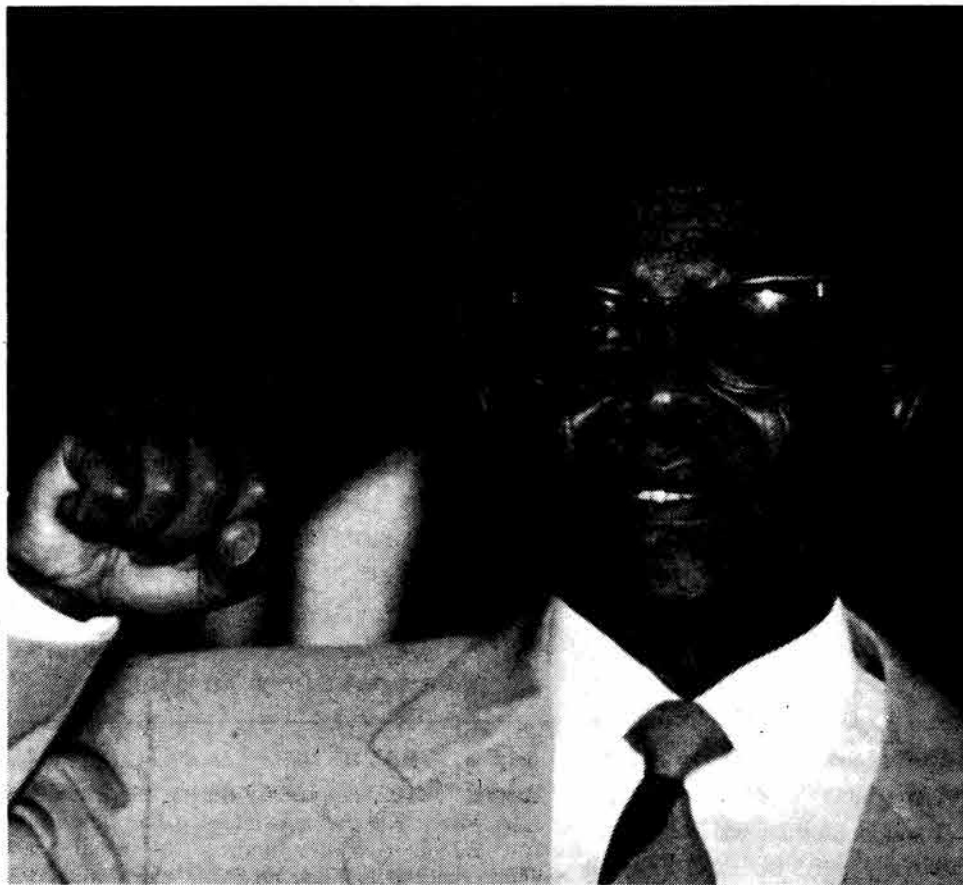
The event was organized by a broad range of groups, including the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, *Black Scholar* magazine, Peace and Solidarity Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, East Palo Alto Anti-Apartheid Committee, Richmond Rainbow Coalition, and others.

Although the featured performer, Gil Scott-Heron, failed to appear, all but 50 or so of the large crowd remained to hear the speakers and several choirs.

Neo Mnumzana, the ANC's chief representative to the United Nations, was the keynote speaker. Greetings were also presented from the Nicaraguan embassy and Zehdi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's representative to the United Nations.

The evening before, some 400 people turned out in Boston's predominantly Black Roxbury neighborhood to celebrate the ANC's 75th anniversary.

The event was cosponsored by the Free South Africa Movement and TransAfrica. Besides paying tribute to the ANC, the cel-



ANC President Oliver Tambo at organization's 75th anniversary celebration held in Lusaka, Zambia.

bration also raised funds for southern African relief projects.

More than a dozen political organizations sent representatives, each of whom presented brief expressions of solidarity with the ANC. These included the Mobilization for Survival, Peace and Solidarity Alliance, Communist Party, Rainbow Coalition, Socialist Workers Party, All People's Congress, and the Nuevo Instituto

de Centroamérica (NICA).

Participants in the celebration honored Themba Vilakazi, the ANC's chief spokesperson in the Boston area, as well as three other ANC activists. In his brief presentation, Vilakazi told the crowd, "As we begin to reach our goal of freedom, the struggle becomes more, not less difficult. That's why your solidarity is so important."

U.S. gov't report red-baits ANC

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The State Department, acting on a congressional mandate, delivered an 11-page red-baiting "report" on the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa to Congress January 8. Although it was marked confidential, copies were leaked to such major big-business newspapers as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* so they could publicize its conclusions.

The timing of the document's release was carefully chosen. January 8 was the 75th anniversary of the ANC's formation, a day on which anti-apartheid activists in South Africa and around the world were celebrating the birth of the organization leading the South African freedom struggle.

It also comes just a few weeks before ANC President Oliver Tambo's scheduled January 28 meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz, the highest-ranking U.S. official to ever meet with the ANC. After years of denigrating and seeking to ignore the organization, this marks a certain admission on Washington's part of the broad support the ANC has won and its decisive role in South Africa.

Smears and slanders

At the same time, however, U.S. officials have continued to signal their opposition to the ANC through slanders designed to paint it as a "terrorist," "communist-dominated" group. On a recent tour of several African countries, Shultz expressed his "grave reservations" about the ANC's "communist affiliation." The State Department report does the same thing.

Entitled "Communist Influence in South

Africa," the document claims that the ANC is "deeply beholden" to the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the Soviet Union. It also claims that "roughly half" of the 30 members of the ANC's National Executive Committee are "known or suspected SACP members."

The aim of such red-baiting attacks is to obstruct the growing movement toward recognition and support for the ANC, put pressure on the ANC to compromise its struggle, and sow divisions within the organization. They also seek to divert attention from Washington's close collaboration with the apartheid regime.

The ANC has never hidden its alliance with the SACP or its acceptance of Soviet support. It maintains that all political forces opposed to apartheid have a right to participate in the struggle. At the same time, ANC President Oliver Tambo has dismissed as "nonsense" the charge that the ANC is controlled by the SACP.

ANC and SACP leaders have also resisted being drawn into Washington's "numbers game" of identifying how many ANC leaders, and who among them, are also in the SACP. "We refuse to collaborate in such an exercise," an ANC spokesperson at the group's headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, told a reporter. "Then we'd have to start asking who among us are Jews or Zulus or Christians."

Mandated by congressional bill

The State Department's red-baiting report was drawn up in compliance with Congress' so-called Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which became law

on Oct. 2, 1986.

Besides imposing some new U.S. economic sanctions against Pretoria, the act mandated the White House to prepare a report within 90 days on "the extent to which Communists have infiltrated" the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

Many of the specific slanders and accusations contained in the State Department document were borrowed wholesale from earlier congressional "investigations" of the ANC. These included hearings in 1982 conducted by Sen. Jeremiah Denton and a June 1986 report by Rep. Dan Burton. Both were key proponents of the 1986 act's anti-ANC clauses.

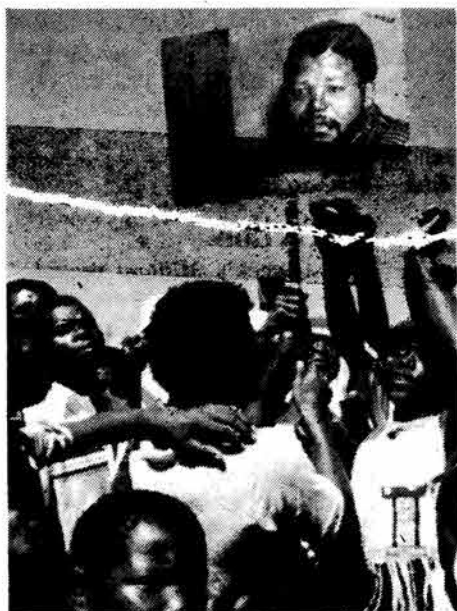
Burton has admitted that the information the two congressmen compiled was provided by "South African intelligence and other sources."

But even without such a direct South African government link, the ongoing attacks against the ANC by the State Department and Congress only serve to further Pretoria's efforts to preserve apartheid rule.

ANC's Oliver Tambo to speak in New York

Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, will be speaking in New York during his visit to this country in late January.

A public meeting has been scheduled for January 21 at 7:30 p.m., at the Riverside Church, 120th Street and Riverside Drive (the snow date is January 22).



Port Elizabeth demonstration. Millions in South Africa look to ANC for leadership.