

Reagan contra aid package defeated

BY CINDY JAQUITH

An important blow was struck February 3 against the U.S. government-sponsored war on Nicaragua when the House of Representatives narrowly defeated a Reagan administration plea for more than \$60 million in aid to the contra terrorists.

While Democratic Party officials announced they will now put forward their own proposal for aiding the mercenaries, the defeat of the Reagan bill has placed Nicaragua in a stronger position for the next stage of the battle to end Washington's aggression. U.S. opponents of that aggression also have new opportunities to deepen protest activities.

Reagan's aid package was defeated by a 219 to 211 vote in the House. The bill had called for \$60 to \$68 million for the terrorists over the next four months, the highest per-month amount of money the contras would have yet received in the six-year-long war.

'Lethal' and 'humanitarian' aid

While the White House claimed only \$3.6 million of this was "lethal" aid, the majority of the "humanitarian" aid in the package was actually earmarked for jeeps, helicopters, and troop transport. Another \$20 million was to go for replacing downed contra aircraft, and from \$4 to \$12 million for radar and other electronic warfare equipment.

The proposal was in total violation of the peace accords signed by the five Central American presidents in August 1987. Those accords call for a halt to all funding of the contras.

Reagan's speech defending his aid package, on the eve of the vote, was rejected for live broadcast by the ABC, NBC, and CBS television networks. All seven Democratic presidential candidates issued a joint statement after the speech, calling for defeat of the bill.

Only a few months ago, the Democratic-controlled Congress had voted \$3.5 million, then \$3.2 million, then \$14 million to "tide over" the contra terrorists after the Central America peace plan was signed. What made it more difficult to adopt the Reagan bill this time was the success of the Sandinistas in exposing Washington as the real aggressor in Nicaragua and the central obstacle to implementation of the peace plan.

In January the Nicaraguan government agreed to enter direct negotiations with the contras, release more counterrevolutionary prisoners, and lift its state of emergency. That made it even more costly in political terms for Washington to massively escalate funding to the mercenaries.

Central American regimes

In Central America itself, as the House vote approached, only the Honduran regime was willing to openly support Reagan's bill. The governments of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala refused to campaign for it.

In the United States, meanwhile, polls showed a consistent majority against contra aid. The revelation in the last week before the House vote of massive FBI spying on antiwar groups deepened that opposition.

The framework of the debate in the House, however, was not one of overthrow the Sandinistas versus let Nicaragua live in peace. Rather, both supporters and opponents of Reagan's bill insisted that they all agreed on the need to "protect our national

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Spy files reveal how FBI disrupted antiwar groups

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). The United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, and Hospital Employees' unions. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other Black rights groups. The Women's Rape Crisis Center of Norfolk, Virginia. Antiwar groups on college campuses. Immigrants fleeing U.S.-sponsored terror in Central America. The Maryknoll Sisters, Quaker organizations, and other religious groups.

These were among the scores of organizations and hundreds of individuals who have been victimized by an FBI campaign of disruption and surveillance against opponents of U.S. military intervention in Central America.

An inkling of the scope of the campaign came to light January 27 when the Center for Constitutional Rights made public some of the 1,200 pages of documents that it had squeezed out of the government through a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act. The FBI refused to release another 2,400 pages.

Publication of the documents has dealt a devastating blow to the image of the "new FBI." The cop agency, we are told, was reformed when headed by William Webster, who is now CIA director. The FBI allegedly no longer engages in the kind of illegal political spying and disruption that

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Militant/Arthur Hughes

October 1986 protest in Washington, D.C., against U.S. war in Central America. Revelations of FBI's probe of CISPES, other antiwar groups, has dealt big blow to government attempts to project image of new, "cleaned-up" political police.

Israelis renew 'shoot to kill' policy

BY HARRY RING

Confronted with the unyielding resistance of the Palestinian people, Israelis murdered two more youths February 1, bringing the known number of Palestinians killed to at least 40.

Meanwhile, Washington disclosed a "peace" proposition that would offer Palestinians in the military-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip the right to elect local officials with minimal authority.

The shooting of the two young Palestinians, and the wounding of a third, occurred near an elementary school in the West Bank Village of Anabta.

A rudimentary barricade had halted a busload of Israeli soldiers, a police car, and two cars carrying armed Israeli settlers.

The soldiers and settlers emerged from their vehicles, and one of the soldiers or settlers opened fire. The army said the youths had thrown stones at them.

The dead are Moayad Shaar, 21, and Mourad Hamdallah, 17. Both were shot in the chest.

Israeli colonial settlers, who number 60,000 in the West Bank, carry weapons provided by the army. They scoff at the official fiction of "temporary" occupation of Gaza and the West Bank — now in its 21st year — and have conducted vigilante attacks on Palestinian communities.

One Israeli settler was reported critically wounded by a firebomb January 31. This occurred near the spot where a settler shot and killed a Palestinian youth three weeks earlier.

The army-settler shooting death of the two youths, and the wounding of at least 20 others in a single weekend, marked a return to the use of live ammunition by the Israelis.

For a period there was the officially declared policy of breaking the bones of Palestinians. This didn't frighten them into submission and only deepened interna-

tional outrage at Israeli brutality.

Now there is a return to deadly gunfire, combined with savage beatings.

Nablus curfew

In dramatic confirmation of the power of the Palestinian uprising, the Israeli military imposed an around-the-clock curfew on the entire city of Nablus. With a population of 100,000, Nablus is the largest city in the West Bank.

The curfew, and a door-to-door police roundup, came after youths held downtown Nablus for two days.

Behind flaming barricades, they held off the Israelis with rocks and bottles.

Earlier, crowds marched toward the military governor's office. As helicopters dropped tear gas on them, thousands of residents danced on their rooftops, shouting antioccupation slogans and using sling-shots to hurl stones at the helicopters.

Police opened fire on the marchers,

wounding at least 13.

It is this crisis of Israeli rule that spurred Washington to put forward its "peace" proposition.

Describing the crisis, a Jerusalem dispatch to the *New York Times* said:

"As the diplomatic initiative has emerged, the wave of unrest that gave rise to it has, if anything, intensified. The Israeli army general staff held a long meeting today on the protests, which Israel has not been able to bring under control, even with the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, live ammunition, curfews and beatings, as well as the jailing of suspects without trial.

"Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Israeli radio today that the situation was continuing to deteriorate around Nablus, where youths throwing rocks held the old quarter of the city against the army yesterday."

The problem was not just Nablus. A *Washington Post* dispatch from Je-

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Artists rally in New York to defend Pathfinder mural

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — "Welcome, fellow freedom fighters!" said Madeline Arterberg, as she opened the Pathfinder Mural Defense Speak-out here the evening of January 29.

The event was called to protest the harassment of the six-story mural project that is being painted on the south wall of the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. The mural will feature the portraits of many revolutionary leaders from throughout the world whose works are published by Pathfinder, including V.I. Lenin, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, and

Fidel Castro. The mural celebrates the role of the working-class press in great social struggles, past and present.

The speak-out was attended by more than 100 political activists and artists, and became a powerful protest against the victimization of political art and artists in a city that is touted worldwide as a major cultural center.

Arterberg, a member of the Nicaragua cultural solidarity group Ventana and a Pathfinder mural activist, co-chaired the event along with Georges Sayad, the proj-

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Protests demand end to contra funding

BY SAM MANUEL

Thousands of people across the country demonstrated at the end of January and beginning of February against U.S. government aid to the contras in Nicaragua. Most of the actions took place outside federal buildings in various cities. The protests were marked by the participation of young people, especially high school and college students.

A spirited and youthful crowd of 1,300 marched on the Capitol in Washington, D.C., February 2. A large lead banner read: "No contra aid, not one penny!"

A kick-off rally for the march was addressed by Daniel Ellsberg. Ellsberg, who revealed the Pentagon Papers on the Vietnam War, is on a fast against contra aid along with antiwar veteran Brian Willson.

At the rally on the west steps of the Capitol, Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, said, "NOW and the women of America are sick and tired of this country's obscene intervention in Nicaragua." A message from the African National Congress stated: "We, the South African people, are with the people of Nicaragua all the way."

"Stop contra aid now!" and "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua," were among the most popular chants of the 300 people at a February 2 rally against contra aid in Manhattan. The spirit of the crowd was not dampened by the cold weather and pouring rain.

More than half the protesters consisted of young people, many of them students from the New York University Central America Solidarity Committee.

On Sunday, January 31, 100 people attended a mass against contra aid, followed by a march to the Federal Building in Harlem. It was a young crowd, mostly from the Dominican and Puerto Rican communities. The march was sponsored by Latino Friends of Nicaragua.

More than 3,000 demonstrators marched with candles through Westwood Village in Los Angeles to protest contra aid Saturday night, January 30. Dozens of high school and junior high school students participated.

The action was organized by Days of Decision, a coalition of 30 antiwar groups.

A small number of contra supporters tried to provoke the demonstrators by



Militant/Jim Levitt

Protest against contra war held in Seattle last November

chanting "Yes, contra aid" and "We want war in El Salvador" and shouting insults. They had no success.

Just over 1,000 people marched through downtown San Francisco Monday night, February 1, in an action sponsored by the Bay Area Pledge of Resistance and the Nicaragua Information Center.

The march had assembled in a large picket line outside the Salvadoran consulate, where protesters chanted "Nicaragua, El Salvador: U.S. out." The picket was addressed by a representative of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers support com-

mittee.

Plans are under way in the city for a major demonstration on April 30.

A morning protest against contra aid in Chicago drew 400 people despite a driving rain. Several contingents of high school students participated.

At one point, the crowd of mostly young people completely surrounded the Federal Building, and a substantial number attempted to enter it. Eighty people were arrested.

A caravan of 83 cars festooned with placards denouncing U.S. aid to the contras wound its way through downtown Cleveland January 30.

In a gesture of solidarity with Nicaragua, four activists departed from Cleveland the following day with a truckload of medical supplies and equipment for the electrification of Rama Cay, a small island off the southern Atlantic coast of Nicaragua.

Protests also took place in Seattle; Portland, Oregon; Louisville, Kentucky; Des Moines, Iowa; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Arizona's governor faces recall election

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Arizona's Republican governor, Evan Mecham, announced January 30 that he would not resign from office. Instead, he will run in a special election May 17 — an election scheduled as the result of a successful petition effort that gathered close to 400,000 signatures demanding a recall vote.

Mecham, whose response to mounting demands for his resignation has been to dig in his heels, is a reactionary millionaire Pontiac salesman from Phoenix with a long record of association with rightist causes and groups. After four unsuccessful tries at the governor's job, he was elected in 1986 by a plurality. He took office in early 1987.

One of his first acts as governor was to rescind the state holiday honoring Martin Luther King, saying King did not deserve a holiday. This affront to all supporters of Black rights was met with a demonstration of 15,000 — one of the largest in Arizona's history — demanding reinstatement of the holiday.

Mecham's other views have also contributed to his growing isolation. He believes that women working outside the home cause divorce; that the women's rights movement promotes lesbianism; that homosexuality is "an unacceptable lifestyle"; and that slave owners were the "worst victims" of slavery. He has referred to Black children as "pickaninnies."

Addressing a Jewish group, he described

the United States as a "Christian nation."

In Mecham's opinion the United States is "a little bit too much of a democracy."

Some of Mecham's appointments have also drawn fire, including a tax official who had not filed state tax returns; a liquor superintendent suspected of involvement in a slaying; and an education advisor who commented, "If a student wants to say the world is flat, the teacher doesn't have the right to prove otherwise."

Working people in Arizona, repelled by Mecham's overt bigotry, signed the petitions calling for a recall vote in massive numbers during 1987. This January another successful King Day march was held, with significant union participation, demanding reinstatement of the holiday.

Heavy pressure for Mecham to step aside has been coming from other circles as well.

The millionaire land speculators, ranchers, and capitalists who run Arizona are not too happy with him either. An estimated \$25 million in convention business has been lost in the past year as a result of the King holiday cancellation. The Mecham Recall Committee was founded by a millionaire insurance man.

Patriarch of the Arizona Republican Party, Barry Goldwater, along with other prominent Republicans, has called for Mecham's resignation, as have leading capitalist newspapers in the state.

Mecham was indicted in early January on six felony counts of violating campaign

finance laws, including perjury, fraud, and concealing a \$350,000 campaign loan.

On January 20 hearings to consider whether or not to impeach Mecham opened in the Arizona House of Representatives.

Reagan's contra aid bill defeated

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security interests" and "democratize" Nicaragua, their code word for overturning the Sandinista revolution and the social gains it has brought that country's working people.

As Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), who presented the Democratic response to Reagan's speech on the eve of the vote put it, "The United States has valid security interests in Central America, but the contras do not and cannot protect them. . . . The question is how to achieve these goals we share."

Given the utter failure of the contras to overthrow the revolution or intimidate the Sandinistas through terror and sabotage, some in U.S. ruling circles believe that their goals have a greater chance of being achieved by operating more within the peace plan framework. They want to force the maximum possible concessions out of the Sandinistas, along with continuing to bleed Nicaragua dry economically, in the hopes of building up an internal counter-revolutionary force capable of overthrowing the government.

Democratic Party officials indicated that they will shortly propose a bill calling for some \$10 million in "humanitarian" aid to the contras, possibly delivered through the CIA, and for talks that include direct representatives of the U.S. government, which has refused to participate in negotiations thus far.

House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas) made it clear the Democrats fully intend to maintain the contras as an active military force as the talks proceed, explaining that his proposal will "provide help for the contras to maintain their position in place, so they are not hung out to dry or victimized by anyone."

What continuing aid to these killers means was shown once again the day before the House vote, when the mercenaries attacked a farm in Santa Elisa in central Nicaragua, murdering eight civilians, including three children.

The debate over Nicaragua will intensify in the months ahead. The war is not over. Action on the part of opponents of the contra war can make an important difference.

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President of Central New Jersey National Organization for Women

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

Striking Pa. paperworkers win solidarity



Marchers from 80 union locals showed their support to striking workers at International Paper in Lock Haven

BY HOLLY HARKNESS
AND MIKE SHUR

LOCK HAVEN, Pa. — Some 1,000 people, including several hundred union members from around Pennsylvania and nearby states, marched and rallied January 30 in a strong show of support for paperworkers on strike at International Paper Co.'s mill here.

Workers from more than 80 locals of garment, steel, auto, oil, hospital, and other unions attended the action. Students also participated.

The 700 strikers are members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 1787. Along with paperworkers on strike or locked out in Jay, Maine; De Pere, Wisconsin; and Mobile, Alabama, they are in a battle with IP over the company's demands for far-reaching concessions.

The march ended with a rally at the Lock Haven High School gymnasium.

"Big companies like IP have no regard for workers or their communities," Merrill Lambert, a United Auto Workers union member, explained to the *Militant*. "This is where the battle line has to be drawn."

Ella Mae Skebo, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union for 19 years, explained why she thought it was important to be in Lock Haven that day. "Unions have to stick together," she said. "If IP gets away with this, we all face the same thing."

Jack Slater — president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-86 — headed up a delegation of 25 workers from his local. Outraged at the cop violence the striking paperworkers have faced, he said, "We came up here to support the paperworkers and to let the state government know we oppose the use of the state police in the strike. We want them out of here."

UPIU Local 1787 President Robert McKivison welcomed everyone to the rally, and explained why the march did not go by the IP mill's main gate. The union had sought to have the injunction limiting the number of pickets at the gates lifted for a few hours to allow the march to go past the plant. The injunction was lifted, but IP got the court's agreement to levy massive fines against the union if there were any

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Oil workers discuss contract that would set pattern for industry

BY JOEL BRITTON
AND MICHAEL MAGGI

DENVER — Thousands of U.S. and Canadian oil workers are discussing a contract offer made by Amoco Oil Co. to employees at refineries in Casper, Wyoming, and Yorktown, Virginia.

Top officials of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) and the Energy and Chemical Workers of Canada are seeking to establish the Amoco offer as the national pattern for the 300 refinery and oil-related industry contracts that expired midnight January 31. More than 40,000 workers are covered by these contracts.

Industry giant Amoco is offering a 30 cents an hour wage increase the first year followed by a 3 percent wage hike during the final year of the two-year contract.

Rod Rogers, OCAW publicity director, reported February 2 that the Amoco offer is the basis for tentative proposals by other oil companies. One of them, British Petroleum, has announced that it will not follow Amoco's lead.

The union has granted 24- to 72-hour extensions on expired contracts while negotiations continue both on the Amoco offer and on local contract issues.

Companies have been demanding a wide range of concessions on work rules, job combinations, contracting out of work traditionally performed by union members, and on sick leave and other health and safety issues. Ratification votes must take place in each bargaining unit.

The Amoco offer falls far short of the program adopted last September at OCAW's National Oil Bargaining Conference.

That program called for substantial wage increases both years of the contract and a rejection of the lump-sum payments that were imposed in place of wage increases in the 1986 negotiations.

The bargaining program opposed any provision "that would perpetuate the two-tier condition in some contracts."

In the 1986 contract, wages for new hires were slashed by as much as \$3 per hour in many refineries. Most oil refinery workers make from around \$9 to \$15 an hour, with new hires often taking from three to five years to progress to full rate.

The program also demanded fully paid medical and dental plans and the addition of Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday.

On January 18 some 400 people rallied at the Chevron Refinery in Richmond, California, demanding an end to takebacks and calling for King's birthday to be a paid holiday. Most were oil workers and their families, but participants also included community activists.

The Amoco proposal does not include the additional holiday or the other demands put forward by union members.

Expectations were higher in this contract round than they were in 1986. More seri-

ous discussions and strike preparations took place in many bargaining units.

The contract expiration date coincided for the first time with major coal mining contracts, and OCAW and United Mine Workers officials jointly popularized the slogan "Whatever it takes in '88." Stickers and buttons promoting that slogan were distributed to oil bargaining units.

Many OCAW officials and members breathed a sigh of relief that something worse wasn't being proposed by the big oil companies. But Juan Martínez, an operator at the Chevron refinery in Richmond, reported that there was a lot of anger among his coworkers over the small wage gains and the refusal to grant the King holiday.

A contract-ratification vote took place at the Tosco refinery in Martinez, California, on February 1. Louise Goodman, an op-

erator there, told the *Militant* that she and coworkers had spoken out against a contract modeled after the Amoco proposal because they felt more could have been won.

"If we can't get a better contract than this when the oil companies are making record profits, what will happen when they claim to be losing money," she said.

Goodman urged the negotiating committee to return to the bargaining table to demand a better contract. Thirty-five Tosco workers voted to reject the contract while 198 voted to approve it.

Joel Britton is an operator at the Chevron Refinery in El Segundo, California, and member of OCAW Local 1-547. Michael Maggi is an operator at Koch Refining in Pine Bend, Minnesota, and member of OCAW Local 6-662.

A good time to ask miners to buy 'Militant'

BY NORTON SANDLER

Distributors of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are focusing their attention on a subscription renewal campaign that runs through March 19.

This is also a good time to make a special push on distributing the revolutionary press to coal miners and oil workers. The contracts for many of these unionists expired on January 31.

During the fall 1987 circulation drive, *Militant* and *PM* supporters met with good results in selling subscriptions to United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members in the eastern and western coalfields.

With the subscriptions due to expire soon, now is the time to get back in touch with these miners about renewing.

UMWA members will vote February 8 on a tentative contract offer from the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

After kicking out the corrupt Tony Boyle regime in the early 1970s, UMWA members democratized their union. They won the right to read their complete contract, to discuss it, and vote on it. This measure of democracy was important for helping mobilize union power in successful 1974, 1977-78, and 1981 strikes against the coal operators' takeback drive.

In 1984, while giveback contracts were being imposed on many unions, UMWA members were able to win a basically non-concessionary contract without a strike.

If the miners hold the line against the operators in this round of negotiations, it will be a boost to other unionists. The large oil companies also own many coal mines, and the outcome of the coal negotiations can have a bearing on the oil contracts.

The *Militant* will closely follow developments in these negotiations, carrying articles written by members of the coal and oil unions.

We encourage our distributors to take special steps to widely circulate the *Militant*, *PM*, and *New International* in the cities, towns, and hollows where miners and their families live. This can include organizing teams that spend several days in the mining areas.

We also want to encourage an extra effort to get to refinery gates with the revolutionary press.

In coming issues we will also be carrying articles on the recent revelations about FBI spying on groups and individuals op-

posed to the U.S. government's aggression in Central America.

We will also explain the stakes unionists and other political activists have in defending the victory scored in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against illegal FBI spying.

During January, our business office received 203 *Militant* subscription renewals. Of these, 123 were for six months or longer. Eighteen *PM* renewals were received. Twelve readers took advantage of our special offer and purchased a copy of *New International* for the reduced price of \$3.50.



New International
Magazine of Marxist
politics and theory
**"Revolution
is the Birth
of Light"**
Interview with
Tomás Borge

This interview with Nicaraguan Commander Tomás Borge was conducted in Cuba in 1985. In it, Borge talks about the "deep interrelation between art and revolution," Nicaraguan culture, and the achievements of the revolution.

Please send me this issue. Enclosed is \$6.50. Mail to New International, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Artists urge defense of Pathfinder mural

Continued from front page

ect's New York coordinator.

Last November, Artenberg explained, leaflets inviting people to a mural open house were posted in the neighborhood of the Pathfinder Building. One of those present at the open house was Arnoldo Guillén, a leading artist from Nicaragua who had just finished painting the portraits of Nicaraguan revolutionary leaders Augusto César Sandino and Carlos Fonseca on the mural.

"The open house was very well attended," Artenberg noted. "People were very excited, and they wanted to be included in the mural project. However, on December 3, an agent of the Environmental Control Board hand-delivered 35 citations to the Pathfinder Building, carrying a maximum penalty of \$100 each. Other leaflets on the same lampposts were not targeted. This is a clear case of selective harassment due to the politically powerful nature of the mural."

"We recognize that this harassment amounts to extortion by a city government, whose mayor, Ed Koch, runs around defending the \$6 movie price, but won't defend the political and artistic rights of artists," Artenberg continued. "This is an attack on the democratic rights of all of us, and we have to fight for these rights. This selective harassment must be stopped. The citations must be dropped!"

Juan Sánchez, a prominent Puerto Rican artist, explained why the Pathfinder mural, along with other art based on social themes in the city, is being targeted.

"Freedom of expression is for you to be able to say whatever you want to say, as far as content, aesthetic concept, and form is

concerned," Sánchez explained. But this "freedom" doesn't apply when art has to do with the lives of working-class people.

"Public art," Sánchez said, "is not supposed to have any kind of content, that is to say, content illustrating the struggle of Black people in this country, or the struggle of Latino people, or the struggle of Native Americans, or the struggle of white Americans. There's no place for that type of work."

Sánchez's work, along with that of speak-out participant Marina Gutiérrez, is currently part of an exhibit of political art at New York's Museum of Modern Art titled "Committed to Print."

Phillip Danzig, an architect who has helped paint murals in New Jersey and Nicaragua, said, "It's a shameful thing that's happening to the mural. We're changing that; we're doing something that we should be very proud of here."

"Perhaps the Environmental Control Board should be called the 'thought control board,'" Danzig said. "And the citations this mural has been given! When the mural is finished, it will be given other types of citations; it will be given citations for bringing something very positive."

Fight to complete the mural

The speakout was held at Westbeth, a residential community for 385 artists and their families, located near the Pathfinder Building.

Cliff Joseph, a Black artist and art psychotherapist who lives at Westbeth, helped arrange for the speakout to be held at Westbeth's gallery. He also participated in the speak-out.

"I'm very fortunate to live so close to where that mural is being placed, because I can go down two blocks any day and look at it," Joseph said.

"We're involved in a fight; this is really going to be a struggle. But I believe the mural is going to be completed. We're not going to let anyone prevent that from happening," he said.

"Sometime ago I made the statement 'The power of art belongs to the people,'" Joseph continued. "I think the establishment knows the power of art and what it can mean to a people in their struggle against oppression."

Museo del Barrio

There are very few avenues for Black, Latino, and Asian artists, explained co-chair Georges Sayad, to have their art shown and be recognized. One such avenue is the Museo del Barrio in New York's East Harlem, whose curator, artist Rafael Colon-Morales, participated in the speak-out.

All Puerto Rican cultural institutions in *el barrio* and in Puerto Rico itself have difficulties, he explained, tracing the roots of current problems these artists face to the invasion and subjugation of Puerto Rico by



Militant photos by Osborne Hart
Artists speaking at rally in defense of mural included, clockwise from top left: Madeline Artenberg, Juan Sánchez, Marina Gutiérrez, Cliff Joseph.

U.S. imperialism in 1898.

"The mural tradition has come to my country," Colon-Morales said, solidifying with the fight to defend the Pathfinder mural. "And in Puerto Rico there has been great difficulty not only in putting them up on the wall, but actually saying what we want in those murals."

Rudolf Baranik, an internationally renowned painter, explained that he first heard about the mural project in Havana, Cuba. He was attending the Bienal exhibit of Third World art last summer, in which several other speak-out participants also took part, including Mike Alewitz, the mural's artistic director. Alewitz had explained to Baranik that the mural's revolutionary images would be seen by Wall Street and the World Trade Center commuters.

The mural will be a "beacon," Baranik said, that will "tell Wall Street they will be defeated."

Baranik went on to say that in his opinion, the mural should also include figures such as Mao Tse-tung, Ho Chi Minh, Joe Hill, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King.

"However, I want to express," Baranik said, "in the name of quite a few artists in New York, that we consider this project a wonderful endeavor, the most important public art that is going up in New York and we would like to help Pathfinder as much as possible."

Open mike

Following the program, there was an open mike for other speak-out participants to make remarks.

Bob Z, a young man involved in organizing "underground" concerts and poetry readings, spoke forcefully about the harassment he and others face for posting leaflets in New York, including personally receiving \$3,700 in fines. His experiences confirmed what Georges Sayad said earlier in the program: that citations for posting fliers — often the only means of advertising for those with few financial resources, such as poor artists, small business people, and political organizations — are an attack on free speech.

Others speaking at the protest meeting included Mike Alewitz, the artistic director of the mural project; Steve Bernstein from the New York-Nicaragua Construction Brigade; artist Willie Birch; Thiago de Mello, the well-known Brazilian jazz musician

and composer; Roderick Thurton, political science professor at Queens College; and Dan Georgakas, an editor of the film magazine *Cineaste*.

Among those in the audience at the speakout was Renée Majeune, a young muralist who came to the November open house as a result of seeing the now-famous leaflets posted around Greenwich Village. After attending the event, she became inspired about the project and has been an active mural supporter ever since.

Messages of support for the Pathfinder mural's defense efforts were also read at the speakout, including from Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of the National Mobilization for Survival; Nicaragua Medical Material Aid Campaign; Casa El Salvador; Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State; and Judy Freiwirth, of the National Mobilization for Survival. A few days later writer Kate Millet added her endorsement to the project.

A collection at the speakout raised over \$300 to help with mural defense expenses.

The campaign against the city's harassment is being organized through Pathfinder Books at 79 Leonard St., New York, N.Y. 10013; telephone (212) 226-8445.

Protest messages should be sent to Mayor Edward Koch, City Hall, New York, N.Y. 10007. Please send copy to Pathfinder Books.

For more information on the Pathfinder Mural Project, clip and mail the coupon below to the project at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

- ☐ Please add my name as a sponsor of the Pathfinder Mural Project.
- ☐ Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of \$_____. Make checks payable to the Anchor Foundation.
- ☐ I would like _____ copies of the mural project brochure.
- ☐ I would like to work on, paint, or document the project.
- ☐ Please send me a catalog of Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

Name _____
Phone _____
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City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Signature _____
Organization/union/school _____

Now available . . .

Pathfinder Mural Project video

The *Pathfinder Mural Project: an International Collaboration* shows the work in progress, including Nicaraguan artist Arnoldo Guillén painting on the mural and speaking about it. Provides a brief description of the Pathfinder publishing house.

Produced by students at New York University. It is 15 minutes on 1/2 inch tape; VHS recorder or player needed for showing.

To purchase, send \$15 to Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

300 marchers in New York declare: 'Our bodies — our right to decide!'

BY NANCY BLYTH AND CECILIA MORIARITY

NEW YORK — In falling snow and dropping temperatures, 300 demonstrators rallied at Union Square January 22 to commemorate the victory of legalized abortion and to defend it against government attacks.

The demonstration, sponsored by the New York Pro-Choice Coalition, coincided with the 15th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision striking down state restrictions on abortion.

The coalition is a group of individuals and organizations formed to fight to ensure that safe, legal abortion is available to all women.

The protesters responded enthusiastically to chants by speakers. "Our bodies, our lives — our right to decide" and "Right wing says get back — we say fight back" met the challenges of a group of 50 anti-abortion hecklers.

Diane Straus, administrator of the Cherry Hill Women's Center, in New Jersey, spoke to the crowd about a recent attempt by right-wing foes of abortion rights to shut down the clinic. Three hundred and ten were arrested; only 11 were from New

Jersey. "They're desperate," she said. "They had to gather people from all over the country. They are a small minority. We who defend abortion rights are the majority."

According to a countrywide survey by the National Abortion Rights Action League, 88 percent of registered voters favored retaining abortion rights in some form, while 10 percent said they opposed abortion under all circumstances.

Lee Levin of the Coalition of Labor Union Women pointed out, "Abortion is a labor issue. Women work," she said, "because they need the money. They must be able to decide for themselves so they can take advantage of opportunities on the job."

Levine encouraged the participants to attend a rally in Washington, D.C., on May 14, called the American Family Celebration. The event will demand government funding for child care and social services.

Joan Gibbs from the Center for Constitutional Rights pointed to the need for a long-term struggle to defend abortion rights. She noted that attacks will continue regardless of who's in the White House after Ronald Reagan.

Nicaraguan farm workers fight for social gains

Interview with union leader



Militant/Harvey McArthur

Coffee workers bring in crop. Their union, Association of Rural Workers, struggles for contracts assuring improved conditions and more control over organization of work and use of resources.

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "The biggest struggle we had was over union recognition. Employers didn't want to accept the union locals," Julio Muñoz explained, discussing the recent union campaign to win contracts covering workers on Nicaragua's privately owned coffee farms.

"The employers didn't want to deal with the unions on labor problems," Muñoz added. "Many of them still act in an anti-labor way."

Muñoz is a leader of the Association of Rural Workers (ATC). He coordinates the ATC locals representing workers on coffee farms. In an interview here, he discussed what the coffee workers have accomplished in their contract drive, and the challenges they face. In addition to the negotiations with private farm owners, the unions signed contracts with farms owned by the state.

Farm workers, many of whom are organized into the ATC, are a big part of the union movement in Nicaragua. And within the ATC, those whose labor is essential to the production of coffee beans are a decisive component.

Coffee is Nicaragua's main cash crop for export. For every \$100 earned from exports, \$40 comes from the sale of coffee on the world market.

The year-round work force on the coffee farms is about 20,000. During harvest time, in December and January, 50,000 additional hands are needed.

About 35 percent of the coffee crop is produced on big capitalist farms, according to the most recent estimates available. Another 45 percent is produced by working farmers with small- or medium-sized farms. The remainder comes from state farms.

Big coffee farmers employ 100 workers or more year-round. Those who have about 50 permanent workers are considered medium farmers. Even small coffee farmers sometimes have fulltime workers in addition to the labor they and their families put in cultivating the coffee trees.

Beginning in 1985, the ATC began working toward the goal of signing contracts covering its members working for private coffee growers and on state farms.

"On the coffee farms run by the workers since the triumph of the revolution," Muñoz said, referring to the state farms, "things had been changing for the workers. These include improvements in housing, occupational health, construction of Rural Children's Centers, and other benefits," he said.

"But in the private sector we still had conditions just like before '79," he said, referring to the July 19, 1979, revolution that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship. "And in some cases, where the farms had been decapitalized, things were worse."

Union's social goals

In initiating the campaign to get contracts signed, the ATC had a double goal. The union wanted to improve the conditions its members lived and worked under. Equally important, it wanted to win a measure of union control over the organization of work and utilization of resources so as to increase production.

The ATC's objective is to use union power for social gains benefiting all the toilers, not just to improve conditions and benefits for its own members.

Some of the farms in private hands were not being properly cared for by their owners. Instead of investing in the farms, some capitalist farmers were taking money out, letting the coffee trees go uncared for and the living conditions for the workers deteriorate. Productivity declined on these decapitalized farms. Some farm workers moved on in search of better conditions, and for those who remained the work was often poorly organized.

The state controls all coffee exports. Less coffee produced means less hard currency earnings for the workers' and peasants' government to use to meet immediate needs and to invest in developing the country.

"Our starting point," explained Muñoz, "was that we needed union contracts to guarantee the recovery of the coffee trees and to transform coffee farming — to improve the technology, to improve the infrastructure, and to stabilize the work force."

Peasants displaced

Before the 1979 revolution there were plenty of farmhands to be hired. They worked for miserable wages and under the worst conditions. Most were peasants who had lost their land — or whose parents or grandparents had.

Capitalist farmers of coffee and other export crops took the land from these peasants, who had been producing food for domestic consumption. The food available to Nicaragua's working people declined. But the capitalist farmers didn't care. By expropriating the peasants they got good land for profitable investment and a plentiful and cheap work force to exploit.

However, since 1979 the situation in the countryside has changed qualitatively.

The destruction of the Somoza dictatorship won farm workers the right to organize. "To speak of the revolution is to speak of the taking of political power," Muñoz said. "Now, of course, it is possible to organize. Because there is nobody to stop you." Instead of repression from the dictatorship ruling in the interests of the landlords and capitalists, the farm workers can count on support from the Sandinista government.

The labor supply in the countryside has also declined. More than 70,000 landless peasant families — close to half a million people — have been given land to work. Some of these peasants still hire out as day laborers from time to time, but many do not.

These changed conditions have made it possible for the ATC to push to win recognition of its local unions. In the middle of 1987 local unions opened negotiations. On the national level, ATC locals have now signed contracts covering 13,600 coffee workers. These cover 110 private farms and 94 state farms.

Wages were not part of the negotiations. Officially, these are established by the government under procedures covering all employees, both state and private. In practice, however, the legal wage rates are not always enforced.

Often, actual wages are higher than the government scale, as rapid inflation quickly makes official rates outdated, and as employers compete for skilled labor. In other cases, employers cheat on wages through devices such as refusing to come through with vacation pay and failing to provide the "13th month's" wages due by law at Christmas time.

The ATC's main goal in relation to wages has been to achieve uniform compliance with government-set rates of pay and with the production quotas on which the pay rates are based.

Working and living conditions

The major issues raised by the union covered working and living conditions and benefits. In the negotiations with the private farmers, the union ran into stiff resistance on some points. Progress was uneven from farm to farm, Muñoz said. Each local conducted negotiations separately with the private farm owners.

In many cases, Muñoz said, initial opposition and hostility from the employers gave way to a more cooperative attitude as the negotiations continued. He believes that the union's approach of emphasizing that both sides wanted to increase production was decisive in this. Among the union proposals were the following:

- Employer-provided meals. "Since the workers need food for energy," Muñoz explained, "it's not right for them to have to pay for the food they get at the workplace."

"But the idea still exists in some places that the workers should have to pay for these meals." The union demanded that the employers provide three meals a day for the workers. "And not the same old thing every day, either," Muñoz added.

- Allocation of land for workers to grow basic food crops. The union has tried to win the right of farm workers to use part of the employers' land to grow basic grains — usually beans or corn — to help feed their family. There has been a lot of resistance to this demand, Muñoz said, because the private owners don't like the idea of using the land for anything other than their cash crops.

- Company-provided commissaries. Access to stores where basic commodities can be purchased is a major problem in the countryside. The union wants the employers to share responsibility for meeting this need.

"Before the victory of the revolution," Muñoz recalled, "the coffee plantations had big company stores that the workers hated. Why? Because the workers would buy things there, and the boss would keep a record and take the money out of their wages. When they came to get paid, often they wouldn't get anything. It was one form of exploitation."

Now these company stores don't exist. But there still has to be a guaranteed way to get basic goods to the rural population.

The employers objected to this union demand, Muñoz noted, because they consider getting goods to the workers as a problem for the government to deal with, not their responsibility. "But we think management has to make efforts in this area," he added.

- Occupational health and safety. The

union wants to force the employers to provide equipment to protect the health and safety of the workers, and to provide training in their use.

"The biggest problem in this area is in the handling of pesticides," Muñoz explained. "In Nicaragua, and in other Latin American countries, a lot of agrochemicals are used."

"Some places have barred these chemicals for health reasons. But in poor countries like ours, pesticides that are very harmful to health have been introduced. Many workers have been poisoned because there is no protective equipment."

- Medical care. The union has insisted that there be first-aid stations in every workplace, and that every worker get a regular medical checkup. "No worker can pay for private medical care, it is very expensive," the ATC leader said. The union wants the employers to cover costs of transportation to public health centers, and pay for any medicines that have to be purchased from private pharmacies.

Rights of women

Among the most important issues raised by the ATC in the contract negotiations were those relating to the rights of women. About one-third of the workers covered by the contracts are female.

Before the revolution, very few women were employed as permanent coffee workers. Those who did have jobs were mostly cooks.

There are still many privately owned farms that "won't hire women for work in cultivation, even when there is a shortage of labor," according to a 1986 report by the ATC women's commission. "In addition, they won't hire us when we are pregnant, especially in the coffee and cotton farms," the report continued.

The ATC is fighting to change these practices. "We are for full rights for women, equal to those of men," Muñoz emphasized. "We are for equal rights to be part of the union leadership, equal rights to training, equal rights to hold a job, and to earn the same as men do."

Among the hardest-fought issues in the contract negotiations with the private farm owners was the union's demand for more child-care centers. "There was a lot of opposition," Muñoz recalled, "to taking up the question of establishing Rural Children's Centers, where the children of mothers who are going to work in the fields can be cared for."

The employers pay for building and outfitting these centers, and for the food the kids get. The government provides the money for the staff, and medicines for the children.

The union succeeded in winning agreement in contract negotiations with 20 private farms for building children's centers. "But only a few — very few — of the employers are doing it, in spite of the fact that we negotiated it," Muñoz added. Children's centers have been built on 40 of the state farms.

The contracts are for one year. In fighting to win them, and now working to see them implemented, the union membership has strengthened its consciousness, its unity, and its class-struggle experience.

Israel resumes gunning down of Palestinian protesters

Continued from front page
Jerusalem the same day reported:

"Today's unrest was widespread throughout the West Bank region from Jenin in the north, through the central communities of Ramallah and Arab East Jerusalem all the way south to Hebron, which has been largely quiet until now.

"Cities, villages, and refugee camps were all involved, and roads throughout the region were cluttered with debris from burning, rocks, and bottles.

Signs of organization

"Unlike the early days of the strike that began in Gaza December 9, the new unrest appears to have a degree of organization behind it.

"Trouble erupted after a 'national leadership committee,' in leaflets distributed last Thursday, called for mass demonstrations Saturday against the military occupation."

It was in this context that U.S. and Israeli officials announced February 1 a Washington proposal to grant limited "autonomy" to the residents of Gaza and the West Bank followed by Mideast peace talks within a year.

If implemented, this would be an abbreviated version of the Camp David accord brokered by the Carter administration in 1978.

That agreement was signed by Israel, the United States, and the Egyptian regime, the only Arab government to accept it.

It provided for local autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, with a permanent settlement of the fate of the two areas to be reached in five years. In exchange, Egypt agreed to recognize Israel.

But Tel Aviv and Washington simply didn't put their end of that agreement into effect.

The current proposition would grant Pal-

estinians the right to elect their own officials, who would have limited governing authority. There is no mention of withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces.

U.S. vetoes resolution

Announcement of the new plan came the same day that the U.S. delegate to the United Nations Security Council vetoed a resolution calling on Israel to exercise restraint in the occupied territories and urging a resolution of the Mideast situation under UN auspices.

Apart from the call for restraint, which the U.S. delegate saw as "redundant," the resolution would open the way for participation by the Soviet Union and, most decisive for Washington and Tel Aviv, the Palestine Liberation Organization, represent-

ing the Palestinian people. Until now, Israel has refused to recognize the PLO.

The deal Washington is now offering would involve only Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, plus unspecified Palestinians.

The plan was outlined to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during his recent visit to Washington, but there has been no public indication of his response.

Jordan's King Hussein was reported as initially responding, "There's nothing new. It's just a variation of Camp David."

Prior to the Camp David agreement, in 1972 and 1976, Israel sought to pacify the West Bank by permitting local elections.

But when the mayors elected in 1976 took stands the Israelis didn't care for, the military summarily dismissed them from office. Two of the mayors were deported.



Israeli riot cops drag off youth

Shopkeepers and blacksmiths resist occupation army's crowbar patrols

As the Palestinian resistance enters its third month, it is winning the active support of broad sectors of the population. This important development is pointed up in a number of recent on-the-scene reports.

A Jerusalem dispatch to the January 28 *Washington Post*, which noted a new "minimum of organization" in the protests, reported:

"Thus, Arab pharmacies are exempted from general strikes, food shops are opened quietly early in the morning to allow families to buy necessities, and public transportation is permitted on Fridays to allow the Moslem faithful to pray and perhaps even demonstrate against Israel's 20-year occupation."

A report from Ramallah in the January 29 *New York Newsday* focused on the involvement of merchants.

"In the refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the war of stones has quieted somewhat, but in this city of prosperous shopkeepers, the battle of the locks continues unabated.

"Each morning, Israeli patrols, armed with sledgehammers and crowbars as well as their clubs and automatic rifles, spread out through the narrow warren of streets in the downtown area. One by one, they force open the Awad jewelry store, the Arizona supermarket, or the leather shop that sells Gucci handbags, breaking locks, metal shutters, and sometimes storefront windows in the process.

"The shops may stay open a little while only to close again. . . . After the soldiers leave, the Palestinian blacksmiths appear, repairing free of charge the damage done by the soldiers, as they are gratefully plied with felafla sandwiches and tea."

The report added that merchants have been contributing food, everything from flour to olive oil to chickens, to the hungry in the refugee camps. There are several such camps adjacent to Ramallah, but until recently many merchants had never set foot in them.

A prosperous-looking printshop owner pointed to an equally prosperous-looking

friend and declared:

"Believe me, up to last week, me and him were moderates. Since last week, no way we'll be moderate. . . .

"We will not give an inch. We want self-determination. We are without our rights and without our land. Tell the whole world we will not accept anything less than our own independent state." —H.R.

'Stop killing Palestinians'

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

NEW YORK — More than 500 people joined a spirited march and rally here Saturday, January 30, to demand an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to protest Washington's role in backing that occupation.

The protesters marched 40 blocks from the Times Square area to Hunter College, where a rally was held. They chanted, "End the occupation, stop the deportations"; "U.S., Israel — stop the occupation, West Bank, Gaza — self-determination"; "Stop killing the Palestinian people"; and "Long live the PLO."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Palestinian Coalition to End Israeli Occupation. The march was led by Palestinian women and children.

Neil Saad, director of the Arab Palestinian Community Center, opened the rally. He said that the entire Palestinian people are participating in the protests, and he defended the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Zehdi Labib Terzi, the PLO's permanent representative to the United Nations, was the featured speaker. He described the brutalities inflicted on the Palestinian people.

ple by the Israeli authorities and some of the recent protests against them.

Fred Dube, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa, also addressed the rally. Dube was fired from his teaching position at the State University of New York at Stony Brook on frame-up charges of anti-Semitism because he gave students the opportunity to choose to write a paper on the relationship between Zionism and racism. He has filed a suit to regain his job. He compared the racist treatment of Blacks in South Africa to that of Palestinians by Israel.

Just stories?

"They bring up a lot of stories that are just stories." — Israeli Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of West Bank occupation forces, responding to charges of troop brutality.

In a hospital in Nablus, after it was put under curfew, *New York Newsday* correspondent Timothy Phelps talked with victims of a door-to-door roundup.

"Faris, 19, had a severely broken arm, the hospital staff said. His face was bruised and swollen.

"They took him from home and beat him



in the street. They broke two sticks on him," said his wailing mother, who watched the army pull him from her home by his feet.

"A 28-year-old man who did not even give his first name had been beaten into a pulp of bloody skin on his right side. His left hand was broken. He said he was sleeping at home when the army came at 4:00 a.m.

"He said he was finally released, but that an ambulance taking him to the hospital was stopped. He and another man were pulled out and beaten again, he said.

"Subri, a 45-year-old construction worker admitted to the hospital with a broken leg and a broken hand, said he had violated the curfew yesterday morning to see a doctor about his ailing father when soldiers stopped and beat him."

Miners to vote on contract Feb. 8

Continued from back page

based on the agreement the union negotiated with Island Creek Coal Corp. last year. Under EESP, members of the United Mine Workers are supposed to get preferential hiring at mines owned by these companies even if the mines are not currently organized by the union.

Winning "job security" provisions similar to EESP was put forward by UMWA officials as their main demand in the BCOA negotiations.

The new BCOA contract offer was discussed by union district presidents and members of the union's International Executive Board at a meeting in Washington February 2.

Prior to contract discussion meetings

February 6, the full written contract will be distributed both to miners who work for BCOA companies and companies that signed a "me-too" agreement. This is in line with provisions of the union's constitution adopted in 1973 that mandate the distribution of copies of the contract for miners to read and discuss at least 48 hours before they vote on it.

Though the UMWA membership has yet to see the contract, the *Wall Street Journal* reported February 3 that the proposed agreement runs for five years. According to the *Journal*, miners are supposed to receive pay increases totaling \$1.05 an hour during the first three years, after which the union can reopen negotiations on wages and benefits.

The paper also reports that the contract requires coal companies to fill 60 percent of vacant jobs at nonunion mines with UMWA members who have been laid off from those companies' unionized operations.

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ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE



Israel's War Against the Palestinian People

By David Frankel and Will Reissner

Written following Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, this pamphlet explains why the Israeli state is perpetually at war with the Arab peoples, and why Palestinians are struggling for freedom.

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Women step forward in Maine paper strike

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — "For a woman just to work in that mill, you had to be a fighter," says Ruth Lebel, explaining what it's like to work in International Paper Co.'s Androscoggin Mill here. Few women worked in paper mills up to a decade ago. It was considered "man's work" — heavy, dangerous, and hard.

Now Lebel and 1,250 other union members, men and women, are in a hard-fought strike battle with IP, along with paperworkers at IP mills in De Pere, Wisconsin; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; and Mobile, Alabama, where the workers are locked out. Most of the Jay strikers are members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14; about 100 are members of Firemen and Oilers Local 246.

I recently spoke with Lebel and several other women union members and strikers' wives about their experiences in the mill and as strike activists.

'Excellent opportunity'

Kathy Davis has been working for IP since 1976, when she was among the first women to get hired at the Jay mill. A young, single mother, she saw a job in the big paper mill as an "excellent opportunity." News of the openings for women, she says, "flew around the state."

At first, Davis worked in the "bull" gang, doing yard work with heavy equipment. By the time the strike began last June, she was head operator in the flash drying department, where pulp is prepared and dried into blocks, or other forms, for later use.

Like other women who were hired, she initially faced company-inspired sexual harassment on the job from foremen and sometimes from male coworkers, who said women didn't belong in the mill.

Over a period of 10 years, the number of women in the mill rose to about 10 percent

of the work force, and acceptance of women on the job increased.

Davis, who has been speaking to other unions about the Jay struggle, says the strike itself has helped women become more accepted. The strike is "a great learning experience," she says. It has "forced us to trust each other as we handle the duties surrounding the strike."

"The struggles of the rest of the world have really come home to Jay," she adds, describing how her involvement in the strike has helped her understand what's happening in Nicaragua, South Africa, and other places where working people are fighting oppression.

Coworkers' attitudes change

Cindy Bennett, who also was among the first women in the mill, says she sees a more "receptive attitude" by male unionists toward the women, but sometimes senses she and other activists are "still not being taken seriously. But it's better."

Bennett was a storeroom clerk when the strike started, and, she says, never missed a union meeting. During the course of the strike, she too has spoken to other unions, including going out of state.

In September Bennett won a sex discrimination grievance, backed by Local 14, against IP for forcing women workers to share the same locker facilities with female supervisors, when male union members have their own locker room.

Brenda Aderhold, who's involved in Local 14's outreach effort to other paperworkers locals, is a single mother with three daughters. She has worked four years in the mill's technical department.

Women, she says, "are proving their value in the strike." The company tried to stigmatize women as "troublemakers," she explained, and pit men against women.

In the course of the strike, these attitudes



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Celina Gay (left) and Cindy Bennett. Women have been involved in every aspect of strike against International Paper Co.



Militant/Mike Shur

are breaking down. The work of strikers who are women shows "value and merit, that they can do things just as well as the men."

'Wives have gotten to know us'

The strike has also accomplished something else, Aderhold goes on. "This is a small town. Wives of coworkers didn't trust us in the mill. The men we worked with ignored us in the supermarket or on the street."

But with the successful efforts to involve spouses in the strike's activities, the "wives have gotten to know us, and know that we're in the mill doing the job because we have budgets, we have kids, house payments, and are honestly trying to make a living."

Women are, Aderhold says, being seen "as strikers, as workers, not as 'women in the mill.'"

Sharon Gonyea worked nine years in IP's Ticonderoga plant in upstate New York, where she was the first woman to be hired in the pulp mill there. She transferred to the Jay mill in 1986, where she worked for a period in the general labor pool. She was not working when the strike started due to an on-the-job injury.

Being accepted on the job as a woman, Gonyea says, was "something you earned. The mill wasn't a 'man's place' anymore, because you had proven yourself capable."

Gonyea is a strike headquarters volunteer and has been on many union speaking teams. This experience lets you know, she says, "how tough things really are; that we're not unique in Jay, but part of something much bigger."

Ruth Lebel, who was a core cutter before the strike, is a single parent with two boys. She was the strike's media coordinator until recently.

She worked as a stitcher at nearby Bass Shoe Co. before getting hired at IP in 1985, and this is her first time in a union. Before the strike, "I thought the union was paying dues, initiation fees, and filing grievances," she says.

She got involved in the strike "because it needed to get done," Lebel says. The strike has given her a "cause, a reason" to do things. Public speaking, meeting people,

organizing the media work has given her confidence in herself and the union.

Her experiences and those of other women in the strike have shown "women can speak, can talk, have a brain, and can make decisions," all of which has earned "the respect of the men."

She recounts an incident where an older union official she met at an out-of-town meeting asked her what she was "trying to prove."

"I'm not trying to prove anything," she told him, "I'm here for the union to do a job."

"I'm doing stuff that I never thought I'd do," Lebel adds. "I feel I could walk up to anybody. I realize nobody's better than I am, and that I can stand up for what I believe as much as anybody. My life is with the union people."

Becky Hart has been at IP for almost eight years, most recently as a basement cleaner.

By informal consensus in Local 14, she is the union's most ferocious picketer when it comes to confronting the scabs — about 1,000 are working there now — as they enter and leave the mill at shift change.

"I kick myself for not going to union meetings" before the strike, Hart says. Now, she's got "a little insight into what a union is."

Wives come into the strike

Before the strike started the union stressed the necessity of involving union members' wives, understanding that IP would target spouses to get them to put pressure on their husbands to return to work.

Since June, strikers' wives, says Sharon Gonyea, have staffed the union hall, helped organize the children's and teenagers' Christmas parties, worked at the food bank, and attended the weekly union/family meetings held at the Jay community center.

Celina Gay, whose husband Brent coordinates Local 14's speakers program, says, "It was easy to sit home and get ticked off." Since her husband wasn't working, "you figured he should be at home," she says.

But Celina began to get involved in the strike, although at first she was slightly nervous going to the union hall, because she felt "out of place."

She doesn't feel that way any more. Her strike activities have helped her "to understand what Brent was talking about with the contract."

"I used to be very quiet, hated meeting new people, and kept things to myself," she says.

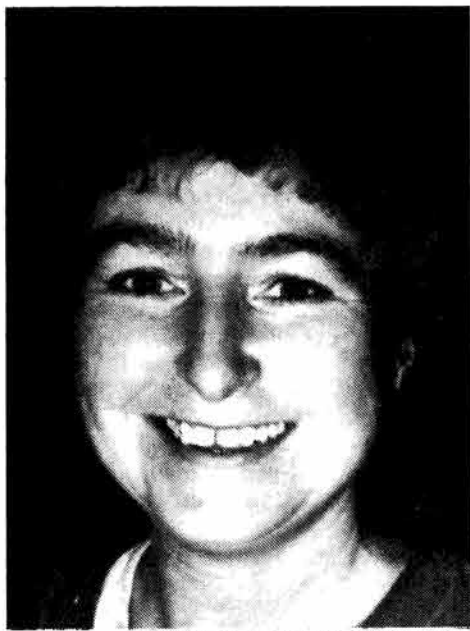
Louise Parker is an overhead-crane operator who has been at the mill almost nine years. She's a central organizer of the union's food bank that feeds what she calls the "Local 14 army" of over 2,000 strikers, spouses, and children every two weeks. She also leads the singing that opens and closes the union/family meetings each week, along with her brother, Local 14 member Dick Therrien.

Before the strike, she says, "people were passive. Most women might have felt they couldn't do anything."

Confronted with the tremendous responsibilities of the strike, people came forward and "surprised themselves. A lot of talent comes out of this strike that we never realized we had. We are so much stronger," Parker says. "We've learned to listen to each other."



Militant photos by Margrethe Siem
Kathy Davis (left), one of the first women to be hired at Jay mill. Ruth Lebel explained strike showed "Women can speak, have a brain, and can make decisions."



Lock Haven paperworkers' solidarity rally

Continued from Page 3

"incidents of violence."

Bill Sanders, who coordinated the paperworkers' union caravan that had just visited Pittsburgh, told how the Lock Haven UPIU members had taken the message of their strike to the labor movement in that city.

"Our caravan went very well," he said. "Ninety-three union members, in 24 cars, were involved. We contacted over 200 unions and gave out 50,000 brochures. We need union members to do the same thing next week in Harrisburg," the state capital.

Many members of Local 1787 said that the caravan had breathed new spirit into the strike, which began last June. Don Derr, who helped get the caravan organized, said, "A lot more members are now involved. They're learning how much support for us there is."

Marshall Smith, UPIU regional director and vice-president, explained the "corpo-

rate campaign" the union has launched to support the 3,400 striking or locked-out IP workers in Maine, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Alabama. The union is distributing a brochure that asks people to write letters to the boards of directors of Coca-Cola, Hershey Foods, and other companies with executives on IP's Board of Directors asking them to put pressure on IP's top executives.

Julius Uelein, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, and other labor officials also spoke.

At the end of the rally, visiting unionists and other supporters were asked to introduce themselves and say a few words.

A message was read to the rally from District 5 of the United Mine Workers. It said, "We commend the men and women of your union and your friends and supporters who have stood together against corporate greed."

The final speaker was Sizwe Mabizela, a young South African who is a student at

Pennsylvania State University. He was greeted with a standing ovation when he said, "I have worked with the South African Congress of Trade Unions, so it did not take much to get me here when I heard about a demonstration for workers' rights. United we stand, divided we fall!"

DETROIT — A team of striking paperworkers from Lock Haven completed a successful week-long tour of unions in the Detroit and Toledo area to build the January 30 solidarity rally.

They spoke to several locals of the United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, UPIU, and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; addressed the delegate assembly of the Detroit AFL-CIO; and gave a number of interviews to the media including the UAW's paper *Solidarity*. Throughout the tour, resolutions of support and financial contributions were made to back the IP strikers.

FBI spy files reveal secret campaign

Continued from front page
was exposed in the 1970s.

The newly revealed attack on the democratic rights of opponents of U.S. intervention opened as an "investigation" of CISPES. The FBI admits having launched the investigation in 1981 and claims to have ended it in 1985.

Because CISPES is a nationwide organization that participates in many antiwar activities, the investigation was used as a jumping off point for spying on groups and individuals that had any contact with CISPES — that is, the entire spectrum of organizations and individuals, from unions to members of Congress, that have taken stands against U.S. intervention.

FBI director responds

As protests poured in against the attack on democratic rights and a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on civil rights announced plans for hearings, recently appointed FBI Director William Sessions attempted February 2 to defend the political spying, while conceding that it might not have been "properly directed."

He claimed that the investigation began when unidentified "sources" alleged that CISPES was illegally providing aid to the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, which he labeled a "terrorist organization." The FMLN leads the struggle against the military-dominated regime in El Salvador.

The investigation was halted after four years, according to Sessions, when the FBI concluded that "CISPES was involved in political activities involving First Amendment rights — and not international terrorism."

The FBI director was forced to admit the activities of CISPES are legal and constitutionally protected. Sessions' statement also implicitly concedes that the unnamed informants on whom the FBI purportedly relied in deciding to target CISPES had made false accusations.

In an earlier statement, Sessions denied "categorically" that anyone had been targeted for their political views. On February 2, however, he conceded that individual agents may have violated alleged instructions to respect First Amendment rights.

Like Sessions, the Reagan administration was thrown on the defensive by the revelations.

President Reagan, White House media spokesman Marlin Fitzwater intoned January 29, "is concerned because there should be no investigations of Americans for their political beliefs." Fitzwater claimed that no one in the White House or the National Security Council knew anything about the surveillance.

The real target

The documents on the operation that have been exposed thus far give the lie to the cover stories being put out by Sessions and the White House. For example, a report from the FBI field office in New Orleans to the home office makes no bones about targeting people for their views:

"It is imperative at this time to formulate some plan of attack against CISPES, and specifically, against individuals [censored] who defiantly display their contempt for the U.S. government by making speeches and propagandizing their cause while asking for political asylum.

"New Orleans is of the opinion that Departments of Justice and State should be consulted to explore the possibility of deporting these individuals or at best denying their re-entry once they leave."

The objective of the "investigation" was to disrupt the efforts of antiwar organizations to educate the people of the United States about the U.S.-sponsored wars in Central America and mobilize them in opposition. These activities — public meetings, picket lines, tours and work brigades to Nicaragua, and others — have had a significant impact in deepening popular opposition to the contra war and U.S. support to the Salvadoran regime. The FBI's "plan of attack" was aimed at these constitutionally protected activities.

The documents show that the FBI placed

antiwar activists and their homes and offices under "physical surveillance"; photographed participants in demonstrations and meetings, taking down license numbers of cars thought to belong to participants, and distributing these to FBI offices across the country; copied the contents of personal address books; planted informers in organizations; used ultraright-wing groups to carry out political spying; and created untold numbers of permanent government files on organizations and individuals regarded as suspect for no other reason than their opposition to U.S. intervention.

Demonstrations, picket lines, rallies, meetings, and conferences were spied on. A group that organized a 1983 tour of this country by Salvadoran trade unionist Alejandro Molina Lara, came under surveillance, as did the U.S. Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners.

The contents of these files were made available to the White House or other government agencies seeking ammunition against such organizations and individuals.

The documents include a standard form from the U.S. Department of Agriculture requesting "derogatory subversive" data on CISPES, apparently because an employee or prospective employee was thought to be associated with the group.

Most of the FBI response was blacked out by the censors. It concluded that CISPES did "not necessarily pose a threat to the security of the United States" — a defensively worded signal that the individual was to be regarded as a potential "security risk."

Sessions defended the wide-ranging spying in his February 2 statement. Such practices as photographing and recording license plate numbers of participants in legal protests are "essential," he said. "Until you know what involvement is in the leadership and what involvement is in

targets of the investigation included much more than CISPES.

Varelli's assignment also included fingering Salvadorans deported from the United States and U.S. visitors to El Salvador who opposed Washington's policy. Varelli supplied their names to National Guard officers known to be linked to the rightist death squads in that country.

He also described compiling an FBI "Terrorist Photograph Album." The album, Varelli said, "contained persons who really just opposed Reagan's Central American policy."

Among the 700 people included in the album were U.S. senators Christopher Dodd and Claiborne Pell, and former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador Robert White.

Burglaries and visits

Other indications of the breadth of the FBI operation were the visits by FBI agents to scores of homes, workplaces, landlords, and families. To the atmosphere of intimidation and threats of job loss or eviction that are built into such visits, the agents often added innuendoes that the target might be a suspect in cases involving "terrorism," "foreign intelligence," or "national security."

The current revelations have added to the evidence that the FBI is involved in many or all of more than 100 burglaries against antiwar organizations in recent years. Varelli had told a congressional committee that FBI agents had carried out break-ins at CISPES offices and homes of individual members. Many of the burglaries and visits have taken place since the FBI supposedly ended the investigation of CISPES.

Oliver Revell, currently head of the FBI's Criminal Investigation Division, formally denied that CISPES had been the target of FBI burglaries. In the latest batch of documents to be made public, Revell's name turns up as the author of a letter to a leader of an ultrarightist group who had spied on a CISPES conference for the agency.

Revell represented the FBI on the Restricted Interagency Group, the body of top officials that for a time oversaw the government's contra war — at home, it appears, as well as in Central America.

Still spying on socialists

The documents pose new questions about government claims that it has not been investigating the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance since 1976, the year the attorney general officially ended a "national security" investigation that had provided a cover for decades of spying and disruption.

The investigation was officially ended three years after the SWP and YSA filed suit against the FBI and other federal police agencies.

In August 1986 federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the government's spying and other activities against the two organizations had been unconstitutional. A year later he issued an injunction barring the government from making any use of the files illegally accumulated on the socialists, and specifically forbidding the use of any items containing the names of members or supporters.

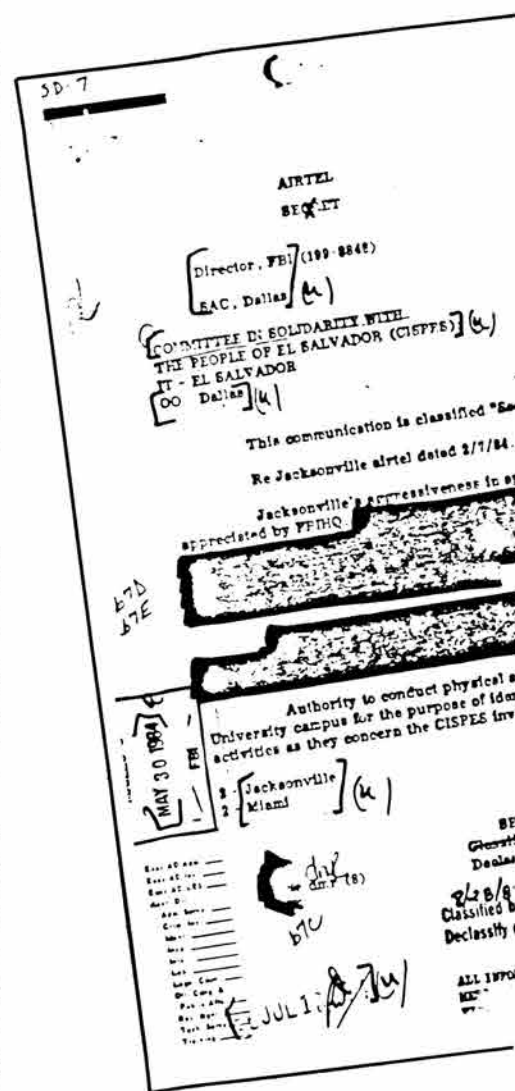
The SWP and YSA are among the groups whose offices and antiwar and other activities were under FBI surveillance, according to several of the documents. One FBI field report focuses on surveillance of a YSA office in Newport News, Virginia.

Executive Order 12333

The Reagan administration's claim to be opposed to "investigations of Americans for their political beliefs" is as fake as the FBI's similar claims.

Spying and disruption campaigns like the one against antiwar forces were specifically authorized by Executive Order 12333 signed in December 1981 by President Reagan. The order expanded authorization for political spying that had already been granted federal police agencies under orders issued by President James Carter.

Executive Order 12333 authorized the FBI and CIA to carry out covert activities



Three of the documents FBI was forced to Committee in Solidarity with the People of Department of Agriculture requesting the ster to Phoenix field office. Phoenix FBI

in this country or others, "in support of national foreign policy objectives abroad."

The measure authorized covert "counter-intelligence" operations against undefined "international terrorist activities... conducted for or on behalf of foreign powers, organizations, or persons."

The White House repeatedly smears the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments and the liberation forces in El Salvador as terrorists. The FBI's treatment of opponents of U.S. aggression in Central America and the Caribbean as suspected participants in "international terrorist activities" is cut from the same cloth.

The order authorized the planting of informers in targeted organizations for both intelligence-gathering and disruption purposes provided this is done "in the course



William Webster, now head of CIA, was portrayed as ending abuses of constitutional rights during term as FBI director. But he was actually directing effort to disrupt antiwar groups.

the key members, you have no right to simply pull back because it is in some extent intrusive in the American public's way of life." The First Amendment and the right of privacy take a back seat, the FBI director indicated, to the government's right to spy on "the leadership" and "key members" of any political group or activity.

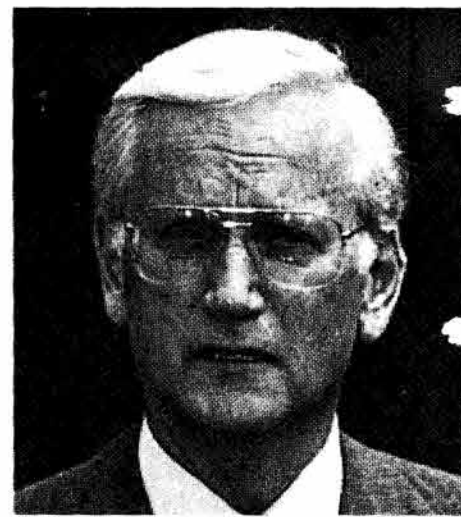
Varelli surfaces

The FBI operation against foes of U.S. intervention first came to light a year ago when Frank Varelli admitted that he had been paid by the FBI to spy on CISPES from 1981 to 1984. Varelli had filed suit for back pay from the agency.

Varelli said he was assigned to infiltrate the Dallas chapter of CISPES as part of an FBI campaign aimed at "breaking" the organization.

The FBI admitted hiring Varelli and conducting an investigation of CISPES under secret "antiterrorism" guidelines.

There was plenty of evidence that the



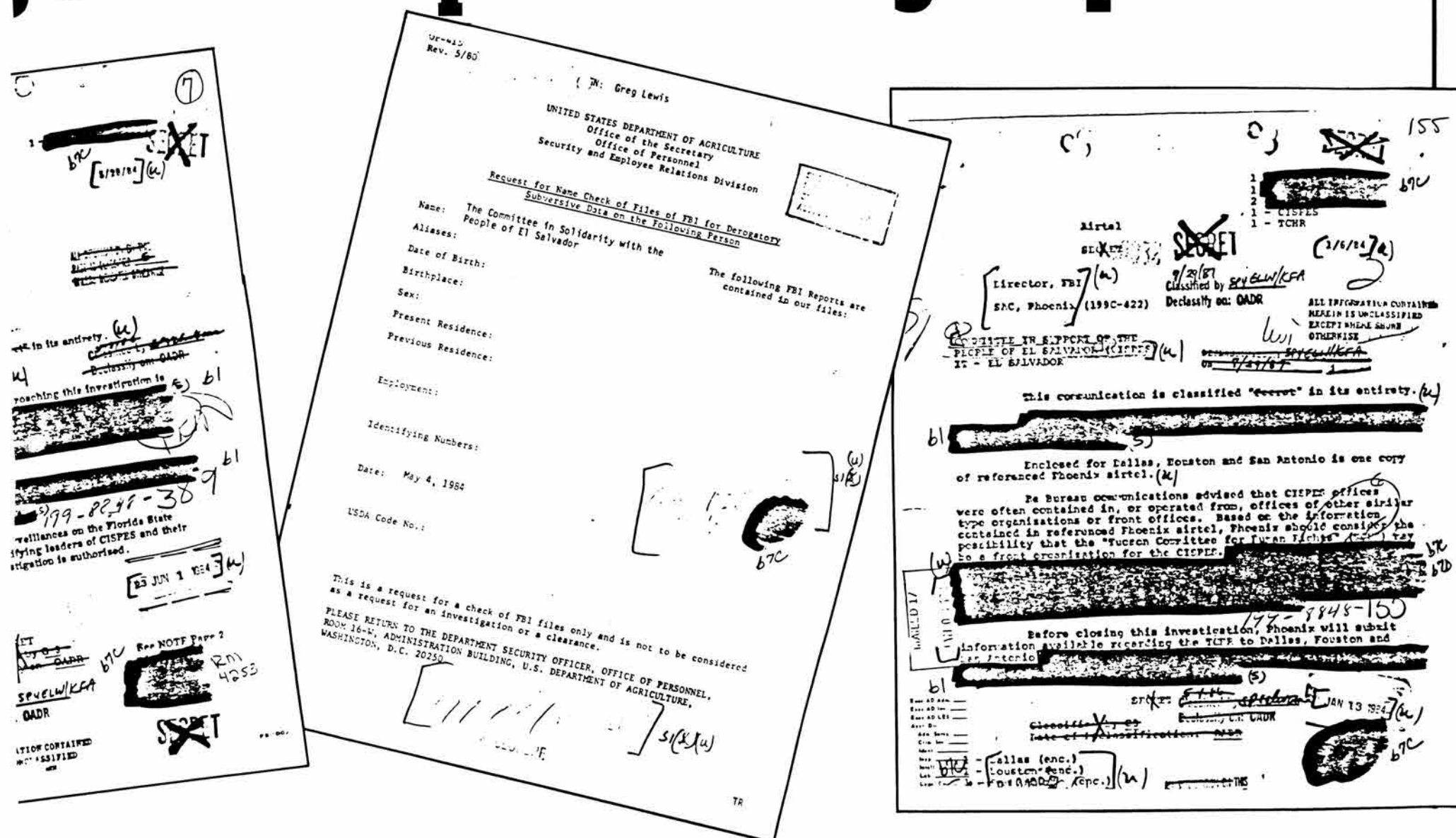
New FBI Director William Sessions

of a lawful investigation." (The FBI has never admitted carrying out any other kind.)

"Black bag jobs" or burglaries and, "electronic surveillance" were authorized in "antiterrorist" investigations. Under the order, the targets need not be suspected of breaking any law.

"Foreign counterintelligence" activities were defined as including gathering "information relating to the capabilities, intentions, and activities of any foreign powers or persons." That was the go-ahead for targeting immigrants and visitors from

Plan to disrupt antiwar groups



turn over. First is message from then FBI Director William Webster to Jacksonville, Florida, field office. Webster congratulates Jacksonville on "aggressiveness" in investigating El Salvador (CISPES). He authorized "physical surveillances" of individuals on Florida State University campus who might be CISPES leaders. Second item is standard form used by FBI provide "derogatory subversive" data from files on employees, prospective employees, or organizations. USDA asked for spy data on CISPES. Third item is a message from Webster proposed dropping probe of Tucson Committee for Human Rights since all its activities were legal and peaceful. Webster's reply: no way.

abroad, and any U.S. citizen regarded as being in contact with such persons or with governments of other countries.

The goal of the presidential executive order was precisely to authorize operations against those who oppose government policies. Nor are these ever limited to intelligence-gathering and surveillance. The purpose is to intimidate dissenters and gather data that can be used in disrupting or, as Varelli put it, "breaking" antiwar or other targeted groups and individuals.

Reagan's executive order was only the latest in a long line of presidential executive orders, beginning with one issued by Franklin Roosevelt in 1939, that authorized the FBI and other federal police agencies to operate as a national secret political police force against undefined "subversive activities."

The orders amount to an assertion of presidential power to override the Bill of Rights.

This concentration of extra-constitutional, totalitarian-style powers in the presidency stems from the capitalist rulers' need to carry out in secret activities that would face wide opposition if they were done openly. The rulers need to disrupt and break the capacity of unions and other organizations to express the opposition of working people to policies — from the contra war to union-busting — being carried out in the interests of a small superrich minority.

Growing clash over rights

But while presidents have asserted evermore authority to carry out covert policies at home and abroad, they face growing obstacles to imposing their will on the people of the world and winning acceptance for the exercise of dictatorial powers from U.S. working people.

This resistance underlies the successive waves of exposure of secret government crimes, from the defeated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba by U.S.-organized mercenaries in 1961; to the publication in 1971 of the Pentagon Papers that revealed U.S. government lies about the Vietnam War; to the Watergate crisis that brought down the Nixon administration; to the exposure of the Iran-contra arms deals, and the latest revelations about the FBI.

170 at Detroit meeting protest gov't spying

BY KIBWE DIARRA
AND HARRIS FREEMAN

DETROIT — "It's been an eye-opening week, especially for young people who did not experience the revelations in the 1970s of FBI spying and disruption," John Studer said. "After years of claims that the FBI under now CIA-director William Webster had been all cleaned up and doesn't violate rights anymore, we have seen important revelations that prove the opposite."

Studer, executive secretary of the Political Rights Defense Fund, was addressing 170 people at a January 31 meeting hosted by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600. The event was called in response to Reagan administration moves to appeal rulings against government spying issued by Federal Judge Thomas Griesa in the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI and other federal cop agencies. It was co-sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), Detroit American Civil Liberties Union, and the Detroit chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. U.S. Rep. George Crockett, Black rights activist Robert F. Williams, foes of U.S. wars, and other defenders of democratic rights shared the platform.

Continuing, Studer cited the latest revelations: "The racist character of the FBI has been highlighted by the exposure of the harassment of a Black FBI agent and the antidiscrimination suit filed by a Hispanic FBI agent against the agency."

"And the exposure of the wide-ranging campaign against foes of the U.S.-organized wars in Central America has shown that the rulers of this country, far from cleaning up the FBI, must continue to resort to police-state methods to try to silence criticism of unpopular policies. That helps explain their moves to appeal Judge Griesa's ruling, which states that the same types of actions were violations of the constitutional rights of the socialists."

Gov't targets unions

Bob King, president of auto workers' Local 600, welcomed participants.

Dick Soble of the National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union chaired the gathering. "It is fitting that this meeting is taking place in Local 600's headquarters," he said, since the latest exposures had shown that the United Auto Workers was one of several unions targeted because of its activity "in the field of human rights."

He noted that spying on people because of their beliefs was not the province of the FBI alone. The local police "red squad," he reported, has collected files on 1.5 million individuals and organizations — although not one has ever been charged with violating a law as a result of this investigation.

Judge Claudia Gardner of the 36th District Court in Detroit read a letter sent to the rally by Congressman John Conyers: "We must be able to speak out in support of our beliefs and have freedom from fear of harassment in doing so."

Dorothy James, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1658 at the General Dynamics army tank plant, said the union is fighting new regulations, in addition to the Hatch Act, that restrict government employees' participation in politics.

James described how, on her return from a visit to the Soviet Union in 1985, she had been subjected to FBI investigations. "No one is free if someone's freedom is being jeopardized," she said.

Frank Hammer, president of UAW Local 909 at the General Motors Hydro-matic plant, spoke. He is the brother of Michael Hammer, one of two representatives of the American Institute for Free Labor Development who were murdered in 1980 by a right-wing death squad while working in El Salvador.

Hammer criticized AFLD, an international arm of the AFL-CIO that is funded by and works closely with the U.S. government, as mainly a repressive agency in the labor movement.

Howard Simon, executive director of the Detroit American Civil Liberties Union,

said the efforts of the government and FBI to intimidate antiwar activists was "not a quirk; but has become a permanent dynamic of the U.S. government."

Rep. George Crockett denounced the Reagan administration's role in fostering a rise in government surveillance and its attempts to legitimize red-baiting and other features of the witch-hunt. He recollected acting as an attorney in the 1940s and 1950s for UAW members and others who faced persecution for their views.

Crockett was jailed for four months in 1949 for contempt of court because he had served as defense attorney for Communist Party leaders framed up under the Smith Act.

Ed Berkshire of the Michigan unit of the Communist Party stressed the importance of uniting people of many points of view to defend democratic rights.

Amy Good of the Central America Solidarity Committee, a chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, said that CISPES had been aware that it was the target of government harassment but that the revelations were now making it clear to all.

Robert F. Williams is a longtime Black rights fighter who was forced into exile in the 1960s by a frame-up engineered by North Carolina authorities and backed by the FBI. He described the decades-long disinformation campaign carried out against him by the U.S. government.

Seamus Metress, president of the Clan na Gael, described U.S. government harassment of Irish Northern Aid. "They're trying to scare off activists and slow down fundraising efforts in this country."

Edward Blacksheave of the Michigan Communist Party was among those who signed up as sponsors of the Political Rights Defense Fund at the meeting. Others included Dorothy James, veteran activist General Baker, and Russ Leone, president of the Tool-and-Die Unit of UAW Local 600.

Scab's death exposes unsafe conditions at New England railroad

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — On January 27 Mark Mahoney, a 31-year-old scab brakeman working for the Springfield Terminal Railway Co. in Saco, Maine, was killed instantly when the empty car he was riding derailed, smashing him into another car on adjacent tracks.

Mahoney's death highlighted the safety concerns that caused the strike by 1,200 rail workers that began last November 12. Members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) struck after a union member was killed on the job in Lawrence, Massachusetts — the result of an accident caused by an inadequately trained engineer.

The union has refused to return to work until massive safety violations are rectified. The New England railroad has been operating with scab hires and supervisory

personnel during the strike.

UTU local representative Peter Greene told the *Militant* that terminal superintendent D.K. Lennon was at the throttle when Mahoney was killed. He was trying to back up empty cars on track that was buried in ice when the derailment occurred, Greene said.

Given these conditions, Greene added, the maneuver "never should have been made. Any experienced railroader would have known that." Greene was on the scene minutes after the accident, but was told to leave by police. The Federal Railway Administration (FRA) is investigating the accident.

"This is a graphic example that demonstrates why [Springfield Terminal] is unsafe," local UTU Vice-president Eugene Lyden said. "We've been fearful that this would happen ever since we went out."



Militant

Rail workers are facing increasing company attacks on federal safety standards

"Somebody else is responsible for maintaining the track," said Springfield spokesman Colin Pease, trying to shift blame off the company.

The UTU is seeking an injunction to force Springfield Terminal to comply with federal safety standards. Last fall the FRA

issued a report that called for the removal of half the railroad's locomotives from service, pending repair.

The strike, said Greene, "is very solid."

But, the rail worker added, union members are startled that "nobody in the federal government is listening" to the union's constant pleas for safe working conditions.

Claiming that the strikers have quit their jobs, Guilford Transportation Industries — Springfield's parent company — is trying to reverse the UTU members' eligibility for unemployment benefits, which they are getting in addition to strike benefits.

On January 27 the FBI exonerated the union for responsibility in a runaway train incident that occurred in November in Massachusetts, stating it found no evidence of "sabotage." The union charged at the time that a supervisor had left the train to get a candy bar when the locomotive's brake came loose. Union members helped stop the train before any damage was inflicted.

Dockers shut down West Coast ports

BY CHRIS HORNER

SEATTLE — On January 13, dockworkers here shut down all major ports in Washington and Oregon. They were protesting a union-busting probe by ITT-Rayonier, a major forest products corporation and exporter that is a subsidiary of ITT Corp.

The 38-hour shutdown was the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union's (ILWU) answer to ITT-Rayonier's proposal to use nonunion labor to load logs onto ships in Port Angeles, Washington. The ILWU has long had a strong position in all major loading and unloading work up and down the West Coast.

There are a dozen marine ports in Washington alone with log-loading operations. In the large port of Tacoma, logs account for 10 percent of total tonnage. In the ports of Grays Harbor, Olympia, and Anacortes, forest products are three-quarters of the total tonnage handled. These facts highlight the stakes involved for the ILWU. As one longshoreman put it, "If ITT can get away with it at Port Angeles, then you have to worry that they can get away with it in some other ports."

On the second day of the shutdown, 4,000 Washington and Oregon ILWU

members, nearly a quarter of them from the port of Seattle, held a closed mass meeting in Tacoma. At a news conference afterward ILWU President Jimmy Herman stated that unless ITT-Rayonier backs down, the union will consider further shutdowns, including the possibility of involving its entire 15,000 members on the West Coast.

Longshoremen on the West Coast have watched closely developments on the East Coast and Gulf ports. There, nonunion operators and operators who negotiate contracts for lower wages and benefits with unions other than the International Longshoremen's Union have made big inroads. The International Longshoremen's Association is the East Coast longshore union. The huge grain-loading operations in Houston and New Orleans, once solidly ILA organized, are now worked virtually entirely by non-ILA labor.

So when ITT-Rayonier in Washington began considering bids from several companies that have offered lower contract rates than unionized operators, it was seen as a direct challenge to the entire ILWU.

While spokesmen for Pacific Maritime Association, an employer organization, fumed that the shutdown was "clearly ille-

gal," it rapidly became obvious that there was little the employers could do in the face of the impressive display of union power. Nevertheless, the fact that the fight is far from over was signaled by a public statement ITT-Rayonier made as the silent ports began to come back to life on January 16: "They [the ILWU] have every reason to be threatened. We want certain concessions. If we make the final decision to go ahead and do something, you can bet that every single company around the ports will be quietly applauding us."

D.C. Machinists protest Eastern Airlines attacks

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 175 people rallied in Arlington, Virginia, on January 12 to protest union-busting tactics at Eastern Airlines. The rally was organized by Local Lodge 796 of the International Association of Machinists, which organizes airline workers at National Airport in Washington, D.C.

"We organized this rally to get support and solidarity for the fight of the machinists," explained James Hanes, president of Local 796, "and because we want to bring this story to the people."

The machinists' union contract for 12,000 mechanics, baggage handlers, and aircraft cleaners expired on December 31. Eastern is demanding cuts in wages and benefits of as much as 45 percent and has instituted a campaign of harassment, intimidation, suspensions, and firings of workers. Five members of the machinists' union were recently fired at National Airport.

Union members from more than a dozen other unions attended the rally to express their solidarity.

Striking members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 in Jay, Maine, and Local 1787 in Lock Haven,

Pennsylvania, were invited to the rally. Workers at the paper mills have been on strike against International Paper since June 1987.

Mike Burke, vice-president of the maintenance group of Paperworkers' Local 14 in Jay, Maine, told the rally that "Eastern Airlines workers and paperworkers have a common enemy — corporate greed. It is important to identify the enemy. They want us to see each other as the enemy — your union brothers and sisters — but the enemy is corporate greed. It may be hard to understand, but even the scab is not our enemy. He's just duped by the company."

"We've been on strike for eight months, and 1,260 of us went out," Burke said. "Only 57 have crossed the line. Not one person has lost a home, or car, or gone hungry. What makes this possible? Solidarity. We can win this if we stick together."

While the striking paperworkers were in the D.C. area, they also spoke at the Local 796 union meeting, a shop stewards' meeting of Local 32 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, and at Council 1 of the American Federation of Government Employees. They met with workers at National and Dulles airports.

Irish paper reviews Guevara book

BY MARC LICHTMAN

The January 7 issue of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* contains a centerspread review of the new book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia. The newspaper is published in Ireland and reflects the views of Sinn Féin, a revolutionary nationalist party.

Reviewer Tom O'Dwyer draws attention to Che Guevara's "romantic revolutionary legend," but says that "his ideas haven't been spread around in the same way. It took 20 years to bring out his writings and speeches in English, but at last *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* does so."

The review discusses Guevara's leadership role in the Cuban revolutionary war, and in guerrilla warfare in Bolivia, but

states, "It's Guevara's approach to the problems of setting up the socialist state which is most important in this book."

He says that Guevara's views are based on his desire to "involve all the people in creating their own future," and his "belief that socialism is about creating greater fulfillment for people," not just meeting their material needs.

The spread contains seven photographs from the book, and reprints in full Guevara's final letter to Fidel Castro.

O'Dwyer says that "Che's writings and speeches are honest, humane, accurate and concise. But reading them 20 years after the man's death, what is most striking is their relevance today."

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The February issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features an article about the Palestinian upsurge taking place and the Israeli government's efforts to repress it.

The article describes the state of emergency the Israeli military has imposed in East Jerusalem (the first time since 1967), and the starvation drive it is carrying out in the occupied territories.

The issue gives a brief history of how Israel stole Palestine with U.S. backing.

Perspectiva Mundial

Pueblo palestino desafía salvaje represión israelí

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Nuke waste scandal hits W. Germany

BY LÜKO WILLMS

FRANKFURT, West Germany — A scandal has erupted here relating to illegal activity in the handling of nuclear waste.

A major West German nuclear company is accused of deliberately mislabelling 2,000 drums of waste as containing low-level radiation when in fact they contained dangerous levels of plutonium.

To cover up the illegal transportation and storage of this waste, millions of marks were spent to bribe officials of a Belgian nuclear waste processing plant, as well as government inspectors here.

One of the company officials involved committed suicide in jail after being arrested on a bribery charge.

Involved is an important complex of nuclear companies headed by Nuclear Chemistry and Metallurgy. (Its German acronym is "Nukem.")

The Nukem complex, located near here in the city of Hanau, includes several subsidiaries, among them Transnuklear, which specializes in transporting nuclear fuel and waste. In part, the scandal has focused on Transnuklear.

In addition to the waste bribery scandal there is an amount of plutonium unaccounted for and the charge has been made that it was sold illegally to Pakistan and Libya to make atomic bombs.

The initial revelations came December 17 when the federal environmental commissioner stopped nuclear shipments by Transnuklear.

Police searched nuclear power plants and found illegally imported barrels of nuclear waste from the Belgian reprocessing center.

These barrels were imported as containing low-level nuclear waste, but actually were contaminated with highly toxic plutonium, cobalt, and cesium.

There were a total of 2,438 falsely declared barrels. Two could not be located.

The illegal waste was stored at various nuclear installations and at Transnuklear's warehouse.

Initially the government suspended Transnuklear's license to transport nuclear material. But after it was established that the parent company, Nukem, was aware of the irregularities involved in the shipments, its license was also suspended.

The low safety level at the Nukem plants has been the subject of a number of previous scandals.

Last March it became known there had been incidents at two Nukem plants and a forced shutdown of operations. A total of 21 workers had absorbed plutonium in their bodies.

Earlier it was found that one of the plants was working on plutonium without a license to do so. Last May, the federal environmental and nuclear safety minister disclosed that Nukem had worked with much more plutonium than allowed by its license.

In June it became known that about 25 kilograms (more than 50 pounds) of low-radiation uranium oxide tablets were forgotten in a transport container, unnoticed by the company.

West Germany's nuclear energy law requires that the problem of disposing of nuclear waste be settled before a nuclear plant starts operating. Transnuklear's shuttling around of nuclear waste reflects the impossibility of a basic solution to this problem since there is no safe way to dispose of radioactive materials.

A standard size West German nuclear power plant consumes 30 tons of uranium fuel. If the poison produced by this were to be diluted to the point where it is no longer toxic it would require — as one U.S. author estimates — 13 billion cubic yards of water, 10 times the quantity that the Hudson River dumps into the ocean each year.

At the end of 1986 about 50,000 cubic yards of nuclear waste was registered in West Germany, enough to fill 675 railway freight cars, forming a train more than four miles long.

Hopes for finding a place for final disposal are dim. Work at a former salt mine and at a salt dome have both been stopped.



Protest against Transnuklear's radioactive shipments. Company tops used millions in bribes to hush up plutonium contamination. Inset, Nukem's trademark.

Apartheid cops suspect in murder of youth activist

BY SAM MANUEL

A Black South African youth interviewed on a CBS-TV news documentary about apartheid was found shot and killed five days after he had been questioned by police about the interview.

Godfrey Sicelo Dhlomo's body was found by police near his grandmother's house in the Emdeni section of Soweto. He had been shot through the head. An independent examination of the path of the bullet indicates that Dhlomo had been kneeling and was shot by someone standing above him.

Dhlomo was active in the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, an organization of parents and supporters of children detained by the apartheid regime. The support committee is an affiliate of the United Democratic Front.

Dhlomo was interviewed in the CBS documentary "Children and Apartheid." On the show he told narrator Walter Cronkite that he had been detained four times and had been tortured.

Dhlomo's name was not used in any of the interviews. According to the South African police, Dhlomo was recognized during a raid at the Johannesburg offices of the support committee. He was taken to police headquarters and questioned about the interview for several hours before being released.

The police claim that during his interrogation Dhlomo had admitted in a signed affidavit that CBS had coached him on what to say in the interview.

According to the affidavit Dhlomo "told what had been dictated to him." The support committee said Dhlomo denied that he had been told what to say on camera. CBS called the South African police charge of

coaching "categorically untrue."

Asked during the CBS interview if he felt his life would be in danger Dhlomo answered, "Yes. It is because I might be arrested or eliminated at any time."

Dhlomo's mother reported that he had been threatened with death when he was questioned by the police last October. She said that since then he had been in hiding and feared for his life.

Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, demanded that the government prove that it was not involved in the murder of Dhlomo. "I call upon the government to do whatever it can to bring the killers of Sicelo to book," Chikane said. "Otherwise we will remain suspicious that security forces were involved."

Dhlomo is one of more than 24 anti-apartheid activists killed in mysterious circumstances in the last 10 years. None of the killings have been solved by the police. Chikane challenged the police to release the affidavit they claim to have.

Dhlomo's murder is further proof that no one is exempt from the brutality of the apartheid regime. Many South African youth, like Dhlomo, gave testimony to this brutality at the International Conference on Children, Repression, and the Law in Apartheid South Africa held in Harare, Zimbabwe, last September.

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee estimates that some 400 children under the age of 18 are still being held in South Africa's jails.

African National Congress President Oliver Tambo told the Harare conference, "Let all those in the West who still treat this regime as legitimate explain why they continue thus to aid and abet the commission of a crime against humanity."

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Protests in USSR force scrapping of nuclear plant

The Soviet government has abandoned construction of a nuclear power plant near the Black Sea in the face of public opposition generated by the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

The decision was announced in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, newspaper of the Young Communist League of the Soviet Union. The paper also reported that all 20 of the country's operating nuclear power plants are "bitterly opposed" by people living near them.

According to the paper, \$41 million had been spent on the new Krasnodar plant before local officials yielded to a flood of letters from local residents opposing its construction.

An estimated 31 people died when the No. 4 reactor at Chernobyl exploded and burned. The accident forced the evacuation of more than 100,000 people in the area of the plant. The three remaining reactors at Chernobyl have been brought back on line. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said that critics of nuclear power were misguided. The paper argued that the northern Caucasus would face a shortage of 8 million kilowatts of electricity by the year 2000 and that building coal-burning power plants instead, as residents propose, would bring pollution to the fertile Kuban Valley.

South Africa backs down on 'Cry Freedom' ads

In a retreat from its previous position, a South African government official has announced that he will not prosecute newspapers that have run advertisements for the anti-apartheid film *Cry Freedom*, reported the January 17 Johannesburg *Sunday Times*. The film has been approved for distribution in South Africa by government censorship authorities.

The film centers on the relationship between Black Consciousness movement leader Steven Biko and former South African newspaper editor Donald



Steven Biko, whose life is dramatized in film.

Woods. Biko died in 1977 from a skull fracture and other wounds at the hands of the police while in custody. Woods is in exile.

On January 12 Klaus von Lieres, attorney general of Witwatersrand, had announced that newspapers that ran ads for the film would be prosecuted because the ads contained quotes from two banned persons, Biko and Woods.

Banning orders in South Africa are designed to restrict the freedom of movement, speech and association of opponents of the apartheid regime. A banned person may not leave the area to which they are restricted, associate with more than one or two persons beyond their immediate family, or be quoted by the news media.

British court upholds Birmingham 6 conviction

A British court has upheld the conviction of six men alleged to be members of the Irish Republican Army.

The defendants, known as the Birmingham Six, were charged with bombing a pub in Birmingham, England, on Nov. 21, 1974. In the explosion 21 people were killed and 160 others injured. The accused were convicted and given life sentences following a trial in 1975. The six men, who have spent 13 years in prison, have repeatedly declared their innocence.

The court review was ordered when new evidence and witnesses came forward casting doubt on the material evidence used in the 1975 convictions. Testimony by the new witnesses also confirmed reports that police had beaten the six men in order to obtain confessions.

The key evidence used to convict the six in the original trial came from Frank Skuse, a forensic scientist. He claimed to have found traces of the explosive nitroglycerin on the fingers of three of the men.

However recent research has shown that the same results could have been obtained if the men had recently handled nitrocellulose, a substance found on cigarette wrappings and playing cards. The three had been smoking and playing cards shortly before they were arrested.

In December 1986 a former Birmingham police officer, Tom Clarke, stated the six men had been subjected to loud noise and intimidated with guns and dogs while in police custody. Another former officer, Joyce Lyness, said she had seen one of the men being beaten by police but had been afraid to say so before.

The appeal trial of the Birmingham Six has deepened opposition to implementation of an extradition treaty signed between the governments in London and Dublin. The treaty allows for the extradition of anyone living in the Republic of Ireland who may be wanted by authorities in British-occupied Northern Ireland or in Britain.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Say No to the Contra War! Speakers: Mariam McLendon, antiwar and anti-apartheid activist; Mike Parman, participant in upcoming Alabama-Nicaragua Peace Tour; Marty Knaeble, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Who Pays the Price? The Impact of the Stock Market Crash on Working People. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Feb. 14, 4 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Opening Celebration of Pathfinder Bookstore. Speakers: John George, Alameda County supervisor; Carlos Hernández, leader of the 1986-87 Watsonville cannery workers' strike; Elizabeth Stone, Socialist Workers Party, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*. Sat., Feb. 6. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Sun., Feb. 7. Special presentations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

The FBI — the Real Criminals. Speakers: Leonard Weinglass, defense attorney for Puerto Rican/Hartford 15; Héctor Marroquín, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 19, 7 p.m. Mitchell House, 38 Lawrence St. Sponsor: Connecticut Committee Against Repression. For more information call (203) 233-7966.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Eyewitness Report From Nicaragua. Speakers: Maceo Dixon and Jeff Rogers, Socialist Workers Party, members of United Auto Workers Local 34. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

Women and the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, recently visited Cuba as *Militant* reporter participating in delegation of women journalists. Fri., Feb. 12, 2 p.m. Olmstead Center, Drake University. Sponsor: International Relations Organization and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (515) 271-3843.

Socialist Educational Weekend. 1. "Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution." Speakers: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, recently returned from Cuba; Raúl González, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 2. "How the Cuban Revolution is Returning to the Ideas of Che." Speaker: Elizabeth Stone. Sun., Feb. 14, noon. 3. "Blacks and Women and the Cuban Revolution." Speaker: Elizabeth Stone. Sun., Feb. 14, 2:30 p.m. Classes held at 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2 per class. Sponsor: SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

Iowa City

The Cuban Revolution Today. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*. Thurs., Feb. 11, 7 p.m. University of Iowa, Lecture Room 2, Van Allen. Sponsors: Progressive Student Network/New Wave, South Africa/Azania Student Organization, Women and International Develop-

ment, Women's Resource Center, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (319) 335-3269.

Mount Vernon

Women and the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*. Wed., Feb. 10. Dinner and reception 5 p.m. at Harlan House; program 6:15 p.m. Hedges Lounge, Commons. Cornell College. Sponsors: Harlan House, Women for Women, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (319) 895-8811, ext. 5750.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

War, Revolution, and the Struggle for Peace in Nicaragua. Speakers: Aaron Ruby, taught in Nicaragua 1981-86, translator for Ben Linder Brigade, member Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; Jon Hillson, longtime Nicaragua solidarity activist and co-coordinator of Linder Brigade, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Cuba's Internationalist Role in Africa. Speakers: Gabriel Uahengo, member of the South West Africa People's Organisation; Alan Weisbond, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Bitter Cane. A film on the political situation in Haiti. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Solidarity with the Palestinian People: No to Israeli Aggression! Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb., 6, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Report from International Anti-Apartheid Conference. Speaker: Sam Manuel, reporter for *Militant* at conference in Tanzania. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Princeton

Stop Israeli Aggression Against the People of Palestine! Support the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Demonstrate, Sat., Feb. 6, 11 a.m. Palmer Sq.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Haiti Demonstration. Denounce the Macoute regime the National Council of Government in Haiti wants to put in power; say no to meddling in Haitian internal affairs by the United States, France, Canada. Sat., Feb. 6. Rally at 1 p.m., corner of Nostrand Ave. and Eastern Parkway; march to Grand Army Plaza. Sponsor: Committee Against Repression in Haiti. For more information call (718) 434-3940.

Manhattan

Women Political Prisoners Face Psychological Torture. Protest conditions at Lexington, Kentucky, federal prison. Speakers: Josefina Rodriguez, Puerto Rican *independentista* and mother of two Puerto Rican political prisoners; Liz McAlister, antinuclear activist, Plowshares; Nomgobo Sangweni, South African activist tortured in prison. Sat., Feb. 6, 7 p.m. Earl Hall, Columbia University, 116th St. and Broadway. Sponsors: Women's Committee to Shut Down

Lexington, Free Puerto Rico Committee; Committee to Fight Repression. For more information call (212) 243-0202.

The Situation in the West Bank and Gaza. A program in Spanish including eyewitness accounts. Sat., Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14th St. Sponsor: Palestinian Coalition to End Israeli Occupation. For more information call (212) 557-5410.

Build Solidarity With Nicaragua. A panel discussion on how to build the antiwar movement in the United States. Dave Cline, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

What Road Forward in the Fight Against Racism? Speaker: Mac Warren, national leader, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

The Legacy of Malcolm X. Speaker: Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 20, 3 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Is Racism on the Rise? Sun., Feb. 7, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

The Palestinian Struggle. Speaker: Dr. Hatem Hussaini, former adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations. Sun., Feb. 14, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Support GE Workers' Fight Against Plant Closings. Speakers: Mary Pope, chief shop steward, International Union of Electronic Workers Local 707; David Marshall, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Cuba Today: the Revolution Advances. A class series. 1. "Current Stage of the Revolution." Sat., Feb. 6, 4 p.m. 2. "Che Guevara: How His Ideas Live on Today." Sat., Feb. 13, 4 p.m. Classes held at 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

History of a U.S. Colony: the Struggle for Independence of Puerto Rico. Sat., Feb. 6, 1 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Palestinian Revolt Against Israeli Apartheid. Speakers: Steve Halpern, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Burkina Faso: The Gains of the Revolution and Lessons of Its Defeat. Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, member of United Steelworkers of

America, reporter for *Socialist Voice* who visited Burkina just prior to the October 1987 coup. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Solidarity with the Palestinian Uprising: No to the Israeli Occupation! Speakers: Sam Roy, regional coordinator for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; representative, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

No Aid to the Contras. Stop the War Against Nicaragua! Speakers: Bruce Plenk, co-chair of Utah Central America Solidarity Committee; Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Palestinian Uprising: Stop Israeli Repression! A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

South Africa and the Worldwide Fight Against Apartheid. Speaker: Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party, participated in African National Congress' 75th anniversary conference held in Tanzania. Sun., Feb. 7, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Blacks and the Nicaraguan Revolution. Sat., Feb. 13, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

Worldwide Fightback of Miners. Speaker: Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party, laid-off United Mine Workers member, participant in 1987 International Miners Organization conference. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Burkina Faso: The Gains of the Revolution and Lessons of Its Defeat. Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, visited Burkina just prior to October 1987 coup, reporter for *Socialist Voice*. Sun., Feb. 7, 1 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Malcolm X: His Legacy for Today. Speaker: Omari Musa, chair of Illinois Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement for Today. Speaker: Ken Milner, Socialist Workers Party, participant in 1987 Forsyth County demonstrations. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Cuba's Example in the Fight Against Racism. Speakers: Tony Prince, Socialist Workers Party leader who has visited Cuba; others. Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, c/o Mark Mateja, Edinboro University of Pa. Zip:

16412. Tel: (814) 398-2754. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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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, 147 E. 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Portsmouth: YSA, P.O. Box 6538, Churchland Station. Zip: 23707.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3165 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.

Learn 'em young — A judge in Bloomington, Illinois, put a nine-year-old in the county jail for five days after the youngster pleaded guilty to a vandalism charge. Re-



Harry Ring

sponding to complaints, the good judge explained he was only trying to "rehabilitate him and make him a law-abiding citizen."

Will fill them with respect —

Meanwhile, brushing aside laws to the contrary, the California Supreme Court upheld the right of judges to jail youngsters who disobey their orders and play hooky. To do otherwise, the court held, would make the judges a "laughingstock" in the eyes of those they have "a duty to supervise and control."

Sure, he's always too busy for photos — Palestinian editor Hanna Siniora and attorney Faye Abu Rahme met with Secretary of State Shultz about the crisis in their homeland. Photographers were barred. The State Dept. assured this had nothing to do with downplaying the meeting, just a

lack of time.

Just keeping their hand in — Rockwell International, the war goods biggie, was indicted for trying to con the air force of \$337,000 for repair work it wasn't entitled to collect on. The claim was slipped into a \$43 million contract. The company was also charged with criminal contempt for violating an injunction against such no-nos stemming from an earlier false-billing swindle.

The long view — Meanwhile, McDonnell Douglas also agreed to pay the government for overcharges to the air force; some \$1.6 million worth. The company ex-

plained it merely put aside specific estimates of how long a job would take in favor of "historical" cost-price data.

What else is new? — "Koch Predicts Higher Taxes, Fewer Services" — New York newspaper headline.

None of that styrofoam — We were impressed by one newspaper recollection of the recently departed Baron Phillippe de Rothschild. When he and his spouse put on a feed at their French castle, she would "not only consult with her chef but also leaf through huge sample books containing pictures of all the chateau's set of china and table linens."

For yuppiebirds — For the prosperous folk at Southampton, Long Island, designer bird houses are currently in. At a recent auction, one fetched \$14,000. One artist, who offers a two-family bird house and a bird church, explains, "People like to collect houses. This is an affordable way to do it."

Thought for the week — "Take a look . . . at the Reagan administration. Or just the president himself. Or the men hoping to become president. Or the last cluster of presidents. These characters would hardly inspire confidence in the average bail bondsman." — Woody Allen.

30,000 turn out for antiracist rally in Australia

Continued from back page

ner denouncing the deaths. Since 1980 there have been at least 100 Black deaths in custody; in 1987 alone, 15 died. A comparable rate of prison deaths for non-Aboriginal people would be 1,500 a year.

In most cases those who have died have been victims of brutal beatings at the hands of police and jailers. The police have been quick to present these deaths as the result of "suicide," "natural causes," or "misadventure." In many cases no inquiries have been held in order to establish the cause of death.

Land rights

Many banners on the January 26 march called for land rights. The Top End Aboriginal Coalition demanded "constitutional recognition of prior ownership of our land," and the chant that dominated the march was "Land rights now!"

The demand for land rights is the demand of the Aboriginal people for self-determination. When the British colonizers arrived in 1788, they claimed sovereignty over New South Wales (then comprising the whole eastern part of Australia) and ownership of all the million and a half square miles contained within.

They declared the new colony to be *terra nullius*, a more or less uninhabited country with a few nomadic people and with no one in possession of the land. They rapidly discovered otherwise. Not only was the entire continent inhabited in 1788 but the various Aboriginal peoples had a strong relationship to the land.

The European colonizers chose to disregard this. At no time in the past 200 years has any government in Australia attempted

to make a treaty with Aboriginal people or attempted to negotiate access to Aboriginal land with the prior owners. The land was simply declared to be the property of the British Crown. It subsequently became controlled or distributed by the Australian government.

Today Aboriginal people are seeking constitutional recognition of their prior ownership and occupation of the land. They are seeking recognition in law of the rights of traditional owners to claim land that is "unalienated," that is, the property of the Crown.

They claim some restoration of land for people whose land is now in private ownership.

They claim also some right to control non-Aboriginal incursions on Aboriginal land, such as mining and tourism; recognition of Aboriginal interests in lands that they do not control, such as the protection of sites of Aboriginal cultural significance; and some measure of self-government on Aboriginal land.

An important step toward justice for Aboriginal people was made with the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act in 1976. The Northern Territory is a vast area, sparsely populated, about one-quarter of whose inhabitants are Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. The two major industries of the territory are mining and cattle raising, and Aborigines have historically formed the backbone of the labor force for the cattle industry.

Under the 1976 act, many thousands of acres of Crown land and land held as Aboriginal reserves or mission leases in the Northern Territory have been claimed by their traditional owners and are now Aboriginal land.

The 1976 act also spawned strong land councils through which Aborigines could put forward their claims to land. The Northern and Central land councils have proved to be militant organizations leading political battles against vested mining and grazing interests.

Many Aboriginal groups were highly critical of the 1976 Northern Territory Act. The original proposal for legislation had made provision for land claims on the basis of need as well as tradition. The act as finally passed did not contain this provision so those Northern Territory Aborigines who have borne the brunt of dispossession cannot easily make claims.

The major weakness of the 1976 legislation, however, was that it was restricted to the Northern Territory.

Unions protest racism

The January 26 mobilization showed that a huge section of non-Aboriginal Australia rejects racist, anti-Aboriginal attitudes. The 175,000-member Australian Teachers Federation, at its annual conference at the beginning of January, called on its members to boycott all school bicentennial programs that do not present the Aboriginal perspective.

The union also reaffirmed its position calling on the federal government to introduce uniform national land-rights legislation.

The New South Wales Teachers Federation, a state branch of the national union, took a quarter-page advertisement in the major Sydney daily newspaper calling on

its members to march on January 26 in solidarity with the Aboriginal marchers.

The union's banner on the march read "Australia has a black history, set the record straight."

The Independent Teachers Association also carried a banner on the march, along with Actors Equity and members of public service unions.

Many members of the Building Workers Industrial Union marched under the banner of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee. The BWIU at its state conference in September 1987 welcomed the announcement of the establishment of a Royal Commission to investigate Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Many march participants carried antinuclear banners and placards.

There were also many church contingents. On the eve of the Australia Day celebrations, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference wrote a pastoral letter to Australian Catholics urging support for Aboriginal land rights. The Uniting Church shouldered the insurance bill which enabled the march and rally to take place with Sydney City Council permission.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
Feb. 10, 1978

As the coal industry starts to feel the pinch from the nationwide coal miners' strike, there is a growing danger of federal strikebreaking action against the United Mine Workers.

When the strike began, the industry boasted of huge stockpiles of coal. The employers were confident that cutoffs of pensions and health benefits would bring the UMW ranks to heel.

But the miners have stood tough. They are united and determined to win a just settlement.

Now utilities and other industries are starting to run short of coal. And the coal profiteers are looking to Washington for help.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that executives of the utility companies — themselves among the biggest coal owners — "are privately asking whether [President James] Carter might invoke the Taft-Hartley Act and order the miners back to work."

Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio announced January 29 that he had sent Carter a telegram "pleading" for the president's personal intervention. The governors of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia have also warned of an "emergency" unless the strike ends soon. None of these Democratic and Republican politicians, however, have called on the coal operators to settle the strike by honoring the right of coal miners to safety, health care, and a decent living.

Carter, at his January 31 news conference, hinted that he is considering a Taft-Hartley injunction.

Speaking at an enthusiastic labor support rally in Pittsburgh January 28, UMW President Arnold Miller pointed out that

federal injunctions have not mined coal in the past and are not likely to do so today.



Nicaragua, "ally for progress" of Washington, held another phony election January 3. Left untouched by the result was the Somoza family dictatorship, which had staged the whole show. This 30-year-old dictatorship is the heritage of the Central American country's occupation by the U.S. Marines.

Official election returns haven't been announced yet but it doesn't make any difference since the Somozas' handpicked candidate, Rene Schick, former secretary of Anastasio Somoza, Sr., had only token opposition.

This was supposed to have been Nicaragua's first election by secret ballot. Special pains were taken to make this election look good because U.S. President John Kennedy is scheduled to meet with the presidents of the Central American "republics" and Panama next month to work out plans against Cuba.

It will facilitate things for Kennedy's propagandists and apologists if it can be claimed that Nicaragua is easing its brutal dictatorship.

The Somozas subsidize an "opposition" party to their own official Liberal Party so that there will be election "contests."

Shortly before the campaign began, a broadcast censorship law was "passed" and a station that had permitted some mildly anti-Somoza statements was penalized. Then it was revealed that the "secret ballot" would not be so secret but that Liberal Party poll watchers could tell who was voting against the Somozas' candidate.



Militant/Ron Poulsen
Sydney march. Many Aborigines bore slogan "We have survived."

Desegregation victory in N.Y.

A significant victory for housing desegregation was won January 28 when the Yonkers City Council finally voted that it would comply with a federal court order and begin building 800 units of low-income housing in predominantly white areas of the city.

The vote did not come easily.

Yonkers is a city of 195,000 that lies slightly north of New York City. About 18 percent of its residents are Black or Latino.

The city council meeting where the vote took place was packed by hundreds of racist residents, howling that the council was "betraying" them by complying with the desegregation order. "If you do this, we're no better than animals in a zoo," one of them charged.

Out of 50 speakers, only one spoke up for desegregation. Laurie Recht, a secretary, stood up and said that the city council's resistance to the court order was "illegal, immoral, and unethical." Recht, who is white, had to be escorted home by police, and has been subsequently harassed, including receiving death threats.

Most members of the council had in fact been elected on a platform of resisting the order "all the way to the Supreme Court." The city spent \$15 million fighting the desegregation order.

Only U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand's threat of massive fines and contempt charges, combined with an order blocking building development in the city, finally forced the city council to give up their last-ditch defense of segregation. The opinion of legal advisors that further appeals of the desegregation order would be useless also helped them see the handwriting on the wall.

The roots of this case go back to 1980, when the Justice Department and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed suit against Yonkers, charging that the city had, through formal and informal policies, kept Black and other minority students in inferior, segregated schools. Yonkers' deliberate concen-

tration of 98 percent of low-income housing in one part of the city was one of the policies cited.

In 1985 Judge Sand ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, finding that Yonkers had "illegally and intentionally" maintained segregated housing and schools for 40 years.

The city, he said, "by its pattern and practice of confining subsidized housing to southwest Yonkers, had intentionally enhanced racial segregation in housing."

He further found that the actions of the board of education "constituted intentional racial segregation of the Yonkers public schools." Sand's remedy was to order implementation of a school desegregation plan, and for the city to build 200 to 1,000 low-cost housing units in "white" areas of Yonkers.

Last December a federal appeals court upheld Judge Sand's ruling.

While the judge's school desegregation order was implemented beginning in 1986, the city council had simply refused, until the January vote, to proceed with the housing desegregation order.

The Yonkers decision is a double victory because it recognizes what fighters for desegregation have long pointed out — the relationship between discrimination in housing and education. As long as Blacks, Latinos, and other minorities are forced by de facto housing segregation to live in separate areas, the policy of "neighborhood" schools can only be a code word for keeping Black and Latino students in segregated, inferior schools. For years, supporters of school desegregation in many cities have had to fight for court-ordered busing in order to overcome this obstacle.

The housing desegregation order in Yonkers will also strengthen the fight in New York City and elsewhere to beat back racists who want to keep certain neighborhoods — like Howard Beach — for whites only. It sends a clear message: that Blacks and Latinos have the right to live anywhere they choose in the city of Yonkers.

Carlos Fonseca: Nicaragua, Blacks have same cause

BY DOUG JENNESS

One of the charges most often leveled against the Sandinista leadership of Nicaragua is that it is undemocratic. But one of the most important litmus tests for showing whether or not a political leadership has respect for democratic rights, is its treatment of oppressed nationalities.

On this, the Sandinistas have set a shining example with their approach to the problems of tens of thousands of Indians and Blacks on the country's Atlantic Coast. They are implementing measures that permit consider-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

able political autonomy and respect the language and cultures of the peoples there. This sharply contrasts with several centuries of brutalization from the Spanish and British colonialists to the Somoza dictatorship.

The Sandinistas' policy has been decisive in uniting all working people in Nicaragua to defeat the U.S.-backed contra mercenaries. Moreover, it has won the revolution wide backing from millions of nationally oppressed peoples throughout the Americas.

The Sandinistas' practice is consistent with the stance taken by Carlos Fonseca, founder and central leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). This can be seen in a letter that Fonseca, who was killed by Anastasio Somoza's National Guard in 1976, wrote Jan. 30, 1973, on behalf of the FSLN leadership.

The letter is a call to U.S. Blacks for solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the U.S.-backed Somoza tyranny.

The letter is of sufficient interest that we're printing it in its entirety below. It was published in the FSLN's daily newspaper, *Barricada*, Nov. 5, 1985. The translation is by the *Militant*.

* * *

Brother Afro-American:

We address this message to you in the name of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. The FSLN is a revolutionary organization that is fighting in defense of the Nicaraguan people, oppressed by Yankee imperialism.

The cause of Nicaragua is the cause of Afro-Americans. It is the cause of the exploited and the downtrodden of the whole world.

With justified pride we tell you that African forebears contributed to the historical formation of the Nicaraguan people. Once, during the centuries of Spanish colonial rule, the eastern coast of Nicaraguan territory was a refuge for rebel African slaves who escaped from their white captors in the West Indies.

The colonial aggression of the United States against Nicaragua began in the middle of the 19th century. William Walker's expedition of aggression stands out during that period. Walker, an American, was a tyrant who set himself the goal of conquering Nicaragua. He planned to establish a wretched traffic in Black slaves from Africa to the American continent.

The patriotism of the Nicaraguan people, who took up arms, defeated those plans.

Later, colonial aggression by the United States intensified. And today Nicaragua is reduced, in reality, to the status of an American colony.

American domination plundered Nicaragua's natural resources. At the same time it turned the country into a military base for Yankee aggression against other peoples, and a strategic reserve for the installation of inter-oceanic communication.

The oppressed of Nicaragua have never resigned themselves to living in chains. Augusto César Sandino, the hero and martyr, stands out in Nicaragua's tradition of struggle. Sandino's portrait represented the patriotism of Latin America on the platform of the First Tricontinental Conference, held in 1966. [The Tricontinental Conference of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America was held in Havana, Cuba, Jan. 3-14, 1966.]

In recent years there has been a resurgence of the Nicaraguan struggle for freedom. Today, it confronts Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who has sold out his country and is the puppet of the U.S. monopolies.

A large number of Sandinista Front members have given up their lives in today's fight, proving that we are ready to continue the struggle until its victorious conclusion.

The hard struggle waged by our small country requires moral and material solidarity from our Afro-American brothers. Clearly, we are not asking for charity. We are requesting actions that signify a sacrifice in the interests of the cause.

We thank you for your courtesy to Compañero Andrés Granados, the bearer of this letter.

With revolutionary greetings.

For the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front,

Carlos Fonseca,
General Secretary

Seabrook, Shoreham nukes set back

The nuclear power industry has suffered two major setbacks.

The Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, principal owner of the Seabrook nuclear power plant, filed for bankruptcy January 28. It did so after the state supreme court rejected its plea for a 15 percent emergency rate hike. This puts a big question mark over Seabrook's future. And on Long Island, New York, plans to begin operating the Shoreham nuclear plant were dealt a heavy blow when a federal agency ruled its emergency evacuation plan was "fundamentally flawed."

From the outset, both the Seabrook and Shoreham plants evoked stubborn opposition from area residents fearful for their safety.

Public concern escalated significantly after the near meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979, and was added to by the disaster at the Soviet Union's Chernobyl installation in 1986.

Seabrook has been the scene of repeated antinuclear protests. On Long Island, pollsters found that 75 percent of the people were against the Shoreham plant.

Such opposition is nationwide. There are some 100 nuclear plants operating in the country, but there hasn't been an order for a new plant since 1978. In the last 10 years about 30 plants have come on line while 66 others were cancelled.

Both Seabrook and Shoreham have been unable to hurdle a barrier erected after Three Mile Island.

After that near-catastrophe, a federal regulation was adopted intended to placate public opposition to nuclear power. This provides that nuclear power plants cannot begin operating until a workable emergency evacuation plan has been developed in cooperation with local governments. Such plans are to cover all residents within a 10-mile radius of the plant.

In promulgating this, the federal government, which strongly supports the nuclear industry, did not anticipate that it would become a weapon in the hands of those who recognize the dangers of nuclear plants.

In New York and in the Massachusetts-New Hampshire area around the Seabrook plant, local officials refused to cooperate in developing such plans. They pointed to the obvious fact that in any populated area, no meaningful evacuation plan is possible.

In taking this stand, the noncooperating politicians simply reflected the depth of opposition within their various constituencies.

The bankruptcy action by Public Service of New Hampshire came after a double setback. One was the state court's rejection of its plea for an emergency rate hike. And earlier, the New Hampshire House of Representatives refused, for the third time, to repeal a law barring Public Service from trying to pass on the cost of the Seabrook plant to rate payers before the plant was actually operating.

Seabrook itself is a striking example of how much money is milked out of such plants by those involved in their construction.

Construction at Seabrook began 15 years ago with the claim that it would be completed for a billion dollars. When it was finished in 1986 the actual cost had spiraled to \$5.2 billion.

In New York, the Long Island Lighting Co. (Lilco) has been trying to get an operating license for the Shoreham plant for five years. Shoreham also cost \$5 billion.

Lilco's ploy for coping with the refusal of officials to cooperate in developing an evacuation plan was to enlist employees, volunteers, and the Red Cross in a so-called evacuation training program, in the densely traveled area.

But the federal Atomic Safety and Licensing Board found this plan unacceptable.

New York's Gov. Mario Cuomo estimated that the federal decision "should be the final nail in Shoreham's coffin."

That will be all to the good. The setbacks for Shoreham and Seabrook should be considered steps in a drive to block all slated nuclear plants and to scrap the ones already operating. Every one of them is a lethal time bomb.



Protest at Shoreham

Militant/Lou Howort

St. Louis electrical workers fight discrimination

BY GREG PRESTON

Late last November, 109 members of International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 1102 at Emerson Electric in St. Louis filed a petition with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance charging company discrimination. The petition stated that the company prac-

UNION TALK

ticed "methodical and blatant disregard for the rights and privileges of minorities, women, handicapped people, and veterans."

Workers in the plant pointed to job classifications that had no Black or women workers. They also pointed out the difficulties minorities and women have when attempting to bid into higher-paying or more skilled jobs. The bosses would devise "qualification tests" on the spot.

Like many other plants around the country, Black workers at Emerson tend to be concentrated in janitorial

jobs. "All Blacks are qualified for those jobs," one unionist commented sarcastically.

Although, most workers questioned point out race and sex discrimination are not new things at Emerson, they feel there has been an increase in instances of discrimination over the past five years. "You have an administration in Washington that says, 'It's OK to discriminate, it's OK to attack unions, it's OK to shut plants.' The bosses see and understand this," one union member said.

Workers chose to bring their case to the contract compliance office after not getting the results they desired from the company or the union. "The attitude of some of the union leadership is 'If it doesn't affect me, it's not a problem,'" said one worker. "When it comes to civil rights issues, the union isn't too receptive," said another.

The response of the local officials was to call an emergency executive board meeting, distributing a "special notice" to the membership. The notice announced that an investigation had been launched and that any member with information regarding discrimination should step forward.

The notice went on to state that "no member need worry about losing his or her job because of... bringing information forward." This point is especially important since the organizers and signers of the petition felt compelled to remain anonymous for fear of victimization by the company.

In a letter mailed to all employees dated Dec. 4, 1987, the company president explained that interviews will be conducted involving a sampling of workers, two corporate officials, and a representative from a Boston consulting firm for labor-management relations.

Most people tapped for the interviews saw them as a way to press their grievances further and did so.

Although the situation is unresolved at this time, many agree that the action of filing the petition as a way of fighting back has resulted in higher morale and self-confidence among the union members.

Greg Preston is a member of IUE Local 1102 at Emerson.

LETTERS

FBI witch-hunters

In response to your January 22 article "Illinois college is target of witch-hunt," I would like to offer my assessment of the social and academic climate and character of Northeastern Illinois University.

Currently a junior at the Chicago institution, I chose to transfer to Northeastern from Oakton College last year, turning down large, Big-10 institutions and prestigious eastern bastions of supposedly superior education.

My decision to attend the small, state-supported college, with an enrollment of around 10,000 students, was largely based on the remarkable cultural and racial diversity of the school. Never have I seen so many students, Black and white, Latino and Asian, working and studying in such a mutually supportive and nurturing environment.

Northeastern can boast of many cultural associations and student groups that serve to buttress ethnic pride and identity. They provide an opportunity for other groups and students to gain a healthy picture of a culture through not only simple exposure, but campuswide activities.

The FBI considers these groups to be "potentially terrorist oriented," if not already supposedly aligned with a so-called terrorist organization such as the Puerto Rican group FALN [Armed Forces of National Liberation].

I am thoroughly disheartened and angered by this vindictive and racist viewpoint the FBI holds.

Perhaps the FBI is terrified by Northeastern's real strength: not its culturally specific "terrorist" organizations, but the power of 10,000 students of all races, cultures, and walks of life cooperating with and supporting each other.

Laura Sherman
President, NIU Honors Student Association
Chicago, Illinois

Anti-contra resource

Opponents of the U.S.-sponsored contra war have gained an important new resource with the relaunching this month of the *Central America Information Bulletin*. The bulletin is a weekly publication of Agencia Nueva Nicaragua, an international news service focusing on Nicaragua and Central America.

The January 20 issue includes an interview with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, coverage of the Central America peace accords, and a report on advances in Nicaragua's agrarian reform.

The publication is available in English, French, and German. A one-year subscription (46 issues) costs \$25 and is available from Agencia Nueva Nicaragua, 1260

National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045.

Charlie Rosenberg
Baltimore, Maryland

Women prisoners

I am a film student writing the script for a film on the subject of women political prisoners, which I will make during this winter and spring.

Although it will not be a documentary, I plan to include facts. If you have any information that might be helpful to me or any leads, I would appreciate your passing them on. As you know, this is a subject for which little information is available — which is the motivation for the film.

I have contacts to learn about women jailed in the United States for their activity in the Puerto Rican nationalist movement — so other information would be more valuable.

Thank you for your political work and for any help you might be able to give me.

Maggi Carter
P.O. Box 6793
Minneapolis, Minn. 55406

Burkina Faso

The *Militant's* excellent reporting of the overthrow of the popular democratic revolution in Burkina Faso on Oct. 15, 1987, generally neglects the outstanding achievements of the trade unions under President Thomas Sankara's leadership.

Under Sankara organized labor was an important force in Burkina Faso. The four labor federations — of which the largest maintained affiliation with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions — participated in the International Labor Organization and in African regional labor meetings.

Unions had the right to bargain for increased wages and otherwise represent the interest of workers. Membership in unions grew and the unions were proud of their independence from the government.

There had been some confrontations between the government and labor in the first years of the revolution, but tensions had eased by 1986 as evidenced by the release from detention of the well-known trade union leader and secretary general of one of the confederations, Soumane Touré on Oct. 2, 1986. Sankara himself said on a number of occasions that he wished to maintain dialogue with all Burkinabè trade unions.

Erling Sannes
Bismarck, North Dakota

Joyce Brown

I agree with a recent "Learning About Socialism" column that the rich could care less whether homeless workers live or die. They just don't want to see, hear, or think



Conrad

Editorial board, Hazelwood High School, meets with journalism adviser Justice Byron White.

about them. One recent episode I witnessed is a case in point.

On January 20 WNYW-TV in New York invited Joyce Brown and Norman Siegel to do a live interview with anchorman John Roland on their 10:00 p.m. news show. Brown, a former secretary who has been homeless for about two years, recently beat back the city's attempt to lock her up in the mentally ill ward of a city hospital. Siegel, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, has been supporting Brown.

From the moment the interview started, Roland hysterically attacked and insulted Brown. When she tried to answer, Roland cut her off or spoke over her or leaned past her to pose a question to Siegel.

Brown did make her points. She refused to be intimidated, and the fact that she was more than a match for Roland just enraged him more.

Finally Siegel had to put a stop to Roland's tirade, pointing out that his questions were "not focused" and that he was "hostile to Joyce."

Hundreds of angry viewers called WNYW after the show protesting Roland's actions. The station suspended the newsmen for a few days.

After Roland was suspended, he became contrite, apologizing to Brown and stating that his "con-

cern" for her had made him too emotional.

Roland — who owns a fancy restaurant in the high-class area Brown used to frequent — hates the homeless poor, as anyone who saw the interview knows. At one point, Roland interrupted Brown, who was defending the rights of the homeless, and said, "What about the rights of people like me who walk past the people who urinate? I'm a taxpayer. What about my rights?"

Chris Rayson
Newark, New Jersey

Atomic war

Your article on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in the December 25 *Militant* correctly recognizes the impossibility of U.S. imperialism realizing a first-strike nuclear strategy. But it fails to explicitly conclude, as I would, that atomic war is excluded as a policy because it is suicidal.

I further believe that the new détente is the product of the worldwide economic crisis. The Soviet Union suffers from lack of consumer goods, and the United States lacks paying consumers. Latin America is bankrupt, and China's purchasing power is very limited. The Soviet bloc offers paying consumers on a vast scale.

In that connection, the decline of the dollar will play a very large role in opening the Soviet bloc

market, and I predict the dollar will either further decline or stabilize at a level consonant with that objective.

Nat Simon
North Miami Beach, Florida

News I would miss

I've really enjoyed reading your paper for the past few months. It's amazing how much news I would miss if I only relied on daily papers or mainstream newsweeklies.

I think your coverage on events in Central America and Africa is especially commendable, and your reports on local and national events is enlightening.

Keep it up!
F.P.
San Francisco, California

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.

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

30,000 at Australian antiracist rally demand full rights for Aborigines

BY MEGAN MARTIN

SYDNEY, Australia — In an unprecedented demonstration for their rights, more than 10,000 Aborigines and approximately 20,000 of their supporters marched through the streets here on January 26 calling for self-determination for Australia's indigenous peoples.

Aborigines came from every corner of the continent, taking days and in some cases weeks to travel thousands of miles in buses, coaches, and cars. Old and young, relatives and communities, they had pooled their funds and made their plans. They came to protest the Australian government's celebration of 200 years of white settlement.

It was on Jan. 26, 1788, that the British government established a convict settlement in eastern Australia. This new British colony was founded in a country whose indigenous population could claim a history stretching back at least 40,000 years.

Generations of Australian school children have been taught that an English naval officer, Capt. James Cook, discovered Australia in 1770. Many Aboriginal children on the protest wore T-shirts declaring "Aborigines discovered Cook in 1770."

The dispossession of Aboriginal Australia was violent. At least 20,000 Aborigines were killed as a direct result of conflict between white settlers and Aborigines. This frontier conflict extended over 150 years until well into this century with the Coniston massacre in central Australia in 1928.

The "killing times" are still a living memory in many parts of Australia. A majority of Aboriginal Australians have at least one relative of their own, their parents', or their grandparents' generation who was gunned down, whipped, raped, or taken away from their land and their people.

The secondary effects of white colonization: disease, malnutrition, and social disintegration still afflict the majority of the 160,000 Aboriginal Australians today.

January 26 was called a day of mourning for Aborigines, but the mood of the march and rally was far from defeatist. There was a powerful feeling of strength, unity, and pride. Many banners, placards, and T-shirts carried the slogan "We have survived." Successive government policies of genocide and assimilation have not succeeded in destroying the Aboriginal people.

Convoys

From the middle of January thousands began heading for Sydney in convoy. The convoy from Western Australia traveled 2,500 miles across the Nullarbor Plain. The convoy from the Top End set off from Darwin, Northern Territory, on January 17, also on a 2,500-mile journey.

For the Darwin convoy, the cost of the journey was \$30,000, raised through donations, concerts, and other activities.

The three support vehicles were a food wagon with a team of three cooks who traveled ahead to have food ready at each stop; a "swag wagon" that carried 200 gallons of fuel as well as everybody's baggage; and the "grease wagon" carrying spare parts and tires and a mechanic supplied by the Northern Aboriginal Land Council.

The convoys began arriving in Sydney on January 22 and set up camp in the Sydney suburb of La Perouse, which has a large Aboriginal population. The local residents, including some whites, helped feed the convoy.

The January 26 protest began with a 7:00 a.m. march to an Aboriginal Tent Embassy to protest the first of the official bicentennial celebrations of the day, a reenactment of the landing by Capt. Arthur Phillips, the first British governor.

Police had at first tried to stop the

Aboriginal protest from reaching its destination but were forced to retreat by the determination of the marchers.

Despite the great number who had come to Sydney, thousands were involved in protests in other cities. "We are here today on behalf of our communities. We are feeling good, our spirits are lifted, a new unity has been created," said Hope Neill, who came from Brisbane, Queensland, 650 miles north of Sydney.

Protest cop killings

Matt and Jerry traveled to the rally by car from Mareeba in far north Queensland, a journey of 1,500 miles. Jerry, 22, explained that the protest was "a big thing for our people. It will make more people aware of Aboriginal rights."

For Matthew, also 22, the most important issue was that "our people are getting killed in police cells." Many others on the march focused on this issue.

A group of relatives of Aborigines who have died in police custody carried a banner.

Continued on Page 13



Militant/Ron Poulsen

January 26 march in Sydney, Australia. Theft of Aborigines' land and police brutality were among central issues of protest.

Big abortion rights victory in Canada

BY JOYCE MEISSENHEIMER

MONTREAL — "The [Canadian] Criminal Code, which limits the pregnant woman's access to abortion, violates the right to life, liberty, and security of the person . . . in a way that does not accord with the principles of fundamental justice."

"Forcing a woman, by threat of criminal sanction, to carry a fetus to term unless she meets certain criteria unrelated to her own priorities and aspirations, is a profound interference with a woman's body and thus an infringement of security of the person."

These quotations come from a 5-to-2 majority decision delivered by the Supreme Court of Canada on January 28, striking down the 1969 abortion law opposed by women's rights supporters for nearly 20 years.

The law, now declared unconstitutional, provided that abortions were legal only if approved by hospital therapeutic abortion committees of three doctors and performed in accredited hospitals. Women had no right to appear before these committees nor were all hospitals compelled to provide abortion services.

The battle for freedom of choice on abortion has focused around the government's persecution of Dr. Henry Morgentaler. Horrified by the oppression inflicted on women who were denied access to abortion, Morgentaler set up abortion clinics in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg to provide women with safe, prompt abortions and to challenge the unjust law. For committing these "crimes," he and associate doctors were repeatedly charged under the 1969 law. Morgentaler himself at one time was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Four juries acquitted Morgentaler. His

latest acquittal in 1984 was overturned by an Ontario court. It was his appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada that resulted in the historic January 28 judgment. Charges pending against Morgentaler in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba were dropped the day after the court decision.

The decriminalization of abortion is a huge victory for women and all working people.

The struggle to get rid of the law and to defend Morgentaler won support from all levels of the labor movement and from Canada's labor party, the New Democratic Party. The NDP's first response to the victory was to call on the federal government to provide abortion services, accessible to all, funded by the state medical insurance plan.

Response to the victory was immediate. On the evening of the ruling more than 1,500 women and men converged on

Morgentaler's Toronto clinic to hail the victory and demand government action to make abortion accessible to women, without cost, under the provincial health plan.

In Ottawa the next day, 500 delegates to a Canadian Labor Congress (Canada's largest union federation) women's conference took to the streets with similar demands. Later, about 200 marched in Montreal. In British Columbia women's organizations announced plans to open abortion clinics.

The struggle for abortion rights has reached a new stage. The federal government has not excluded introducing new legislation imposing restrictive time limits on abortion to protect the so-called rights of the fetus.

A number of provincial governments have announced that they do not intend to pay for abortion services through the public medical insurance programs, which, in Canada, are under provincial jurisdiction.

Coal miners vote on contract

BY NORTON SANDLER

United Mine Workers members will vote February 8 on a new contract proposal.

Union President Richard Trumka announced at a January 30 news conference in Washington, D.C., that a tentative agreement had been reached in the coal negotiations.

Trumka said the proposed pact does not contain "any backward steps or takeaways" and that it contains "significantly expanded job opportunities and enhanced economic opportunity."

The old contract between the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) negotiated in 1984 was due to expire at midnight January 31. Trumka said the union agreed to extend the contract for a week until the membership votes on the new offer. He instructed miners to report to work as usual on February 1.

"The entire bargaining unit is satisfied we've negotiated the best package that can be arrived at at this time," Trumka stated.

"These were tough negotiations. There were hard issues, but because of the good faith on both sides, we were able to reach an agreement without a work stoppage," he said.

As for the membership vote on the contract, Trumka said, "I trust in their judgment. If they believe it meets their needs, then I will be very satisfied. If they don't, I'll take their direction."

In 1984, the union reached agreement with the BCOA without a strike. Companies that refused to sign contracts modeled after the BCOA pact were targeted for selective strike.

In this round of negotiations, the BCOA represents 14 companies. These include Peabody Coal, Consolidation Coal, and Amax Coal Co. — the three largest coal companies. Along with Pittston Coal, these companies had been chosen by the union as selective strike targets if a settlement could not be reached.

Pittston is not a BCOA member and is so far refusing to sign a contract modeled after the BCOA pact.

An additional 30 coal operators had earlier signed a form of "me-too" agreements with the union. About half of them agreed to tailor their contracts to the one the union negotiates with the BCOA. In exchange, the union agreed not to strike their mines.

Other companies signed the Employment and Economic Security Pact (EESP).

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Story of Canadian doctor's fight for legal abortion

A full-length interview with Dr. Henry Morgentaler, whose legal case has just resulted in the overturn of Canada's antiabortion law, appears in the Pathfinder pamphlet *Abortion Is a Woman's Right!*

46 pp. 95 cents. Available in English or Spanish. Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.