Defying the wishes of the vast majority of the American people, Carter is taking grave new steps toward war against Iran.

On November 20 the White House issued overt threats of military force. Carter ordered six more warships, including a guided-missile cruiser and the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk with eighty-five combat aircraft, into the Arabian Sea off Iran. And he reaffirmed even more strongly his intention to harbor the criminal shah.

These belligerent actions are Carter's answer to the freeing of thirteen hostages and to the failure of Washington's war propaganda to get the hoped-for response from the American people.

Carter's hostile reaction to the release of some hostages was further proof that his real aims have nothing to do with assuring their safety. Rather, Washington is desperately trying to exploit the hostages to win popular support for U.S. military action against the Iranian people's drive to free themselves from foreign domination. The U.S. rulers want to free their hands to send American youth to fight and die not only in Iran but in Black Africa, the Caribbean, Indochina—anywhere mass revolutionary upheavals threaten U.S. corporate interests.

The American people are not buying it. There is still confusion over the hostages. But in spite of a concerted media campaign to whip up a war hysteria, the overwhelming majority oppose military intervention.

And as the truth about the shah's blood-soaked reign comes out, as Americans listen to the appeals made by the Iranian people to bring this mass murderer to justice, more and more Americans are speaking out for extradition of the shah.

Largely ignored by the news media, protest actions are beginning to be organized across the country against the war threats and against attacks on Iranian students.

Growing numbers of Americans realize that the hostages could be freed tomorrow. Their fate is in Carter's hands. All he has to do is return the shah. Instead of blind support for war, the Iran crisis has provoked the biggest nationwide debate since Vietnam over the U.S. government's role in the world. And this time the debate is not only on campus but in the factories, mines, and mills.

"Why should we die for the shah?" is a common question. "And why was our government supporting him, anyway?"

This growing questioning explains why Washington was less than enthusiastic about the release of five women and eight Black men from the U.S. Embassy. The New York Times reported November 20: "The Administration is irritated over the drawn-out release of the 13 blacks and women and by what the State Department said was Iran's effort to 'split' Americans by discriminating against white males."

The public recognition by the Iranians of the oppression suffered by Blacks in the United States was a bitter pill for the White House. Nor was Carter's war drive aided by the statements by Sgt. William Quarles, one of the Black marines released November 18. "I'd like to, if I..."

Continued on page 2

Inside shah's jails: murder and torture

Why Iranian people want him to stand trial

On November 17 the Tehran daily Baamdad printed—a telegram from Socialist Workers presidential candidate Andrew Pulley. Pulley declared his support to the struggle to extradite the shah and pledged: "American people oppose U.S. support to shah. We will fight any U.S. attempt to intervene in Iran. Long live Iranian revolution!"

The Iranian workers and peasants know that every effort to educate the American people about the justice of their cause, every voice in this country that speaks out against Carter's war moves, is a powerful aid to their freedom struggle.

And that's exactly what the Socialist Workers Party 1980 presidential campaign is pulling out all the stops to do.

One way we responded to the war hysteria was to rush into print 25,000 copies of the poster shown at the right. That was a substantial, unplanned expense for a campaign of our limited resources. Unbudgeted expenses in support of social upheavals in this country and around the world are...
Militant highlights this week

Women coal miners meet at national United Mine Workers conference, women made it clear that their fight is a union fight. Page 15.

Revolution in Grenada
New Jewel Movement is leading social transformation on this Caribbean island. On-the-scene report by Ernest Harsch. Page 23.

In Our Opinion

...protest war moves
Continued from front page
could, tell the American government to re-evaluate their foreign policy. "We do not want to be wrong and a lot of people are suffering for a few people at the top," Quarles told reporters in Tehran. Both Quarles and Gross also released November 18, expressed their support for the aspirations of the Iranian people. Quarles said that Iran, "should be an example" to other oppressed peoples that "freedom isn't just handed to you on a silver platter." He said he "got a different look at American imperialism."

A majority of the hostages have now appealed for Carter to extricate the shah. It's no wonder that the second group of hostages released was prevented from speaking to reporters. All have been whisked away to a U.S. military base in West Germany for what a State Department official called "decompression."

"Decompression" will undoubtedly include strong pressure on Quarles, Gross, and the others to recant their pro-Iranian, antiwar statements.

In the latest attempt to kindle support for intervention, Carter has seized on the warning by Ayatollah Khomeini that--if the ex-shah is not returned--some of the remaining embassy personnel may be tried for spying. The White House declared that any trials "would be a further flagrant violation of elementary human rights, religious precepts and international law and practice."

But the new violator of human rights and international law is Carter, who protects the criminal shah and shields the U.S. government's complicity with twenty-six years of the worst human rights violations in history.

What Carter really fears is that in a trial, what the Iranian students and others are saying about the role of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran will be proven true: that this was no normal "diplomatic" mission but rather a "spy nest" and a "center of conspiracy."

The White House and State Department virtually admitted these charges, arrogantly declaring that even if embassy personnel were engaged in "intelligence gathering functions," diplomatic immunity barred a trial.

As the U.S.-provoked crises drag on and Carter refuses to return the shah, the danger of war is very real. Seeing the mood of the people, the so-called "moderate" factions will sharply up their intervention. Carter and his advisers may gamble on a desperate military strike--which would likely leave the shah dead--to try to salvage their position. Any such move--sending U.S. troops into combat on the borders of the Soviet Union--could lead to catastrophe.

Mounting the largest possible protests against Carter's war moves thus takes on burning urgency. The experience of the past two weeks shows that when the facts are presented about Iran--when someone stands up and tells the war propaganda--people are quickly won over. We must get out the truth about what the Iranian workers and peasants are fighting for--bringing the shah to justice, self-determination for their country, and a decent life for all working people. This helps to make clear that the interests of American workers lie with their Iranian brothers and sisters--not with the shah, Carter, or the giant oil companies they represent.

We must explain how the attacks on Iran are being used to further Carter's plans to make working people sacrifice--pay more for gasoline, turn down our thermostats, and suffer the dangers of nuclear power plants.

We must also explain that the racist assaults on Iranian students and curbs on their rights to speak out and demonstrate pose a threat to the democratic rights of all working people.

Emergency antiwar demonstrations, debates, forums, and teach-ins are urgently needed to expose Carter's lies and make forcefully known the majori­ty's opposition to war against Iran.

Stepped-up sales of the Militant, and campaign­ing for the Socialist Workers Party 1980 candidates, are powerful weapons to get out the truth.

Those in the United States who are fighting to block Carter's war moves should draw inspiration from the heroic example of the 100 mass­mervi­­i­­-­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­�
By Janice Lynn

As the powerful wave of mass mobilizations in Iran gains momentum, the Iranian workers have increasingly come to the forefront of the struggle. In addition, significant mobilizations have taken place in Kurdistan against U.S. war threats. These include: military training to defend the country. The following article is based on reports received by the Militant from leaders of the Iranian Socialist Workers Party (Hezb-e Kargar-e Sosialist-e Iran—HKS).

Every day, every hour, delegations from factories and other work sites come to the U.S. Embassy in Tehran to show their support for the demand to return the shah to stand trial for his crimes. The workers comprise by far the largest contingents, followed by the high school students. Eyewitness observers report that on November 16 close to one million people were in the streets of Tehran to voice their solidarity.

Each day delegations continue to pour in until late in the evening. They carry banners with the names of their factory, union, or shoras (factory council). After giving a speech of solidarity, the workers leave the banners behind, filling the whole square in front of the embassy with a sea of banners demanding, "Give back the shah!"

Delegations have come from shoras of communications, auto, building, municipal, and gas workers. Representatives have also come from the newspaper and bank workers, the Pus electric workers, the air-taxi workers, and the syndicate of brick layers.

On November 16, Tehran's taxi drivers, all with their headlights on, came to the embassy in a large motorcade to show their support. Contingents of teachers, air force cadets, university students, soldiers, and women have also filled the streets.

**Workers contingents**

Reports from Tehran say that many of the workers' contingents are beginning to raise additional demands.

- **The Persian Gulf shipbuilding workers** carried a banner with the slogan, "The permanent struggle against imperialism is the key to the unity of Iranian nationalities.
- **Auto workers** from the Khosrov plant called for the abolition of all military treaties with the United States.
- **Steelworkers from Tehran** called for the nationalization of all U.S. controlled holdings.
- **Workers from a helicopter repair factory** chanted, "U.S. imperialism is empty and Vietnam is the proof."

**Mobilizations in Kurdistan**

Particularly significant were the demonstrations held in Kurdistan. In recent months the Kurds, a non-Persian people who live in northwestern Iran as well as in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and the Soviet Union, had been subjected to a fierce military campaign aimed at denying them their fundamental right to control the affairs of Kurdistan.

The Kurds were able, however, to beat back the Islamic Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) and have forced government representatives to negotiate with them.

On November 14 a mass demonstration in the Kurdish city of Saqqez took place in support of the embassy occupation and against U.S. war threats. The Kurdish demonstrators called for...

**Iran socialists declare solidarity with struggle**

As the mass upsurge against U.S. domination deepens, the Socialist Workers Party of Iran (HKS) is in the thick of the fight to defend the Iranian revolution.

On November 17 the HKS sent a letter to the Islamic Revolutionary Council pledging its support in the struggle against U.S. war threats and for extradition of the shah.

The revolutionary socialists have put forth a series of proposals to help defend the revolution and also extend it, which is its best defense.

- **A proposal for the Islamic Revolutionary Council to arm the entire population and provide it with military training to defend the country. This could be immediately implemented through the councils of workers, peasants, and students.**
- **Let the American people and the people of the world know the truth by publishing all secret documents showing U.S. government complicity with the shah's crimes.** The HKS salutes the appeal being made by Iranian government officials to the American people, who can be won to oppose their government's war moves just as they opposed the war in Vietnam.
- **Break every link in the chain that binds Iran to U.S. domination by nationalizing all imperialist-owned industries and banks and placing them under control of the shoras (workers councils).** The same policy should be applied to the property of indigenous capitalists who have cooperated with the imperialists.
- **Revoke all government debts without compensation in order to prevent profiteering by the capitalists and the rich.** Foreign trade should be monopolized by the government.
- **Support the rights of the Kurds and other oppressed nationalities in order to unify all the masses in the fight against U.S. aggression.** For withdrawal of government military forces from Kurdistan.
- **For a planned economy free of imperialist control, which gives priority to agriculture, health, education, and housing.**
- **For a government of the majority—a workers and peasants government—to resist the imperialist offensive and turn society toward the fulfillment of the needs of the immense majority.**

In a statement issued November 12 the HKS summed up the situation in Iran this way: "By increasingly joining the political path, masses of the people, Iranian toilers, are announcing that they are not going to surrender, and at whatever cost, they are going to gain their freedom and bring the revolution to fruition."

Some of the socialists' proposals have appeared in the Tehran dailies, Baamadad, Ettela'a, and the Tehran Times. In addition, a special issue of their newspaper Kargar (Worker) is doing a brisk business. It receives an especially warm response from others demonstrating in front of the U.S. Embassy.

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14 Charles Lane New York, New York 10014
Demonstrations, meetings demand:

By Osborne Hart

The Carter administration's war campaign against Iran has fostered a racist frenzy on the part of a small minority.

The target? Iranian students—and anyone who may look Iranian or dark-skinned.

Aided by the government's roundup order against Iranians and the sentimentality expressed by right-wingers, demonstrations have been created to demand the extradition of the shah.

A leaflet publicizing the rally read: "The shah should be tried along the lines of the Nuremberg trials for his crimes against humanity." And, in Washington, D.C., as the government rounded up the shah, hundreds gathered outside the White House, demanding that the shah be extradited - a ready-made precedent, according to the American public. Below are reports from Militant correspondents on meetings and other actions against the U.S. war moves.

Chicago

By Ike Nahem

CHICAGO—A representative of the Iranian government was the featured speaker at an emergency meeting here to protest U.S. war moves against Iran and the deportation of Iranian students.

Reza Ghorashi of the Iranian Consulate spoke to nearly 125 people gathered at the Militant Labor Forum November 17. Responding to an extended ovation, Ghorashi told the audience, "I am glad to have been invited to the Militant Labor Forum to tell you what is going on in Iran and give you the facts about the Iranian people's fight with the American government and to reach out to the American people." Ghorashi read and distributed a statement addressed to the American people by Abu al-Hassan Bani-Sadr, who is in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iran.

Speaking at Chicago Militant Forum against U.S. war threats were Reza Ghorashi (left), representing Iranian Consulate, and Socialist Workers Party senatorial candidate Lee Artz.

Right-wingers attack Iranian students

By Arnold Weissberg

Iranians,, according to the country continue to be victims of harassment and intimidation officially sponsored by the government.

Carter has unleashed the Immigration and Naturalization Service on the Iranians, demanding that all 50,000 register with the INS and prove they are full-time students.

The INS announced it would transfer 300 in major cases from duty on the Mexican border to aid in the roundup.

Meanwhile, the government moved to deport Iranians it claimed were not holding valid papers. More than 150 Iranians in the New York City area alone were ordered out of the country. The New York Daily News reported November 17 that the INS had jailed twenty-nine Iranians pending their deportation hearings.

The anti-Iranian hysteria has been the springboard for a broad attack on civil liberties. Authorities at the University of Houston banned an Iranian students' forum, claiming the campus atmosphere was "emotional and volatile." But the day before, the administration allowed an anti-Iranian demonstration on campus.

A telephone death threat against the college's 100 Iranian students was received a week before, but campus authorities dismissed it as a fake.

Using Carter's order as an excuse, Atlantas cops obtained names and addresses of Iranian students from the administration of two area universities—a ready-made "enemies list." The students were not charged with any crime.

Censorship has extended beyond the campuses as anti-Iranian centers.

The witch-hunt atmosphere has encouraged violence and threats from right-wingers, racists, and others who oppose the Iranian revolution.

There are a lot of students who are scared for their lives," an Iranian student at UCLA said. "I have friends who have been attacked. And you never know in this atmosphere when it may be you.

The level of violence and racism of the anti-Iranian demonstrations has brought expressions of concern even from students who had initially supported them. "When I first went out and protested last week," said Carol Bandy, a student at the University of Houston, "I was just afraid I'd be seen by everybody else. But things got into a Ku Klux-type rally. People were yelling 'Kill the Iranians.'"

Harassment extends beyond the campuses. Eight Iranians were arrested at Baltimore-Washington International Airport November 16, charged with illegally transporting arms and held on outrageous bonds as high as $250,000.

The Iranians said the weapons were to be sold in Iran, but the government and big-business press have tried to make something sinister of the affair.

The incident is reminiscent of an earlier frame-up in which four Iranians were charged with plotting to kidnap the governor of Minnesota. The charge, a complete fabrication, was quietly dropped after a few days, but not before getting front-page treatment across the country.

Right-wingers, meeting, demand:"HANDS OFF IR"

Militant photos by Nancy Cohen
Nazi war criminals and posed the question: "Why should they [U.S. government] recognize, rehabilitate, and protect, at all cost, a most brutal criminal?"

"Would it be expecting too much if our people urged your government to extradite the most notorious criminal of the century to Iran in order that he might be tried fairly and fairly?" Ghorashi was followed by a representative of the Progressive Black Students for Change at the University of Illinois, who spoke out in defense of Iranian students.

He stated: "The shah must be extradited and sent back to Iran to face the consequences of his crimes. We, the American people, especially Blacks, have no interest in protecting pathological criminals like the shah. The Iranian people's fight is our fight. We both want freedom and justice. We both are the same enemy."

Referring to the roundup of Iranian students, the PBSC spokesperson said, "If they go after Iranians in the U.S. today, you know it will be Black people tomorrow."

Solidarizing with the Iranian people, the speaker ended by saying, "We express our warm-felt thanks to the Iranians for their example and inspiration they give us in our struggle."

Lee Artz, Socialist Workers Workers candidate for Senate, rounded out the speakers. Artz placed the onus for the embassy on "the government's aim is not to receive, shelter and protect, but to deport and shift the burden of the embassy's deportation of the shah."

Artz stressed the need for public protest against Carter's aims: "Why is this man here?" Why is he here and why are we here?"

He explained that the FBI agents have been "intervening." Some people were "interrogating" him on a plane and doing it "an criminal" way. Some people were "interrogating" him on a plane and doing it "an criminal" way.

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Fourth International: U.S. hands off Iran!

The World Congress of the Fourth International, meeting in Belgium, issued the following statement.

The U.S. government is using its economic power and threatening to use its vast military arsenal to impose imperialist interests in Iran.

In a arrogant response to the demands of the Iranian working masses for the return of the shah and the wealth he plundered, the U.S. rulers have escalated their aggressive moves. A fleet of US, British, Australian, and French warships has been activated in the Arabian Sea. American troops have been placed on the alert in the United States. Carter has ordered a boycott of Iranian oil and has frozen more than $6 billion in assets held by the Iranian government in the United States.

Local hysteria is being whipped up by the imperialist governments and capitalist media around the world to justify these moves. This campaign portrays the Iranian masses as bloodthirsty, reactionary religious fanatics. It blames the Iranian people, especially the heroic oil workers, for the energy crisis created by the imperialist monopolies.

Right-wing hooligan attacks on Iranian citizens in the United States are being used to create the impression that American workers want to go to war against their Iranian brothers and sisters.

But neither the American working class nor the workers and oppressed masses around the world want an imperialist military intervention in Iran. They know the Iranian people struck a blow for freedom around the world when they threw out the butcher shah and his imperialist advisers.

Carter calls the Iranian people "terrorists." But the real terrorists in Iran have been the imperialist powers who armed the shah to the hilt, and the CIA and Israeli agents and the SAVAK agents they trained, who were responsible for tens of thousands of deaths and untold numbers of torture victims.

The following letter was sent November 15 to Dr. Abu al-Hassan Bani-Sadr, in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iran, by fourteen members of the KHK (Kharq-e Sarabshabadeh) imprisoned in Khuzestan Province, in southern Iran.

Although it is hard to follow national and world events from prison, nevertheless we have learned of the major events taking place in our country within the past few weeks. For us, hearing this news is heartening and inspiring on one hand, and depressing on the other.

Hearing thousands of people with clenched fists in front of the embassy occupation of the CIA in Iran shout, "Down with U.S. imperialism, down with the shah," brings a new life for us. It is the memory of the historic struggles of our people against the torturous hand of the Pahlavi monarchy.

It enlivens the memory of the successful February insulation which won the Chinese and these memories are rekindled. We are heartened that the revolution is deepening and moving forward.

Our sadness comes from the reality of our situation—that with the experience of our past struggles and combativity against U.S. imperialism and the dictatorial regime of the shah, with our fighting spirit, we are surrounded by prison walls. We are not among our co-fighters. Mr. Bani-Sadr, in front of millions of people you have discussed and debated with socialists. With this action you have shown clearly your respect for freedom of speech. You have explained and propagated your ideas. And now, in support of the students following the Imam's line, in the post of director of foreign affairs, you have declared mass mobilizations against reaction and U.S. imperialism.

We too explain and propagate our ideas. But we are not able to participate in this mass mobilization. After all, we are imprisoned for our ideas. Worse yet, authorities in Ahwaz demand that we denounce our ideas and the HKS. Because we refuse to do that, they still keep us in prison.

Mr. Bani-Sadr, we want to be alongside our militant brothers and sisters to help stretch the struggle against reaction and U.S. imperialism.

Through this letter, we, the fourteen imprisoned members of the HKS, declare our support to the occupation of the U.S. espionage center of the CIA and Pentagon by the students following the Imam's line.

We resolutely condemn the moves of the U.S. government, its intimidation and harassment of the militant Iranian students residing in that country, and its support and protection of the butcher of the Iranian people.

Fighting U.S. imperialism requires a broad united front in which all strata of our population, all political parties and groups, can and should participate.

Freeing us fourteen socialists from jail, who are imprisoned only for our ideas, will be a step in strengthening and broadening the fighting front against imperialism.


14 socialist prisoners appeal to join fight

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HKS leader Babak Zahraneh and chief of Iran's Foreign Ministry, Dr. Bani-Sadr, debated ideas on how best to further Iranian revolution last April. HKS prisoners appeal to Bani-Sadr for their release so they may join in struggle against U.S. imperialism.

The World Congress of the Fourth International calls on all workers organizations around the world to mobilize the broadest possible campaign of action against Washington's military threats in Iran.

On November 17, 500 of Tehran's taxi drivers demonstrated in the main government office. They carried pictures of Khomeini and banners with their demands for more working hours and for the right to receive benefits.

On November 18 more than 4,000 drilling workers in Ahwaz held a sit-in in U.S.-owned companies in southern Khuzestan Province and demanded the creation of a national drilling company.

Today the Iranian masses are fighting to extend the revolution that ousted the despotic regime of the shah, to win full social and economic equality, and to end imperialist interference. They deserve the fullest solidarity from the world working class.

Return the murdered shah to be tried for his crimes!

Give back the wealth stolen from the toiling masses of Iran! US hands off Iran! Withdraw the imperialist fleet from the Arabian Sea!
Andrew Pulley at Detroit rally:

U.S. workers have stake in Iranian revolution

By Andrew Pulley

(The following is based on a speech made by the Socialist Workers presidential nominee at a campaign meeting in Detroit November 18.)

Today the U.S. government is at the brink of war with the people of Iran. Washington's pretext is that it wants to save the lives of those sixty-two Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran. That number will be less in a few days as the Blacks and the women are released.

Carter is not concerned about the lives of those sixty-two Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran. He is more concerned about the lives of those sixty Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran. Carter is not concerned about the lives of those sixty Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran. He is more concerned about the lives of those sixty Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran.

Carter is not concerned about the lives of those sixty Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran. He is more concerned about the lives of those sixty Americans now being held hostage in the embassy in Iran.

American working people have no interest—no interest whatever—in a war against the people of Iran.

Only the oil companies and the rest of the billionaires that run this country—and, of course, their loyal servants the shah—have any interest in fighting the Iranian masses.

Every one of the measures taken against Iran by Carter and the rulers of this country is one and the same—another measure against American working people.

Who will gain from Carter's decision to boycott Iranian oil? Already the oil companies are telling us we'll be paying even more for gas. It's clear that very soon they'll have the price of gas dangerously close to their goal of two dollars a gallon.

If you think Exxon made a killing in the last quarter, wait till they report their haul for this quarter.

Who gains from these policies against Iran—American working people, or the ruling rich?

Send back the shah

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, speaks at Detroit campaign rally. Seated from left: Bill Arth and Martha Dowling, SWP candidates for U.S. Congress; Andrew Walden, SWP candidate for school board.

Carter extradite the Iranian Hitler? He murdered tens of thousands of Iranians who dared march, unarmed, for their freedom. The Iranian workers wanted the right to have unions, and a reduction of the work week. I think Detroit workers can relate to that.

They demanded among other things that the sale of oil to South Africa be stopped. I think Black Americans can relate to that.

They demanded the right not to be dominated by a foreign power. We fought for that 200 years ago.

Carter says he can't send a sick man back, especially one who has cancer. You can't impose that on a country.

But if they were really concerned about cancer they would shut down the petro plants.

For a quarter of a century, Carter and previous presidents held five Peace Talks nationalities in jail. One of them had cancer. They knew about it but let them break both only two months before he died.

But, they say, must abide by the principle of political asylum. Why don't they ask about the principle of political asylum before he died?

And when I hear this argument, I ask, what is our good comrade, Héctor Marroquin, who they want to deport to Mexico where his life would be in danger. Don't talk of political asylum for Héctor Marroquin.

Statue of Liberty

You know, it's inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, Send me your down-trodden, your exploited, your oppressed.

But the U.S. government does not follow that principle. Just the opposite.

We have to know the extent of their terrorism in this country and we have to find the true cause of these things. Why was it that he was massacring; why was it that he thought he had a mission to accomplish by killing the people, by oppressing them.

Wallace: They—the hostages—will remain there, in the American Embassy compound—what?—for life? Forever?

Khomeini: They will remain until the shah is returned. It is in the hands of Carter. Carter can free them by returning the shah.

Wallace: Imam, President Carter accuses your government of practicing terrorism and says that your regime will be held accountable if those U.S. hostages are harmed.

Khomeini: The thirty-five million people of Iran are terrorists? . . . You interpret politics like this? . . . I have no idea what you mean by saying that, and it doesn't make sense.

He says they are not students; they are bums—mobs—they are terrorists. . . . This is an insult to students and people across the nation. . . . Your understanding of politics is that we are a nation of terrorists. We are Moslems. This is an insult.

Wallace: Imam, President Sadat of Egypt, a devoutly religious man, a Moslem, says that you are doing now is "a disgrace to Islam," and he calls you—Imam, forgive me, his words not mine—"a lunatic." I know that you have heard that comment.

Khomeini: Sadat has united with our enemys because the government what is occurring south of Lebanon, and with the Palestines. He knows the crimes of Israel, yet he still side with the government. Begin a friend and himself a Moslem. You must try to evaluate what he is doing then through Islam. The Egyptian people do not back Sadat. I say that the Egyptian people try to overthrow him, just as we did the shah.

Wallace: I ask you as an American and a human being, is there a reason for compromise? Is Iran now in effect at war with the United States?

Khomeini: . . . We desire peace for all. Carter should put aside his so-called humanism and return the criminal shah so that we can conclude this matter. The shah is a criminal. We all know this. The spy nest you call the U.S. Embassy could be a center of espionage and diplomacy. Carter must return the shah. We have nothing against the people of the United States.

Wallace: If the Imam was so convinced that the U.S. Embassy was a spy center, why did he not close it down and break off relations with the United States? Why did he wait for this group of young Iranians to take it over?

Khomeini: We didn't think an embassy could be a center of spying. I didn't realize this until our students found the necessary evidence. I didn't realize Carter, going against all international law tenets, would allow this spying and conspiracy at the American Embassy.

Now our young students have done this, taken the embassy, with the backing of all the people of Iran, we have now realized that the American Embassy has been a center for spying in Iran. . . .
Big debate in factories

Workers say NO! to U.S. war moves

By Suzanne Haig

For two weeks American workers have been hit by a daily barrage of frenzied anti-Iranian propaganda in the news media. Government actions seem to be escalating toward the brink of war. Small demonstrations organized by off-duty cops, the Jewish Defense League, and other right-wing forces are portrayed as mass, spontaneous shows of outrage against Iran.

Antiwar and anti racist protests are virtually ignored in the press. Deportations, denial of civil liberties, and physical attacks on Iranians in this country have been used to whip up an atmosphere of hysteria to intimidate and silence anyone with questions.

Has the attempt by the ruling class to whip up majority sentiment for a war against the Iranian revolution succeeded? No. What has been whipped up is a huge debate resulting in growing questioning of U.S. foreign policy.

**Biggest topic of discussion**

Iran is the major topic of discussion in plants, mills, mines, and other workplaces around the country. What is clear is that the antiwar sentiment, the distrust in the government, the anger at the oil crisis, and growing numbers are coming to the conclusion that there is justice in the Iranian people's anger over the presence of the shah on U.S. soil.

Socialist workers report that at first many of their co-workers were confused, and many of those who were confused, and many of those who disagreed with Washington's war moves were intimidated into silence.

Norton Sandler, who works at the huge Sparrows Point steel mill in Baltimore, Maryland, reports that some of those talking against Iran are the same ones who attack the Equal Rights Amendment and the right of minorities to ratify their contract.

In the Deep plant in Toledo, Ohio, incensed foremen are the ones screaming racist epithets against the Iranians.

Occasionally remarks are heard like the following made by a railroad worker on the Southern Pacific in Los Angeles: "We ought to go in there like the Klans in Greensboro, bomb the hell out of them, and get those hostages."

The danger of war is more immediate and more becomes the focal point around which Iran is discussed. Some workers make gung-ho statements but then think better of them.

**Discussion in steel plant**

Joanna Misiuk reported on a typical discussion at a steel fabricating plant in Cleveland:

Some workers asked, "Why are we letting a little country like that pick on us? We ought to go in there and blow them to hell."

But once Vietnam was mentioned, memories were evoked and people changed their mind. A discussion often began. Usually the Vietnam veterans were the most conscious because they knew firsthand what it means to go to war against a population that does not want you to win.

"Vietnam was wrong," began one such exchange, "but we have to get our hostages back."

Misiuk replied, "You'll end up in a war like Vietnam."

"Well, no," was the reply, trying to deny the implications. "We'll just end up getting our hostages back."

But what are you going to do in there and not have a war? The whole population will be against you just like in Vietnam," Misiuk explained.

A Black veteran clinched the argument: "If we go over there the twelve- and thirteen-year-old kids are going to have guns and they're going to kill us. They're going to kill as many as they want to."

Nobody said anything after that.

At Southern Martinka Ohio Coal's number one mine in Fairmont, West Virginia, Tom Moriarty, who thinks the shah should be sent back, had a discussion with the section boss, a thirty-five-year-old Vietnam veteran, who came up to him and asked his opinion on Iran. They discussed back and forth and the section boss and Moriarty began to agree.

"That day the press reported on Virgi­nia Sen. Robert Byrd's comments after several Iranian students had been beaten up at a West Virginia college. He said he understood the anger and would like to do the same thing himself."

The next day a twenty-three-year-old roof bolt came into the mine and said, "Boy, did you see how these people got beat up down there at Fair­mont State the other day? Wasn't that great?"

The section boss let him have it. "You dumb fuck, that's exactly what they want you to think. Don't you know you're old enough to get drafted? You idiot. You want to get your head blown off for that guy? That's exactly what they want you to think. You have to think things out for yourself."

The young man literally took a step backward. "Well, I don't know," he said. "I still thought it was good."

The section boss was relentless. "Why did you think it was good?"

And the discussion continued.

**Fear of another Vietnam**

The experiences, memories, and lessons learned in workers' minds by Vietnam have been brought alive by Iran. Workers are quite aware that if war is waged, they will be the ones to go. This is a major reason for the seriousness and intensity of the discussions across the country.

In the first week of the Iran crisis the following talk could be heard at the Ford assembly plant in Minneapolis: "Those people have no right to demonstrate. Iranians should be rounded up and shot. The shah is our friend."

"Dictator Khomeini and the Iranian mob of religious fanatics can't tell us how to run our country."

In the next week the press reported on Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd's comments after several Iranian students had been beaten up at a West Virginia college. He said he understood the anger and would like to do the same thing himself.

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"Dictator Khomeini and the Iranian mob of religious fanatics can't tell us how to run our affairs." And so on.

But as the week went by and the possibility of war loomed larger, some people began to speak out against sending troops.

In the men's locker room, a half-dozen people discussed Iran and the possibility of war.

"They didn't get me during Vietnam and they're not going to get me this time," said one.

"They didn't take people from the campuses but jerked people out of here right and left and took them to die," said an older worker.

'I'm not going'  

Someone told a young worker that he and his nineteen-year-old girl friend would be drafted. "Hell no, we won't go," was his reply.

A relief man said, "I'll be the first target. I'm nineteen. I'm young. I work. I won't get a deferment from the draft!"

Some people began to think that the shah should be sent back, including a thirty-four-year-old white worker at the Ford plant who told Libby Mower: "You know what they really want to do? The government wants to start a war. In the spring of '67, after I finished a year in Vietnam, they sent me back to Detroit during the ghetto riots, then the Six Day War came along in the Mideast and I thought that was the next place I was going to go.

"What they really want to do is send troops in there. I'll be damned if I let anyone go over there and meddle in other people's business."

**Shah's billions**

Steve Warschell, from International Association of Machinists Local 755, reported a similar example in an all-white department at Rohr Industries in San Diego.

At first everyone talked about sending the marines to Iran. During the middle of the second week, however, a change occurred. Articles had begun to appear in the papers about the shah's billions—which didn't sit well with the workers. Also the state of California began to discuss gas rationing—that didn't sit well either.

Things turned around. Now there were such comments as: "What's the real story here?"

One man particularly angered other workers when he started to defend the shah. He became the butt of the retort, "Down with the shah," from workers in the department.

**Vietnam vets remember war**

All twenty workers in the department are Vietnam veterans.

At lunch one man told people for the
first time that he had been part of a squad defending movie actors. His battalion had protected the actors in the prowar film Green Berets. He said many soldiers were wounded and to-

ward the end some wanted these actors to "get bullets through their heads."

"It was the most worthless goddamn thing I have ever done in my life," he told his co-workers.

Some workers from the beginning have spoken up against the govern-

ment lies. Many are suspicious of the government's motives and of the oil

companies.

Role of oil companies

The embargo on Iranian oil, the threat of rationing, gasoline lines, and higher prices for gasoline and heating oil touched a raw nerve for many

workers. At an International Longshoremen's Association hiring hall in New Or-

leans, workers discussed the oil ques-

tion. An older Black argued that Amer-

rica desires oil and "we should just go into Iran and get it."

Some others were suspicious. "The oil companies are ripping us off," was their opinion.

At the Cleveland Steel fabricating plant a white worker—particularly out-

spoken against the Iranians in the early part of the crisis—was very angry when talk of oil shortages began to appear in the local newspaper. He remembered that when the shah was toppled, in February, the papers said that there would be a critical shortage

of oil being used as an excuse to do something else. They're using oil again. Jesus, I'm sick and tired of this—I'm not going to do something that's against me."

He had not heard about this before. He read it and showed it to another worker on the assembly line. Later in the night he came back and borrowed it again to show to someone else. This article obviously brought the events in Iran much closer to home.

At the Norshipco shipyards in Nor-

folk, Virginia, a Black former marine explained how the shah's motives and of the oil

crew. "I'm sick and tired of this— I'm going to start to walk."

A Black worker at the AC/Delco complex in Milwaukee said, "It all started with the war. How it went in there to get the oil and the oil companies are as greedy as hell." A woman shop steward at Sparrows Point in Baltimore said, "I'm not sending my only son to war for the oil companies."

Because Iranians are continually portrayed as religious fanatics by the American media, there is confusion about what is actually occurring in Iran. But workers in the United States react positively when they learn the truth about the revolution that is un-

folding.

At the General Motors plant in Tar-

rtyown, Wells Todd showed a co-

worker an article in International Press-Inquirer on the GM workers in Iran who had pasted up in their plant records on the managers' salaries and the plant's profits, demanding that profits be used for low-cost housing for the workers.

Informal poll at auto plant

In an informal poll on an assembly line at the GM plant in Tarrytown, Betsy Farley noted that of twenty people only four thought the shah should stay qualified it. "I guess if you know you are working hard and making all this money for the oil companies and not getting anything, then I can see how you would want to make a revolution."

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THE MILITANT/NOVEMBER 30, 1979
Iran used as cover
Carter's new oil ripoff plan

By Dick Roberts
and Andy Rose

Washington's war against Iran are also a direct attack on the living standards of American workers. If there was any doubt about that, it should have been dispelled by Carter's November 15 speech to the AFL-CIO convention in Washington, D.C. There he vehemently repeated demands that workers sacrifice in the battle for an energy-secure America.

Just as he did last winter and spring, Carter is trying to make the Iranian revolution the scapegoat for the price-gouging plans of Big Oil. The anti-Iranian hysteria his administration has sought to whip up is meant to justify both military aggression abroad and patrician belt-tightening at home.

Thus Carter warned the AFL-CIO: "The developments in Iran have made it starkly clear to all of us that our excessive dependence on foreign oil is a direct physical threat to our freedom and security as Americans. . . . That's why I've ordered phased decontrol of oil prices, to make conservation pay and to stimulate domestic energy sources.

$25 billion ripoff

Carter didn't mention, of course, that his own Energy Department estimates decontrol of oil prices will cost consumers $24.8 billion between now and September 1981.

And that's before the new round of price hikes that is being prepared under cover of the Iranian crisis. As the Wall Street Journal cheerfully noted November 19, "some analysts have already raised their 1980 oil earnings [profit] estimates to reflect the cutoff of supplies from Iran."

In his speech, Carter took a meat-axe to those who criticize his energy plan: "We cannot close down all nuclear power plants, burn less coal, refuse to build oil refineries, refuse to explore for new oil sources, oppose the production of synthetic fuels and at the same time encourage the waste of energy by artificially holding down its price. . . . this is a ridiculous combination of proposals. . . ."

So it's damn the environment, full speed ahead with nuclear plants and high-pollution refineries, off-shore drilling, and generating plants. While we pay more, drive less, and turn our thermostats down for the coming winter.

The November 16 Wall Street Journal listed further "contingency actions" the White House is considering since it ordered a boycott of Iranian oil. These include:

• "Slapping a new tax on gasoline;"
• "Decontrolling gasoline prices to spur conservation;"
• "Speeding the reopening of nuclear plants currently closed"—such as Three Mile Island!!
• "Extending the current mandatory building temperature controls;" and
• "Raising taxes on petroleum products other than gasoline."

No shortage

Just like last spring, prices are rising not just in Iran but also in the rest of the world—all because of the situation in Iran. On November 16—that is, after the U.S. boycott of Iranian oil was announced—Carter—the New York Times reported that "companies' [oil] storage tanks are starting to overflow."

Nevertheless, "spot" prices have been at record levels in the international oil market. Spot prices are the day-to-day market prices of oil, distinct from the long-term contract prices. Spot prices are soaring because the biggest world oil dealers—mainly the big U.S. oil companies—are rushing to buy all the available oil on the open market. Again, it's just like last spring.

The oil companies will hoard the oil in anticipation of future price hikes—a self-fulfilling prophecy if there ever was one.

If the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries then raises its prices to try to capture a share of the higher profits the oil companies are raking in, you can be sure OPEC will be blamed for the spiraling prices.

Carter's boycott of Iranian oil in no way signifies that Washington plans to shut off the valve of Iranian oil, much less of all OPEC oil. Rather, as part of Washington's political and military offensive against the Iranian revolution, the boycott is a move to reign over more control over Mideast oil supplies for the United States; and

• to develop new energy sources that can ultimately give the oil companies a virtual monopoly on the market.

To say that the oil companies can live with OPEC price increases is not to say that they favor any control whatsoever by semicolonial countries over their own natural resources. Yet the tide of colonial revolution has been irreversible in the postwar epoch. The imperialists consequently favor removing oil from the semicolonial countries now, when it is cheaper and when the governments they are dealing with are more pliable.

It is one thing to do business with regimes like that of the shah—a relia-

nable puppet of world capitalism. It is something else when the regimes are of workers and peasants that threaten to utilize oil resources in the interests of the oppressed—

As, for example, when the Iranian oil workers refused to ship oil to Israel and South Africa last spring. So despite the surface appearance of the energy trusts screaming for alter-

native sources and energy self-sufficiency, they are actually lifting more crude from OPEC than ever be-

Domestic oil

This is a strategic profit consider-

ation. It is not a question of physical energy needs. In addition to natural gas and coal—which exist in abun-
dance in the United States and have barely been tapped—there is good rea-

son to believe that there is plenty of oil right here.

A 1970 White House study showed that U.S. and Canadian reserves could supply in 1980, next year, 92 percent of the needs of these two na-
tions without rationing, or 10 percent, if rationing were used.

These resources are not being devel-

oped because the oil trusts are waiting for higher prices. At some point, once world oil prices rise high enough, these untapped domestic oil fields will provide one of the biggest profit bonan-

zas in history.

Until then the companies are keep-

ing this oil in reserve for practically nothing, that is, they are leaving it in the ground.

Despite all of its obvious costs to humanity, this profit-squeezing scheme of the oil trusts was making headway as in 1979 unfolded.

With the cover that the Iranian revolution had caused a worldwide oil shortage, the companies faked a gaso-

line shortage in the United States and drove through sharp increases in crude oil, gasoline, and home heating oil prices. Congress approved decontrol of oil and natural gas in stages over the next few years.

Just in the past weeks Congress also passed a $19 billion synthetic fuel bill that will give government subsidies to private industry to develop alternate energy sources.

In a second move beneficial to the energy companies, the House voted to approve creation of an "Energy Mobilization Board," which would recommend waiving health and environmen-

tal laws for specific energy projects.

Iran

Carter hopes to use the new Iran crisis—deliberately engineered by his administration—to rally popular sup-

port for his oil plan.

He boasted at the AFL-CIO conven-

ion: "No act has so galvanized the American public into unity in the last decade as has the holding of our people as hostages in Tehran. We stand today as one people."

This is whistling past the graveyard. A recent New York Times-CBS poll found that 23 percent of those ques-
tioned favored nationalizing the oil companies. This broke down to 42 percent of the Blacks polled and 19 percent of whites.

The mood of anger against the oil companies is deepening just when the Iranian revolution is also deepening. It is serving to reinforce the antiwar sentiment of the American people and stands as no small obstacle to the Pentagon invasion plans.

More and more people recognize that the purpose of such an intervention would be precisely the retention of control over Iranian oil by these same companies.

Very likely Carter's actions around Iran will convince a whole new layer of humanity that there is an antiwar majority all right—it is the crisis created by private ownership of the energy companies and their global reach.

And the next time the pollsters come around there will be even more votes for taking these companies out of private hands.
1953: How CIA imposed Shah on Iran...

By Ernest Harsch

When the American government brought the deposed shah of Iran to the United States in late October, the Iranian masses reacted to this provocation with indignation and anger.

The U.S. government had already put the shah back in power once—in the 1955 coup engineered by the CIA and propped up his reign of terror for twenty-six years. His return to U.S. soil in clear statement that the U.S. government has not given an inch in its determination that—and not the Iranian peoples—will decide Iran's future.

In the early 1950s, when the U.S. first intervened to crush the aspirations of the Iranian masses for freedom, huge struggles emerged against external domination. These focused around the demand for the nationalization of the country's major economic asset, which at that time was owned and controlled by the British.

As this movement developed, the shah's monarchy became increasingly threatened. Under popular pressure, the Iranian parliament elected Mohammed Mossadeq, who was supported by advocates of oil nationalism, prime minister on April 30, 1951. The next day the shah was arrested.

On August 19, 1953, the British quickly moved to threaten military retaliation for this blow to their economic domination of Iran. British troops and naval forces were shifted closer to Iran's borders and caspian.

In an action similar to President Carter's recent freezing of Iranian assets in the United States, the British government in 1953 ordered all Iranian deposits in British banks to be frozen, appropriating Iran's foreign reserve.

In another similar step, an embargo on all oil purchases from Iran was imposed by the major British and American oil companies. This imperialist-enforced ban on Iran's oil was maintained for two and a half years. During that whole time Iran was able to export only 103,000 tons of a field less than it had exported in one day before the embargo was imposed.

The Truman administration in Washington announced that it would not grant any more economic aid until the Iranian government made concessions to Britain.

At the same time, Washington and London encouraged the shah to strike back. In July 1952, he defied parliament by refusing to give up supreme command of the army. Mossadeq resigned in protest.

The masses of Iran immediately went out into the streets in big demonstrations to demand Mossadeq's reinstatement. Hundreds of unarmed demonstrators were killed when the army opened fire on them.

But as military discipline began to crack and soldiers started joining the demonstrators, the shah quickly re-treated. Mossadeq was back as prime minister less than a week after he had resigned.

The popular mobilizations in support of Mossadeq compelled him to initiate more measures that threatened foreign domination of the country. The shah's powers were restricted to those defined in the constitution, and he was forced to give up land illegally acquired by his father. A land reform was planned, much to the alarm of the big landowners.

Loy Henderson, the American ambassador to Iran, openly sided with the shah against Mossadeq and the mass movement.

By August 1953, London and Washington had decided that it was time to move more actively against the Mossadeq regime, to replace it with one more to their liking. A plot to overthrow Mossadeq was organized by the American and British intelligence agencies, as Kermit Roosevelt, the CIA official who supervised the operation, later admitted in his memoirs.

In early August, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, America's U.S. general, who had previously been involved in building up the shah's police forces, returned to Tehran in secret contact with Gen. Fazlollah Zahedi, a close associate of the shah who had already tried to overthrow Mossadeq several months before.

Around the same time, Ambassador Henderson travelled to Switzerland, where he met with CIA Director Allen Dulles and Princess Ashraf, the shah's twin sister.

With the backing of the CIA, the shah moved on August 15. He ordered the commander of his bodyguard to dismiss Mossadeq. This was interpreted as a move to protect the revolution, however, and the shah was forced to flee Iran for the United States.

Henderson rushed back to Iran for a second try. On August 19, General Zahedi attacked Mossadeq's house, destroying it with tank fire. Although Mossadeq managed to escape, he was arrested.

On the night of the coup, a victory party was held at the CIA station house in Washington. The list of the CIA operatives involved in organizing the coup, later recounted that Zahi al-Mossadeq, the CIA liaison, approached him and said, "We're in... We're in... What do we now?"

On August 21, 1953, the shah returned to Iran with U.S. backing, as absolute dictator. So began the reign of one of the bloodiest dictatorships in history, which was to survive for a quarter of a century thanks to American arms and political support.

From Intercontinental Press/Impcor

... and Rockefeller’s sinister role in plot

By Dick Roberts

Evidence continues to grow that the Carter administration knew exactly what the Rockefeller family was doing when it admitted the shah of Iran to this country—and it deliberately proceeded anyway.

"When the Iranians take our people in Teheran hostage, what will you advise the Carter administration to do?" the journalist reportedly said at one White House staff meeting, according to an article by Bernard Gwertzman in the November 18, 1953 issue of the New York Times.

The pretense that the shah’s admission was for “humanitarian” reasons—which his illness could be termed—as a deposed shah who was some known to be a lunatic—was to turn into a laugh when the New York Times magazine reported November 19: “In the hospital, some staffers suggested sotto voce that the Shah’s physicians were exaggerating his ailments. The mass murderer’s enlarged spleen is acknowledged to have been ‘in that condition for years.’"

Finally, the shah’s doctors acknowledged that he could be treated just as well in Mexico, or in France. . . . As Time observes, the shah’s presence in the United States is ‘political, not medical.’

Gwertzman’s article in the Times repeated the explanation–now widely publicized—that Carter let the deposed tyrant in because of “intense lobbying” by two Rockefeller brothers and by some Rockefeller friends, such as David Rockefeller, the shah’s banker, and former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

The notion that Carter reluctantly bowed to pressure from some Rockefeller friends is about as believable as the shah’s cancer. His admission was a cold-blooded political move by the U.S. government as part of its ongoing war against the Iranian revolution.

That is not to deny that the Rockefeller interests are right at the center of the anti-Iranian intrigues. When Rockefeller speaks, Washington moves. Why? Because the Standard Oil trusts comprise the strongest, most profitable, and most politically powerful sector of monopoly capital in the world today.

Of the six largest oil companies in the United States, four are parts of the Standard Oil Trust, formed by John D. Rockefeller in 1873. The return of the shah back in power in 1953 was the second try.

The four companies are Exxon, formerly Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; Mobil, formerly Socony-Mobil; Standard Oil Company of New York; and Amoco, the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

Together these four companies own the largest privately-held petroleum reserves in the world. Their total sales in 1973, $25 billion, is more than the gross national product of most countries. Exxon itself has a foreign intelligence arm whose budget is higher than the State Department’s.

In Carter’s Democratic administration, in Washington, the influence of the Rockefeller family is mainly communicated through the Trilateral Commission. This is a “think tank” set up in New York in 1973 by David Rockefeller.

Such privately funded institutions bring together leading corporate executives, lawyers, diplomats, and politicians to iron out domestic and international policies behind closed doors.

The former head of the Trilateral Commission was Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter’s present national security adviser. Its present head is Henry Kissinger.

No less than twenty members of the Trilateral Commission became top officials of the Carter administration.

ROCKEFELLER INTERESTS IN THE BIGGEST U.S. OIL FIRMS

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<th>Company</th>
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(The figures based on 1978 study by Sen. Lee Metcalf)

THE MILITANT/NOVEMBER 30, 1979

11
In their coverage of the events in Iran, the big-business newspapers, radio, and TV consistently try to create the image of a relatively peaceful twenty-five-year regime of the ex-shah of Iran. The "Militant" is reprinting below major excerpts from testimony before U.S. Congress given September 7, 1976, by Dr. Reza Baraheni. Baraheni, a noted Iranian poet, was a political prisoner in the shah's jails for 102 days. Baraheni gives a firsthand account of the atrocities committed under the shah's reign. The testimony was published in the October 28, 1976, New York Review of Books' and in the March 1977 newsletter of the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran.

No historian of the Middle East and Iran will deny that the CIA overthrew the legally elected government of Dr. Mossadeq in August 1953, brought back to the country the Shah, his wife, his brothers and sisters who had run away earlier, and reinstated the present monarch on the throne. Imagine a more tyrannical and primitive George III being crowned 6,000 miles away by the very descendants of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin with money raised by the American taxpayer. The CIA overthrew the monarchy, built up the SAVAK and trained all its prominent members, and stood by the Shah and his secret police as their powerful ally. Iran became the police state it is now.

History of terror
Thousands of men and women have been arrested during the last nineteen years of the existence of SAVAK; an average of 1,500 people are arrested every month. In one instance alone, American-trained counterinsurgency troops of the Iranian Army and SAVAK killed more than 6,000 people on June 5, 1963.

According to Amnesty International's "Annual Report for 1974-75" the total number of political prisoners has been reported at times throughout the year [1975] to be anything from 25,000 to 100,000.

Martin Ennals, secretary general of Amnesty International, reports in his introduction to the above book: "The Shah of Iran retains his benevolent image despite the highest rate of death penalties in the world, no valid system of civilian courts and a history of torture which is beyond belief."

Nothing could be further from the truth than to say that an Iranian prison looks like a garden, or that Iranian writers are of better quality than the other prisoners. All prisoners have a common destiny. With two exceptions to my name I was kept in a dark solitary confinement cell of four feet by eight feet. There was nothing on the floor except for a dirty old blanket. There was no bed either.

Kidnapped by SAVAK
Being an exiled writer, I was under surveillance by seven prisoners of diverse backgrounds who were pushed into this cell. We got ourselves accustomed to sleeping while standing. Some had dysentery because of bad food and fear. Some could not stand because of burned backs or pulled out toenails. We breathed in each other's faces.

All of us had been kidnapped by the SAVAK, none of us had seen any warrants. Nobody outside knew where we were. We didn't know ourselves where we were, because we had all been brought to the prison blindfolded.

The seven of us could have easily run a school, or a supermarket, or a factory. Imagine 100,000 educated men and women in prison while 75 percent of the whole nation is illiterate! Imagine hundreds of doctors in prison when every fifty villages in the country have only one doctor! Imagine roads awaiting construction while engineers are rotting in jails!

The number and the extent of my government's crimes against its people have no end. At least four agents of SAVAK are used to kidnap each suspect. There have been occasions when 5,000 people have been kidnapped on one day. This puts the number of such kidnappers simply at those who are in prison. Sometimes even tanks are used in order to get a suspect out of his lodgings.

No one knows exactly what the total number of SAVAK officials and its informants is. At a press conference in 1971, a SAVAK authority said that there were, in addition to fulltime employees, informants "in various segments of society—workers, farmers, students, professors, teachers, guild members, parties, and other associations."

The Shah's claim in a recent press conference that the number of SAVAK agents is between 3,000 and 3,200 is entirely wrong. The Shah could not hold his grip on the population if that were so. The given number is fictitious. The actual army of agents and informants numbers from hundreds of thousands to millions.

Of the fourteen people I met in prison during my imprisonment in 1973, at least two had been asked to become members of the SAVAK and upon refusal they had been tortured. Everything I had said during my stay in the US in the academic year of 1972-73, before my imprisonment, had been reported to SAVAK, which operates on a global scale.

One-man nation
The Shah's despotic regime has not only rendered the whole legal and constitutional process of the country meaningless, but it has also moved to brainwash a whole nation. Last year he suddenly abolished all existing parties and decreed a new "Resurgence" party whose membership is compulsory to the entire adult population. But even this one-party system is meaningless to the Shah, because, for him, Iran is a one-man nation.

Members of the royal family are at the hands of the news media, the Ministry of Information, and the Ministry of Culture. All information passes through these ministries before reaching the people. The Shah has closed down all the major press in the country and created others which are in the hands of the members of the SAVAK. Ninety-five percent of all the available press in the country is in the hands of two families who take their orders from the Shah and the police. 5

There isn't a single piece of paper in the hands of those who don't want to write the way the Shah tells them to write. There is only one paper factory in the country and this runs at the whim of the authorities. A bestseller in Iran means a book that sells 3,000 copies. According to the Iranian papers, every Iranian studies books only twenty to thirty seconds a year. 6

Exploitation and poverty
A half-skilled laborer in Tabriz, the second or third biggest city in the country, gets even less than twenty-five cents an hour, while a pound of most costs more than two dollars, onions, if found at all, are priced at fifty cents a pound, and potatoes are sold at 80 cents at any price.

In Qori-Chai, the northern slums of Tabriz, there is only one school for 100,000 schoolchildren. In most of the cities of Baluchistan, there is only one bath for the entire population (in the city of Bampour for instance), but since people are so poor that they cannot afford to pay the nickel required to go to the bath, it has fallen in ruins. People have frozen to death in winter in this great oil-producing country.

Yet the Shah and the Iranian government claim that Iran will have reached the standard of living of the industrially advanced nations in a matter of a few years! We need schools, jobs, food, health facilities, democracy, freedom of the press, a revolution in our legal system. We are one of the richest countries of the world. We should be able to do wonders with our wealth.

But the Shah has grabbed that wealth, is arming us to the teeth and helping the whole Middle East arm itself to the teeth. Meanwhile the majority of the people of my country stay poor, undeducated, and sick.

Iran is the country of the poorest of the poor and richest of the rich. The lot of the majority of the people in Iran has not moved forward even an inch during the last twenty-three years of the Pahlavi dynasty's reign, though the seven-year-old middle-class boy of fifty years ago, who two years ago presented Shah of Iran, has grown to be one of the richest men on earth.

The reason most of my countrymen would tell you that they carry a grudge against the United States is that the US government has given its unconditional support to a monarch who has terrorized a whole nation, plundered its wealth, and bought billions of dollars worth of military equipment which neither he nor our nation knows how to use.
Iran is a dangerous quagmire in itself. If the US is sinking deeper and deeper.

A new Vietnam?
The future will speak for itself. But if Iran becomes the new Vietnam, we can be sure that it will be inhuman and irresponsible policies of the US government, the US military, arms corporations, and the extreme sadism and adventurism on the part of US politicians that will lead to the creation of that crisis in the history of humanity.

For instance the country is published without the censorship's authorization. It sometimes takes years to get permission to publish a novel in the US. And I could cite hundreds of similar situations.

In Iran one cannot stage Hamlet, Richard III, Macbeth, or King Lear because no Iranian should see the death of a prince or a king on the stage. He might jump to conclusions that the contemporary Iranian history itself is devoid of attempts at regicide.

Destroying language, culture
The present population of Iran is 34 million. There are 22 million Persians in the country. Of the rest, 10 million are Azerbaijanis, 4 million are Kurds, and 3 million are Baluchis. There are other ethnic minorities, such as Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians.

But only one language is the official language of the country. The Shah considered all other languages as inferior, thus overlooking the ethnic diversity which exists in the country. Everyone has to learn one language, Persian. This is a great injustice to the other nationalities.

I belong to the Turkish-speaking Azerbaijanis nationality. The men and women of my generation were told by the Shah to forget about their language and read and write everything in Persian. We did so under duress and learned Persian.

When I write a poem or a story about my parents, my sisters, who are alive and don't know how to read and write and speak Persian, cannot understand it. I have to translate it for her so that she can understand.

The Shah's efforts to Persianize the Azerbaijanis and the Kurds and the Arabs and the Baluchis have failed. But its cultural discrimination still prevails.

For instance, the 3,000 American children brought to Iran by their parents working in 1941 because of the Iran-Iraq war, and educated in English-speaking schools. Yet millions of native Iranian children born to Azerbaijanis, Kurds, and Arab parents do not have even one school in which they could be educated in their native languages. This is only one aspect of the Shah's racism.

The Shah is destroying not only the cultures and languages of the Iranian Azerbaijanis, Kurds, and Arabs, but he is also mangling the linguistic and cultural identity of the Iranians themselves. He is destroying the traditions of a whole civilization. Of this whole tradition, and civilization, he wants to preserve only the worst part, that is, the crown placed upon his head by the CIA. He has bought through the assas­sin­ces of former President Richard Nixon and Ambassador Richard Helms.

Unrestricted torturer
Iranian rulers have always been unrestricted torturers. But torture acquired new dimensions in 1920 with the emergence of Reza Khan as the strong man of the country backed by the British. He became king in 1925 and abolished in 1941 because of his Nazi and fascist tendencies. In his time no books of history were written

Let me tell you briefly why I was arrested and tortured.

A book of mine had been published in 1972 when I was in the US as a visiting professor of England and Comparative Literature. The book was called Macabre History, and it dealt with the causes of social and historical disintegration in Iran, the oppression of women, the problem of Iranian nationalities, and ways through which some of the crises in our culture could be solved.

Upon returning to Iran, I published three other articles dealing with the same problems. One of them was called "The Culture of the Oppressor and the Culture of the Oppressed," which discussed the problem of aliena­tion and nationalities.

I was arrested on September 11, 1973, tortured the next day, and stayed in the Comite prison for 102 days. I found out later that I was released because of international pressure, especially pressure from writers and poets in this country.

Beaten from head to toe
The torture on the second day of my arrest consisted of seventy-five blows with a plaited wire whip at the soles of my feet. I was whipped on my hands as well, and the head torturer took the small finger of my left hand and broke it, saying that it was going to break my fingers one by one, each day.

I was told that if I didn't confess my wife and thirteen-year-old daughter would be raped in front of my eyes.

The torturers performed experiments on me, but time was not ripe for that torture.

Physician Ahmad, a most hideous name in the torture industry of Iran, was called in to inject an air bubble into the veins of the victim.

Hitler of Iran
Such abominations were performed a few years before Hitler started the massacre of the Jewish people. I am sure the two regimes would have loved, in the spirit of Aryan brotherhood, to make a few experiments together, but time was not ripe for that torture.

The torch of torture passed into the hands of the present Shah of Iran, not immediately, because such things require some experiments, and experimentally, I was beaten from head to toe.

Then a pistol was held at my temple by the head torturer, Dr Asadi, and he prepared to shoot. In fact, the sound of shooting came, and I fainted.

When I opened my eyes, I was being interrogated by someone who called himself Dr Bervan.

The interrogation, combined with psychological torture and sometimes additional beating, went on for 102 days until I was let out.

The account of my arrest, torture, and release has become public record in this country and Europe. Here is a quote from a description I wrote on the torture instruments for a British magazine and for my book, God's Shadow.

Instruments of sadism
There were two iron beds, one on top of the other, in another corner of the room. These last two, I later learned, were where I was put, to give the backs, generally the butts, of the prisoners. They tie you to the upper bed, and on your knees you heat coming from a torch or a small heater, they burn your back until you give away some distinct information. Sometimes the burning is extended to the spine, as a result of which paralysis is certain.

"There were also all sizes of whips hanging from nails on the walls. Electric prods stood on the floor. The nail-plucking instrument stood on the far side. I could only recognize these devices upon later looking through and through the descriptions of others, as well as by personal experience. The guns stood on the right side.

"They hang you upside down and then someone beats you with a club on your legs, or uses the electrical prod on your chest or your genitals, or they lower you down, get one on top of you, and one of them tries to rape you while you are still hanging upside down. Evidently great rapists, with very imaginative powers, have invented this style to satisfy their thirst for revenge.

"There were in the other torture rooms worse instruments which other devices. There were also all kinds of cuffs that break your shoulders in less than two hours of horrible torture; the electric shock, a recent introduction into the Iranian torture industry; and the pressure de­vice which is put on the skull to the extent that you either tell them what they want or let your bones break into pieces.

Forged confessions
"Not every prisoner goes through the same process, but generally this is what happens to a case of first importance. First he is beaten by several torturers at once, with sticks and clubs. If he doesn't confess, he is hanged upside down and beaten; if this doesn't work, he is put in a special room which shows signs of resistance, he is given electric shock which turns him into a howling dog. A special iron bed is put into one side of the face to force its way to the other side, burning the entire mouth and the tongue. A victim would be killed in this way. At other times he is thrown down on his stomach on the iron bed and boiling water is pumped into his rectum by an enema.

"Other types of torture are used which have never been heard of in other despotism systems. A heavy weight is hung from the testicles of the prisoner, maiming him in only a few minutes. Even the strongest prisoners have been crippled in this way.

"In the case of the women, the electro­baton is moved over the naked body with the power of the electricity, and one of them tries to rape you while you are still hanging upside down. Evidently great rapists, with very imaginative powers, have invented this style to satisfy their thirst for revenge.

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Officials work to block anti-KKK protests

By Steve Crane

GREENSBORO, N.C.—City officials here, assisted by the local media, are continuing to cover up evidence-including many eyewitness accounts and television film-footage—confirming that the racists who opened fire, using shotguns, pistols, rifles, and automatic weapons, helped to lay the basis for a plea of "peaceful." City officials held several meetings with Black ministers involved in planning the memorial service. Police and the FBI have announced that they are not looking for any more suspects, despite the fact that seven of the ten cars in the attackers' caravan were able to escape the murder scene.

The Greensboro police chief at press conference. He says he can't guarantee safety of anti-Klan protestors.

By Stu Singer

AMERICAN Bridge workers in Gary, Indiana, have rejected a company proposal to close down the Gary Bridge. The bridge is located just west of the giant U.S. Steel Gary Works, where over 11,000 workers laid off from America Bridge meet in the state. The Gary Bridge is to be closed anyway, and we can't afford a take-away contract just rammed through the throats of Chrysler workers.

The voting took place November 17 at Philip Murray Hall in downtown Gary. It was apparent that the company proposal would be rejected as soon as people started to arrive. The most frequent comment was "No, vote no" and "Let them close it down." There's irony in this vote. The international union leadership denies the lower paid, basic steel contract with which to satisfy their contract. The top officials made an exception here only because they thought they could get a vote accepting a wage freeze.

After the vote, international union leaders quickly reassured the company that the union "won't turn a deaf ear because without the company, there is no union," according to the Gary Post-Tribune.

There are now supposed to be top-level negotiations concerning the future of American Bridge between U.S. Steel officials and Steelworkers in Pittsburgh.

Although the pay cut was rejected, workers I spoke with did not display the same bluster that the American Bridge threat to close down. The story that seemed typical was expressed by Bernell Sampson, a welder there for twenty-three years. He said: "I took us forty years to get organized and far. If we take a pay cut they may close down anyway, and we can't afford a pay cut. When I go out to work I have to pay bills and pay for their take away contract."

If the plant does close, most workers seem to think they will be able to get another job. That remains to be seen, with over 4,000 workers laid off from Gary Works alone.

For the past twenty years, U.S. Steel has been cutting away at American Bridge meeting was the response to the vote. The company has laid off 4,000 workers in the Gary Bridge. The Gary Bridge is to be closed down anyway, and we can't afford a take-away contract just rammed through the throats of Chrysler workers. The voting took place November 17 at Philip Murray Hall in downtown Gary. It was apparent that the company proposal would be rejected as soon as people started to arrive. The most frequent comment was "No, vote no" and "Let them close it down." There's irony in this vote. The international union leadership denies the lower paid, basic steel contract with which to satisfy their contract. The top officials made an exception here only because they thought they could get a vote accepting a wage freeze.

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Women miners: Our fight is a union fight

By Nancy Cole

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — For the United Mine Workers, with its rich history of struggle, this was a first: a UMWA sponsored national conference on “Women in the Mine.” Seventy women miners gathered at the University of Charleston November 10 to share experiences and ideas on everything from the fight to win the Equal Rights Amendment to the refusal of coal companies to order steel-toed boots in women’s sizes.

They came from Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. And thirty or so male miners, other supporters, and UMWA staffpeople also attended.

For the third national gathering of women miners in just six months. In June, the Coal Employment Project, a Tennessee-based group concerned with getting women coal jobs, organized a meeting near here. It attracted about 150 people also attended.

“We’re attending more union meetings now and getting ourselves together,” explained Bishop miner Coosby Toten. Women miners should be in there building the union, she told the Militant, because “it’s a life and death situation in the mines. Without a union, we’re in bad shape.”

That was the general sentiment of women here. While there were complaints of sexual harassment by some individual union brothers and of inaction by some union officials, women miners see themselves as part of the union. Their fight is a union fight. They intend to win their union brothers to the perspective that women are not only in the mines to stay, but in the UMWA to stay as well.

Jo Ann Howe, from a U.S. Steel mine in Pennsylvania, said she had come to the conference with three other women from her mine “to find out why there are so few women in the mines.

2,500 women miners

Last spring, the government reported there were more than 2,500 underground women coal miners, about 1 percent of the total work force. In 1972 in Pennsylvania, the Coal Employment Project has helped open some doors for women in the coalfields, where federal reports show no women hired until 1973.

Last year, the nation’s second-largest coal producer, Consolidation Coal Company, signed a consent decree, agreeing it would hire one woman for every 40 inexperienced male miners.

Other class-action lawsuits are pending in federal courts.

With such a relatively small number of women miners, get-togethers such as the conference here are especially appreciated.

Even before the opening plenary session, a woman miner from the audience took the floor to request more women be invited to conferences. “We can’t let it stop with one meeting,” she said. “I’d like to see more of these meetings in different areas.”

At the closing plenary, Judy Galloway, UMWA Special Projects Coordinator for four or five regional women’s conferences to be followed by another national gathering.

The meeting here was chaired by Paulette Shime, president of UMWA Local 4172 in northern Pennsylvania. UMWA President Arnold Miller addressed the opening session and then sat through several of the workshops.

The four workshop topics were: Contractual Rights, Health and Safety, COMPAC-Legislative, and Problems of Working Women.

One of the most thoroughly discussed subjects in the Problems of Working Women workshop was sexual harassment on the job.

There’s long been a saying in the mines, no doubt started by the bosses, that a woman underground is bad luck. So it’s no surprise that women entering the mining work force have been met with some resentment and suspicion among male miners.

But the real instigators of sexual harassment are the coal operators, as woman after woman here explained.

“When I was first hired,” a woman from Pennsylvania said, “the superintendent told us that if anyone touches us, we were to tell him. ‘If you don’t and I find out, both of you will be fired,’ he said. So when one woman later went to the boss to complain of an incident, he said, ‘Only whores come in and cause trouble.’

“It’s not going to change until we get the guys on our side,” said Kipp Dawson, a Pennsylvania miner. Dawson said that would happen as women get more active in the union and join the union brothers on all kinds of union fronts.

Women in her local are getting active in the union, “and the result is that our local sent a delegation to this conference,” she said.

Miners here were incensed by a description of the conditions women face in an Alabama mine. In general, explained Sara Jean Johnston, the situation is bad with Alabama miners who work for Jim Walter Resources Inc. A majority of the work force is new, and the company tries to take full advantage, grossly violating safety laws. Women are a special target.

‘Walking accidents’

“The company is looking for ways to divide the miners,” Johnston said. “The foremen would tell you, ‘Women are all just walking accidents.’

When five women were suspended on flimsy grounds, Johnston explained, seventy male miners showed up for a meeting on it. The union won their jobs back.

Because of their outspoken role in problems of sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, Johnston told conference participants, she and another woman became targets of a company-inspired campaign of red-baiting and physical violence. The two women were forced out of the mine, but have filed charges against the company with the National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

Meanwhile, other women are working in the coalfields, and facing the company’s harassment.

“We have got to get together and bring their problems together and get it to help them fight,” said Johnston.

“Thank only a national conference is so important—we can go back and say the union should stick to the union.”

Getting women active in the union remains a challenge. “When the union fights for women, women will go to union meetings,” said Pennsylvania miner Mary Zinz. “This conference is just great. It’s a real UMWA convention as a delegate, and I’m glad it was changed from Miami to Denver because Florida hasn’t ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. Support like that for women’s rights will help women who that they belong fighting in the union.”

Labor for Equal Rights

Zins and several other women during the day’s proceedings spoke of the campaign by the Labor for Equal Rights Now coalition in Virginia.

The LERN coalition, which includes District 29 of the UMWA, has called for a march in Richmond, Virginia, on January 11. The action will demand that the Virginia legislature ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Two speakers at the conference here, local president Paulette Shime and UMWA Special Projects Coordinator Judy Galloway, will address the January 15 rally.

“I’m going to try to get my local to get together with the district and every other local and send people there,” said Zinz.

Applause greeted a proposal at the afternoon plenary that the union devote one page per year to women’s issues in the UMW Journal.

Another woman said she thought it would be better to just use the letters’ page to report on women’s issues. “We want to be treated the same,” she said.

But a hand was raised to show a majority in support of a Journal page for women miners.

In the contract workshop, women raised the problems of discrimination and sexual harassment. When asked, some of the male miners present that the union should do the training, not the company. One woman suggested the union recognize its own orientation session for new miners to counter the lies told by the company.

There were complaints galore about the grievance procedure, which more often than not ends up in arbitration. “You get an arbitrator who never saw a mine,” said one miner.

Another added, “I couldn’t get that arbitrator five feet underground. All he’d have to do is see that hole.”

Gusby Totten noted that her local loses 90 percent of the cases that go to arbitration. She urged union negotiators to get rid of arbitration in the next contract.

“What would we have instead?” asked workshop chairman Ken Totten, director of the UMWA’s contract department.

Totten answered, the right to strike.

A stronger union

“You can’t strike over everything,” he countered.

“No,” she said, “but you can strike over important things. And it would make the union stronger.

In another session of the contractual rights workshop, a miner explained it from another angle. A while back, she said, Cabin Creek, West Virginia, had...
New backing for strike against sexist firing

By Phil Norris and Kris Resepule

SHELTON, Wash.—On Saturday, November 10, nearly 500 members of Local 16 of the United Mine Workers of America rejected a Simpson's Timber Company proposal and voted to continue their strike.

The union meeting followed a spirited march through downtown Shelton with the words of Barbara Angle, West Virginia miner and vice president of the Miners Political Action Committee: "Solidarity Forever."

More than 1,000 workers are on strike at Simpson's in protest of the firing of Toni Gilbertson, a woman worker who was asked during her interview to rehire Gilbertson, since Simpson's produces some specialty plywood that is numerously available elsewhere. The IWA here has a long and militant tradition. It was born as a CIO union in the thirties in an industry that was a stronghold of the Industrial Workers of the World earlier in this century. One worker told the Militant that his family had worked in the wood industry for generations, and that his grandfather had been in the IWW. He said that it was his intention to go back to the IWW tradition of solidarity and not let the company push workers around.

In an effort to strengthen and broaden the strike, Simpson's workers have set up informational picket lines at other Shelton locations in Washington, Oregon, and California. Because of the militant fighting spirit of this union, the company is afraid that if these other mills have crossed the informational lines, Lowery explained that up to now the union has successfully retained full union protection for all miners at Simpson's from those tactics. The contract has no provision concerning "probationary employees," allowing workers with fewer than forty days of seniority can have their jobs restored.

As Lowery sees it, "We suspect that they are trying to get rid of that [full union protection from the date of hire] right now."

On November 8, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EOOC) filed suit in federal court in Seattle to win an injunction to force Simpson's to rehire Gilbertson. If the union members would go back to work. This would give the company a dangerous new precedent in rewriting the contract of women.

Some workers were also discussing much needed child care should be established on a union basis. Women discussed much needed economic livelihood. Many women do not speak out or report this kind of abuse. If they do they may be fired or not believed or they may lose their job. The majority of women in our economy are not able to quit their jobs and find new employment."
The two made it clear that while the Klan is a problem it is only part of the general racist treatment Black sailors receive. Blacks are assigned the dirtiest and most menial jobs and are subject to harsher disciplinary measures than whites.

"My troubles began as soon as I came aboard the ship," Green began. "I had high hopes of continuing my training with computers. Then I was told there was no computer training program on board. The captain told me to look around for something else.

"Another thing hit me immediately," he said. "When I was abroad I noticed that all the Blacks were pulling boxes and the whites were driving trucks.

"I spoke with other Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Filipinos about the situation on the ship. But many were leery because if you speak up you become a target for blame when things happen. The officers don't like. So I got branded a militant," he said smiling.

"Things got so bad I went to the captain to explain to him that racism was rampant onboard. He stood right up in my face and told me there was no discrimination on his ship."

"When I came aboard the ship the crew was about 25-30 percent Black," said Hall. "As soon as we got into the yard (Norfolk shipyard) the brass split up Blacks into different divisions.

"The reason for this was simple," he explained. "The brass knew that when we were together we wouldn't stand for the blatant discrimination. As long as we were together and thinking along the same line the brass felt it was a threat to the Navy."

Hall offered an example.

"In the deck crew they had us sweeping and swabbing the deck. This went

organize to do something not only about the Klan, but about the discrimina-

tion we face in the Navy."

They set up committees for Blacks organizing. For example they have this one regulation that says you can't organize or participate in any action that in any way could lead to violence.

That kind of regulation can cover everything including protesting against racist organizations like the Klan, he said.

"The discrimination not only interferes with Blacks advancing and ac-

quiring skills—your human and civil rights—but your religious rights as well," Green said.

"When I was in the brig, me and some other guys tried to organize it so that there could be Muslim religious services on the ship.

Now of course there are services for Catholics and Protestants. But they didn't want Islam. Because they thought this was a Black thing and the brass didn't want Blacks to even pray together," Green grinned.

We went to the Chaplain and told him we wanted to have Islam services.

But all he did was hem and haw so we knew he was a phony. We pushed and finally got Islam services in spite of the obstacles.

Our discussion then turned to revolu-

tionary upheavals in Asia, Latin America, and Africa and the need of America's rulers to militarily intervene against these struggles.

Hall and Green, as potential cannon fodder for U.S. military adventures, were quite out on this point.

Go fight in Iran?

"If I went back to the base today and they said that you got to board ship because we're going to Iran to fight, it would definitely not have my vote," Green responded.

"In every war the U.S. had allies. This is not the situation now. The U.S. government has done so much damage to other parts of the world that countries are banning U.S. troops from their soil.

"I don't feel I owe this country a thing," Hall said. "My foreparents weren't even allowed to come here and I haven't had such great services since I've been here either.

"So what reason do I have to go overseas to defend this country?" he asked.

Are these sentiments common among sailors?

"I think there are many people in the Navy who feel the same way," Hall volunteered.

"The only way to get them overseas is to trick them—like telling them they're going on some training exercise and dropping them in the middle of a war."

"Of course, they could try the thing about the communists are taking over," he said, "but that's beginning to wear pretty thin."

Black sailors' story

Navy racism & Klan

By Omari Musa and Kibwe-Diarra Mossi

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—In early October, Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wi-

zard Bill Wilkinson, the largest naval installation in the continental

United States. It was also the jumping off point for the recent U.S. military "exercises" in Guantánamo, Cuba.

Wilkinson had also announced a Ku Klux Klan rally at Virginia Beach. This rally was put on after the Klan rally at Norfolk following the Klan rally and was important.

Klan small minority

"I think the only reason the Navy pretends it's trying to do something about the Klan," Hall added, "is to stop Blacks from organizing and tak-

ing action against it."

Hall and Green agreed that while Klan activities in the Navy are big play in the media they are only a small minority. "Most of the whites just try to ignore them," they said.

Green is twenty-four. He was born in New York, N.Y. 10014.

"I decided to become a sailor after I was in the brig for four months and raised in Harlem. Things cooled down a bit, but in reality I just a guinea pig, in my opinion."

This Navy recruiting poster, pitched to jobless Black youth, said: The Navy can give you training in any field from welding to electronics. . . . One Black recruit was assured he could get computer training. Instead, They handed him a mop. He was not alone.

We didn't even know such a person existed if I was to acquire a skill.

"But after all its said and done there's a bunch of back to business as usual. I don't see any change in my everyday experience," Green gave an example of what the Navy does about Klan activity.

"About three months ago there was a lot of racist graffiti written on the walls. Things like 'KKK' and 'Down with the Nigger'.

"So the brass got all the Blacks together to see where we stood. We found out at this meeting that the brass appointed an official minority leader who supposedly represents us. We went over, but never saw a person existed until that meeting.

"We told this so-called minority rep-

resentative, who was a Puerto Rican officer, that the graffiti and harass-
ment had to stop," Green added.

The result was that one guy got busted and fined for admitting he was an active member of the Klan. He was just a guinea pig, in my opinion. Things cooled down a bit, but in reality the Klan just went under cover.

The one thing the brass allowed the Klan and other racists to carry out provocations until Blacks began to do something about it. "I was in the brig for four months and the situation got pretty tight. We had taken a lot of stuff from the prejudiced whites there. They would praise the Klan and got pretty bold

with it. So the brothers got together

and decided to put an end to it.

"Finally, the brass stepped in and dispersed both Blacks and whites. This avoided the explosion, temporarily."

Klan is small minority

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Zimmermann’s message on Iran highlighted by Dallas news media

By Chris Horner

DALLAS—The central theme of Matilda Zimmermann’s campaign swing through here was defense of the Iranian revolution. The Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential nominee hammered at this with the news media, in discussions with striking workers, with students, and at a successful campaign rally.

An extensive account of her campaign in the Dallas Times Herald quoted her as declaring: “I think the Iranian people have a right to put the shah on trial for his crimes and to present to the world the evidence that has piled up about the torture and murders that were carried out under the shah’s regime.”

The Dallas Morning News reported that the socialist nominee expressed concern over the “grave danger that the United States will use the present situation to launch some type of military intervention in Iran,” which would “plunge the country into another long, drawn-out war, like Vietnam.”

Zimmermann’s press conference also received prominent coverage on radio and TV.

One TV reporter decided to follow up the story. The Channel 4 crew then accompanied Zimmermann when she went out to a United Auto Workers picket line at the struck International Harvester plant.

Dallas-Fort Worth area residents tuned in to the 5:00 news that afternoon, and many of them heard Zimmermann talking to several young picketers. As the TV reporter explored the area, the picketers may have been surprised by the visit of a vice-presidential candidate to their picket line, but they seemed genuinely interested in what she had to say.

Viewers then got some of the conversation between candidate and strikers. One striker pointed to the company efforts to scrap a prohibition against forced overtime, saying, “Our union is all we have. Now it seems like they’re trying to take away things we’ve already won.”

The filmed segment of the conversation ended with Zimmermann telling the strikers they had her support, and one of the strikers responding, “And you’ve got ours.”

With prominent coverage on other stations as well, the SWP message was brought to several hundred thousand area residents.

Zimmermann spoke to sixty students at the University of Texas in Arlington. A half dozen bought copies of the Militant, with one person buying a subscription. The campaign meeting at the SWP hall drew thirty-six people, including twenty who are not yet members of the party.

Their enthusiasm was indicated by financial pledges to the socialist campaign effort totaling $1,285. Six members of the UAW alone pledged $700.

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The coming of fifty-five, most of whom were not SWP members, responded generously to a campaign fund appeal by Bruce Lesnick. A total of $2,005 was pledged to the Petitt for Senate campaign.

Several people signed up to work on Petitt’s campaign committee.

Auto worker is K.C. candidate

By Sandi Sherman

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The Missouri Socialist Workers Party kicked off a campaign for Martha Pettit for U.S. Senate last weekend.

Pettit, a thirty-one-year-old auto worker, is challenging Thomas Eagleton, the Democratic incumbent.

Sharing the platform with Pettit was Héctor Marroquin, Marroquin who is fighting deportation to Mexico, is on a nationwide tour for the SWP presidential ticket.

Pettit was introduced to the meeting by Ray Bell, a Black co-worker at the General Motors plant where Pettit is employed. He contrasted Marroquin’s “trials and tribulations” in seeking political asylum to the welcome given the shah of Iran.

Pettit’s speech put the blame for the Iran crisis squarely on the U.S. government. She declared her support for the demand of the Iranian people to extricate the shah: “American workers have no stake in harboring this criminal. And no stake in a war to save his hide.”

Marroquin pointed to the worldwide counterevolutionary moves of U.S. imperialism. Bipartisan support by the Democrats and Republicans to the war drive, he said, underscores the need for “workers in this country to build their own political party, a labor party based on the trade unions.”

Other rally speakers included Linda Thurston, president of the Kansas City National Organization for Women, and representatives of the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee, the St. Louis SWP, and the Kansas City Young Socialist Alliance.

The rally heard plans for the SWP’s drive to win state ballot status. In 1974 and again in 1976, the party was ruled off the ballot even though it obtained more than the required number of nominating petitions. The Democrats and Republicans have used election law technicalities to maintain their ballot monopoly.

The socialists plan to collect the required 17,000 signatures among the 200,000 members of the United Auto Workers to place Pettit on the presidential ballot. They have already gathered 15,000 names.

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Picket starts N.Y. SWP race

By John Rubinstein

NEW YORK—The New York Socialist Workers Party Campaign Committee launched its 1980 election campaign November 16 with a picket line and news conference at the federal courthouse here.

The picket line protested the escalation of the war drive against the Iranian revolution and harassment of Iranian students in this country.

Two of the newly-announced SWP candidates joined the protest: Victor Nieto, a railroad worker, candidate for U.S. Senate; and Robert Miller, a Ford assembly worker and member of the Young Socialist Alliance, candidate for U.S. Congress in the 17th District.

Also running is Beba Williams, a General Motors production worker, as the candidate for Congress in the 19th district.

The pro-Iranian protest was covered by local radio and by the Daily News.
By Eric Flint

RITHEMING—On November 2 U.S. Steel Corporation suffered a set back in its efforts to suppress the truth about the repudiation of the socialist at the corporation's Coalcon coal mine in Huyton, Alabama.

Federal Judge J. Foy Guin, Jr., refused to grant the corporation's motion to dismiss a lawsuit against U.S. Steel by Nelson Blackstock, Eric Flint, and the Militant.

The lawsuit arose as a result of an incident last May. Three truckloads of goons badly beat Blackstock and Flint as they were working the Militant at the mine. Blackstock was hospitalized for several days requiring extensive surgery on his hip. His tasks will never regain full use of his leg.

From the beginning it was clear the attack was organized by the company. The assault was well-coordinated and organized in less than ten minutes. Concord miners told Militant investigators that company foremen stopped the "mantripes" carrying the day shift into the mine in order to organize the assault squad.

As news of the attack spread, protests rolled in from trade unionists and civil rights activists across the country. The Militant and the coal miners filed a $2 million lawsuit against U.S. Steel in federal court.

U.S. Steel tried to get the lawsuit dismissed. They fear that if the case goes to trial the corporation's responsibility for the attack will be documented.

From the beginning U.S. Steel's defense has been handled directly from corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh. At the hearing itself, U.S. Steel was represented by R.M. Gutchall III, a corporation attorney who flew in from Pittsburgh.

Gutchall's argument, boiled down to two major points. Significantly, he did not dispute any of the facts—including the fact that company foremen held up the mantripes.

The corporation lawyer claimed that miners were responsible for the attack. He depicted company foremen standing around in innocent bewilderment while three truckloads of armed miners went to work to beat up two socialists.

Gutchall also argued that according to legal technicalities the lawsuit should be dismissed because a corporation can't conspire with itself.

In response, the Militant's attorney, Shelley Davis, pointed out that if U.S. Steel's absurd logic was upheld, all U.S. Steel's thugs at the Ku Klux Klan would have to do is incorporate to immunize its conspiracy charges.

If Gutchall had his way the company would have been granted, because the foremen thought a strike might be on the way.

After the hearing, Davis characterized the ruling as a "partial victory." The Militant's campaign in defense of its democratic rights has drawn widespread support from Alabama ACLU's executive board who took on the case and assigned one of its Birmingham lawyers, Robert Wiggins, to assist the Militant in the lawsuit.

Among the unionists and civil rights activists issuing statements condemning U.S. Steel's actions are: Gerald Cornette, president, United Mine Workers Local 8771; Bill Worthington, president, National Black Labor Association; Linus Wampler, district director, United Steelworkers, Ed Sadlowski, subdistrict director, USWA District 31; Dave Wilson, president, USWA Local 86; David Montgomery, president, USWA Local 65; Dr. Abraham Wood, associate professor, University of Illinois; and the newly formed Socialist Workers Party Presidential Campaign Committee.

A newly published brochure on the case may be obtained by writing to: Free Speech in Alabama, P.O. Box 3920A, Birmingham, Ala. 35205.
Phony 'rent control' referenda

New gimmick to push 'lesser evil' politics

By Larry Seigle

Ballot propositions were up for a vote in San Francisco and Baltimore, cities that have been facing a housing crisis. The propositions were designed to limit rent increases and protect tenants from exploitation.

The Tenant-Landlord Relations Commission for an "Extraordinary Rent Increase" law will limit increases to once a year, with annual increases, he can ask the landlords for more, according to its supporters. However, the landlords could automatically increase rents to keep pace with inflation. If they wanted to increase rents faster than that, they would have to apply to the board.

In San Francisco and Baltimore, the commission is pledged to be equally "equally," a "landlord," and one "homeowner." The "government," which was passed, doesn't even have "rent control" in its title. Instead, it is a measure to govern "tenant-landlord relations." A Tenant-Landlord Commission will be established. Its members will be appointed by the city council.

"To guarantee that the board will treat landlords and tenants "equally," the city council will appoint two "landlords" to "tenants," and one "homeowner.""

Get the drift?

They were not designed to defend working people against rent-gouging landlords, the commission is pledged to be equally "equally," a "landlord," and one "homeowner." The "government," which was passed, doesn't even have "rent control" in its title. Instead, it is a measure to govern "tenant-landlord relations." A Tenant-Landlord Commission will be established. Its members will be appointed by the city council.

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They were not designed to defend working people against rent-gouging landlords, the commission is pledged to be equally "equally," a "landlord," and one "homeowner." The "government," which was passed, doesn't even have "rent control" in its title. Instead, it is a measure to govern "tenant-landlord relations." A Tenant-Landlord Commission will be established. Its members will be appointed by the city council.

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By David Frankel

Twenty-nine Arab mayors in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip resigned on November 13 to protest the Israeli cabinet’s decision to go ahead with the deportation of 33,000 Palestinians from the Shaka area.

Amid demonstrations and strikes in Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Jerusalem, Bir Zeit, and other towns, the mayors issued a statement saying: “We shall never know from where our fate is being sealed, but we shall never surrender and we shall never give up a grain of our national soil.”

The mayors made clear that they would join Shaka in a hunger strike to protest its treatment.

Shaka was arrested November 11, presented with the expulsion order, and imprisoned pending deportation, because he had expressed himself in a private conversation with Gen. Danny Matt, the military governor of the West Bank.

Shaka was accused of supporting terrorist actions because he told Matt that “operations like these, if they occur, are only a reaction to other acts.” He added that as there is occupation and killing, you can expect many operations of this type.

The attempt to impose control over the 12,5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was compounded November 8 when the director of Israeli television refused to put an interview with Shaka on the air, thus preventing the Israeli people as a whole from hearing what he had to say.

Even some of the staunchest defenders of the Zionist state complained about Shaka’s Prime Minister Menahem Begin’s handling of the affair.

Particularly upsetting to many people of the Shaka was the thought of what Begin’s heavy-handed behavior exposed the emptiness of the provisions for Palestinian autonomy in the Camp David accords.

“Truly,” the Jerusalem Post noted November 13, if an Arab city mayor ... cannot freely speak his mind even in private without being considered fit for punishment, then what is this called autonomy except a farce and a fraud?”

Similarly, the New York Times editorialized November 16, “Israel is turning the offer of ‘autonomy’ to the Palestinians into a sham. Under the cover of a developing peace with Egypt, Prime Minister Begin and his Cabinet seem to be doing their utmost to frustrate the other half of the Camp David accords.”

But, as the Times well knows, Israeli policy even before Camp David came to power was to absorb the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. While assuring the Israeli ruler of the Miami Herald, and military aid, they need to continue this course, Washington is seeking to avoid taking the political hit.

President Carter thought he had achieved such a result with the Camp David accords. However, it is becoming increasingly clear to the whole world that the real effect of that deal was to affirm the legal nature of the occupied territories outside of the Sinai.

On November 11, the same day as Shaka’s arrest, Begin’s Cabinet an- nounced new plans for the extension of Zionist settlement on the West Bank and Syria’s Golan Heights.

But Begin’s reckless course is meeting more and more opposition within Israel itself. On October 20, the Peace Now movement held a protest in Tel Aviv against the settlement policy that drew 40,000 people, according to a dispatch by William Chalff in the October 23 Washington Post.

From Intercontinental Press/Inproroc
By August Nimtz
(second of a series)

While visiting a Palestinian refugee camp during his recent Middle East trip, Operation PUSH leader Rev. Jesse Jackson said he was reminded of Black ghettos in the U.S. "I understand this camp, I identify with this camp... The slums, the open sewers — this is nothing new to me." Jackson is not the only Black leader to feel a sense of identification with the plight of the Palestinians. For example, Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, a leader of the predominantly Black Progressive National Baptist Convention, recently remarked that "the Palestinians are the niggers of the Middle East."

The "Disaster," as the Palestinians refer to the origins of their plight, began when Israeli forces overran the Arab armies in the 1948 War. Overnight hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs were made homeless and began a diaspora as refugees. Those who were not forced from their homes were relegated to second-class status by their new overlords — the Zionist state.

As a result of the Middle East wars, beginning with 1948-49, Palestinians were dispersed in three broad groupings.

First are the so-called "Israeli Arabs," those who remained inside the territory that Israel occupied after the 1948 war, that is, about 80 percent of Palestine. Today, these Palestinians number about 500,000. They comprise about 15 percent of Israel's population and about 15 percent of all Palestinians.

As residents of a state that was created to serve its Jewish population, Palestinians in Israel are denied equal rights and subjected to systematic discrimination. They are barred from living in various locations. Their schools are grossly inferior and there are quotas against them in the universities. Police repression is used regularly against Arab activists.

As Shemuel Teodoro, the former Advisor on Arab Affairs to the Israeli prime minister, put it in an interview to the Israeli daily Haaretz, January 28, 1977.

"Israelis in Israel are "second-class citizens." Furthermore, like other Palestinians, "Israeli Arabs" also had much of their land expropriated after the 1948 war. At one time the Zionists tried to restrict the employment of Arab workers. But as Israeli capitalism developed, they began to treat the Palestinians as a readily supply of cheap wage laborers. Like Blacks and Latinos in the U.S., the "Israeli Arabs" work the dirtiest, lowest-paid jobs.

Occupied territories

The second and largest group of Palestinians, about 20 percent, are in those parts of Palestine that Israel occupied after the 1967 War — the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, areas that had previously been administered by Egypt and Jordan respectively. This means that more than half of all Palestinians are under direct Israeli administration.

The plight of Palestinians in the occupied territories is compounded by the fact that they are under Israeli military occupation, and suffer the severe repression of democratic rights that this entails. The geographical closeness of the occupied territories to Israel's economic centers makes the availability of cheap labor very attractive to Israeli capital. Today, more than 50 percent of all wage workers in the occupied territories are employed in construction and manufacturing employ about 70 percent of these workers.

Every morning at 3 a.m. thousands of Palestinians are herded onto buses to make the 3 to 6 hour trip to Israel to sell their labor for an average daily wage of about $6.50 (in 1977 prices). These workers receive on the average only half of what Israelis make for the same work. Since the signing of the Camp David "peace accords," Israeli bombing has driven more than 500,000 Palestinians from their homes and camps.

No group of Palestinians anywhere are in a more desperate situation than those in Lebanon. They are the target of constant bombing raids by Israeli planes. Since the signing of the Camp David "peace accords," Israeli bombing has driven more than 500,000 Palestinians from their homes and camps. David Dellinger, who recently visited the Middle East, described in the September 28 issue of Seven Days magazine what he saw: "... to my horror, what I observed was not a policy of selective military strikes, but massive Israeli terrorism against the population of Lebanon. I saw an extensive, systematic destruction of civilian targets — houses, schools, medical clinics, churches, and mosques. The kinds of targets, weapons used... were painfully reminiscent of Vietnam — and so were the results. ... In the end, after four months, every village, town, and refugee camp south of Sidon (about 25 miles south of Beirut) (and many places north of it) have been hit many times, with catastrophic results."

Assimilated?

Along with the violence that Palestinians in the neighboring states are subjected to, as refugees in these countries Palestinians are victims of various forms of economic and social discrimination and political oppression. This applies even in those countries — Syria and Jordan — where Palestinians are in theory equal to the indigenous residents.

The Zionists have always rationalized their expulsion of the Palestinians with the claim that as Arabs they could easily assimilate into the societies of the neighboring Arab states. However, thirty years after the Disaster, Palestinians inside these countries feel no more at home than those under direct Israeli control. As oppressed people, they continually strive for a return to their homeland and for self-determination. A key element of Zionist propaganda is to portray the Palestinians as terrorists bent on the extermination of Jews. However, most of the world now recognizes that the Palestinians are an oppressed people, and that the Zionist arguments are simply a ruse to turn the victims into criminals.

Israel and its supporters in Washington are indubitably the real criminals in the Middle East.

Issues in Mideast Conflict

Palestinian refugees in a school in Jordan following the June 1967 war
Let those who labor hold the reins

Revolution in Grenada

By Ernest Harsch

ST. GEORGES, Grenada—"This government stand with the workers," a thirty-two-year-old dockworker at the harbor says with conviction. "We know these fellows. They with us. Nobody going to tell me nothing changed."

Eight months after the March 13 insurrection that brought the revolutionary New Jewel Movement (NJM) to power in this small eastern Caribbean island, support for the new government is widespread.

If anything, it may even be deepening among the poorest layers of this impoverished country, as the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop drives ahead with a series of progressive measures aimed at improving the social position and living conditions of the vast majority of Grenada's 110,000 people—the workers and small farmers.

While some sectors of Grenadian society—conservative and wealthy—are reacting with concern, the general verdict among young people, workers, and the unemployed is that the government deserves support and that it appears committed to transforming Grenadian society to their benefit.

"So much done those seven months, we never seen before," a woman at the central market in St. George's explains. "I'm with Maurice," says a young unemployed musician. "He shakes things up, gets people moving. And the police now, they leave me be."

The depth of the government's popularity has increased repeatedly since the insurrection, in a series of mass rallies throughout the country, some of which have drawn crowds of 15,000 or 20,000—truly massive turnout for a country of this size.

Rebuilding economy

Despite its short time in power, the PRG has already done much to try to rebuild the devastated economy inherited from the ousted dictator, Eric Gairy, and to improve living standards.

With the elimination of rampant corruption and inefficiency of the Gairy regime, union officials found guilty of sexually harassing women workers are now subject to immediate dismissal.

The principle of equal pay for equal work for women has been proclaimed, and is already being implemented in some sectors, such as agriculture. Employers and other officials found guilty of sexually harassing women workers are now subject to immediate dismissal.

Although a few local business figures hold minor positions in the government, the PRG has repeatedly demonstrated that its basic stance is pro-labor. Vincent Noel, the president of the CIWU and the BGWU, is a member of the PRG, a factor that has done much to reassure workers that they need not fear reprisals for union activities.

Prime Minister Bishop has spoken on radio to warn employers to stop victimizing workers or face "the full weight of the revolution." Labour Minister Selwyn Strachan has appeared before the Grenada Chamber of Commerce to inform its members that the government would not allow employers to "exploit" workers, that the rights of labor must be respected.

"Our party is committed to the task of improving the quality of life of the working people of our country," Strachan told me. "We cannot afford to sit by and allow workers to be subjected to the same kind of exploitation they were subjected to in the past."

An article in the October 6 New Delhi, India, weekly, stated that while businessmen still had a role to play in the economy, "Businessmen who were basically fire workers must know that the PRG is a workers Government and will stand firm on the side of the workers."

This is not just empty rhetoric, as shown by the PRG's recent takeover of the local Coca-Cola bottling plant following a five-week strike over the dismissal of a female commentator stresses the need for men to share domestic chores with women. He notes as she emphasizes the important role of women workers in the construction of a new Grenada.

During one visit to the main government office building, I notice a young soldier, sitting with a machine gun across his knees, listening intently to a program over Radio Free Grenada on women's liberation. He notes as she emphasizes the important role of women workers in the construction of a new Grenada.

On another visit, there is a young security guard in civilian clothes, reading By Any Means Necessary, a collection of speeches by Malcolm X.

I ask a youth near the central market in St. George's if he is worried about the presence of so many troops and militia members, and receive a
Interview with Grenadian leader

“We will not submit to American bullying”

The following is an interview with Selwyn Strachan, a founder and central leader of the New Jewel Movement and currently the minister to labor, works, and communications in the People’s Revolutionary Government of Grenada. The interview was obtained by Ernest Harsch in St. George’s, Grenada, on October 29.

Question. The People’s Revolution­ar­y Movement (PRG) enjoys among the Grenadian working people the wide and active support that the workers government is a national liberation government. You and your colleagues. The PRG for several months, was ordered by Winston Whyte’s Ministry of Industry to shut down. Upon October 14-15, just a week before my arrival in Grenada, the govern­ment’s security forces arrested twenty persons, including Winston Whyte’s (a right-wing politician) and former member of Prime Minister Bishop and other PRG ministers have forcefully spoken out in defense of the workers, work among the farmers, the artisans, the shop­keepers, and the workers government. Could you explain that?

Answer. Ever since the inception of our party, we have espoused a particu­larly revolutionary ideology—we call ourselves socialists.

Our party is committed to the task of improving the quality of life of the working people of our country. We see the working class as the revolutionary class in society, and we are determined to raise their political and ideological consciousness.

We say we are a workers government and our first priority is to improve the quality of life of the worker. Whilst we recognize the importance of better wages and working conditions, we feel that it is absolutely necessary—if we want to move the struggle forward, if we want to build a workers state, if we want to build a worker-peasant state—that we devote a lot of time to the building of the political and class consciousness of the workers in our society.

And that is a very long, long task that we have. Because even at this stage in our country, the workers are not fighting for political rights. They are still at the trade-union level, for better wages and working conditions. They are not fighting for laws to protect their interests. They are not at that stage yet.

We are trying to ally the other classes in society with the workers. In one sense, we see the struggle as a wider context, not just working-class struggle on behalf of workers, but a struggle to bring the oppressed classes into alliance with the working class to fight for all the democratic, progressive measures at this particular stage in the struggle.

Question. The People’s Revolutionary Movement (PRG) has received information that the Carter administration is also attempting to get Grenada’s main trade partners to put further pressure on the country.

A. Petty bourgeoisie in the sense of a bourgeois mentality, where we can eventually have the working class in our country, it is twice as strong as the working class, maybe one-and-a-half times stronger. And then we have all these other people around, the artisans, the fishermen, the small and medium-sized businessmen, and so forth.

We feel that whilst we move rapidly to raise the consciousness of the working people, including the working class, at the same time we have to consolidate our position in certain sectors of the economy, which will again help to strengthen our position, raising the level of the productive forces.

In other words, we see us moving toward socialism, using the mixed­ economy approach, the noncapitalist path at this stage. And that, of course, will help us increase the strength of the working class in our country, pre­pare us for the advancement to socialism, where we can eventually have the dictatorship of the proletariat.

But now it is impossible. We have to keep up the political education work. We have to do work among the workers, work among the farmers, work among the fishermen, work among the women, the youth, and even the small and medium-sized bourgeoisie. There is no longer a threat of the working people and population and prepare them for the next stage of the struggle.

In other words, we see this as a democratic phase of the struggle, prepar­ing the masses for the transition to socialism.

The aim is socialism.

Q. Do you see this in terms of distinct historical stages?

A. We feel that whilst we move rapidly to consolidate our position in certain sectors of the economy, which will again help to strengthen our position, raising the level of the productive forces.
A. This, as we see it, is a distinct historical stage. It is the democratic process. And in the process, one has to look at all these factors.

The aim, of course, is socialism. But socialism, you see, we have to prepare the ground for that social transformation. We see and we are democratizing the society, making sure that all the rights of the working people are fully entrenched. We know that the economy is consolidated, having a full grip on the key sectors of the economy, increasing the overall level of productive forces, which will prepare us for the transition.

In other words, we are moving to socialism, bypassing capitalist development. We are seeing as a historical stage in the development of society.

Q. How would you compare the revolutionary process here in Grenada with the development of the Cuban revolution, particularly in its early days?

A. First of all, the revolution took place in 1959 in Cuba. Ours takes place in 1979, twenty years after.

Then there was a dictatorship of the masses, just like Grenada. Of course, we have a neocolonial society, totally dominated by America. Our country was also dominated by imperialism.

The working class was there also weak, just like ours here. In other words, we have a petty-bourgeoisie society, like ours.

Cuban process

And Cuba, more or less, went through the same process as we are right now going through. What Cuba had in 1959, after the revolution, was a dictatorship of the masses, just like what we have here. They had to go through a similar process that we are in the middle of going through. For example, in the first twenty months of the revolution, Cuba did not really have any commanding heights of the economy, the banks, big factories, and so forth. It was after a period, they began to move into those areas. We have a similar situation here.

Of course, there is a slight difference in that we don’t have any indigenous factories and enterprises like Cuba had, for example, in tobacco, and so forth. We don’t have any factories producing from nutmegs or cocoyams or bananas.

Therefore it was much easier for them to do it. They did not have to go through the whole question of industrialization from scratch, like we will have to do.

We believe that our course of development will be more or less the same as the Cuban revolution. There may be one or two minor differences, but nothing dramatic.

And that, of course, will go for almost every country in the Caribbean, because we have been underdeveloped by the imperialist world. The character of our economies is more or less the same, having the same problems, the same problems—Basseterre, St. Kitts, Barbados, Trinidad, you name it, we have been plundered by the imperialist world.

If we have taken the decision to socially transform our society, and we are adopting the correct approach according to the key sectors of the historical development, we would more or less have to go through the same process, with slight differences, as social consciousness, since some countries are more developed than the next.

But basically, the approach will be the same, if we are moving to socialism.

Cuban aid

Q. How much is an asset, do you see the existence of the Cuban workers state being for the advancement of the Grenadian revolution?

A. Definitely. We have been seeing, that imperialism has to be done. The working class has to be organized. We went through that process also.

That also was lifted off the backs of the working class. So the democratic rights and freedoms of the working class and working people have been restored—and extended.

Q. Could you explain what the new Agricultural Workers Council (AWC) is, what its role is?

A. This is an alternative to Gairy’s Grenadan Workers’ Union. The AWC is designed to organize the agricultural working class, all over the country.

We have had councils set up on almost every estate since the revolution, both government and private estates, with the view to drawing more and more membership into the union and to using that as a vehicle for organizing the entire agricultural working class and to raise their trade-union and class consciousness.

To build socialism, you must organize the working class. That has to be done. The working class cannot be loose, out there, directionless, not knowing what they’re doing. That is one reason, apart from destroying the cult of Gairyism completely by reorganizing the agricultural working class and getting them to understand the way forward.

Women’s rights

Q. Are there any measures that have been taken specifically to try to improve the position of women workers?

A. Yes, definitely. We have been talking quite a bit about the discrimination of women in our society. The women have been called upon over the years to do the same thing as the men, but yet men historically have been paid much more than women, because the economy was plundered by the imperialist.

We have been advocating the concept that there should be equal pay for equal work. And that is where a woman, doing the same work, getting the same money.

We looked at the estate workers, for example, where you find the woman is doing the same amount of work as the man, but the man is paid maybe a dollar or two more. In some cases we have taken steps to correct that all right, wherever we have found women being called upon over the years to do the same thing as the man, because they’re doing equal work.

We believe that, if we see this throughout the society, the involvement of women in the overall political process. It is something that we are very strong about in our party.

To that end, the women’s arm of our party has been organizing around the country and trying to raise the political level of the women’s movement.

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Name: __________________________ Address: __________________________
City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Q. Could you explain the PRG's policy toward the involvement of foreign firms in the Grenada economy?

A. We have not worked out the concrete policy on the question of foreign investment.

We know what we do not want. It is quite clear. We feel that there are certain areas in the economy where we cannot allow foreign investors to come in peacefully. These are basic areas.

At the same time we feel we are lagging badly in technology. Any kind of foreign investment must be heavy in capital and technology that will help to improve the lot of the people, not any fly-by-night operators coming just to pick up the dollar and run. We do not want this to happen. We are not going to sit down and say, 'The country is for sale.' We are quite clear.
Paul Robeson: The new censorship

Paul Robeson was one of the greatest performing artists that America has yet produced. He was also a world-renowned symbol of militant struggle against American racism. Today, however, few young people have even heard of this outstanding Black man.

Robeson was one of the foremost victims of McCarthyism. As a prominent spokesperson for the American Communist Party, he was a prime target of the anticommunist witch-hunters. He was harassed at every turn, blacklisted from performing in the United States, denied a passport to perform abroad, and thus hounded into obscurity.

The cold war zealots went so far as to have his name removed from the official list of collegiate football All-Americans. They intended to make Paul Robeson a "nonperson," and they succeeded in erasing him from the consciousness of a whole generation. But times have changed. Anticommunism doesn't have the clout it used to have. A new generation of young people—awakened by the civil rights, anti-war, and feminist movements—aren't swallowing it any more.

A play celebrating the life of Paul Robeson—with James Earl Jones in the title (and only) role—is now being aired on public television channels. This play opened on Broadway in 1978, but not many people got a chance to see it because a protest against it developed and it closed after a short run.

The protest was motivated by anticommunism or racism, as would have been the case a decade or two earlier. In fact, the Communist Party itself was the prime mover of the protest and the play's most enthusiastic opponent.

Picket lines at the theater were organized under the auspices of a "Paul Robeson People's Campaign" to discourage potential audiences from attending. A leaflet passed out by the picketers ended with an quotation from Paul Robeson saying, "Support Paul Robeson by boycotting this distortion of his history!"

"Crime against Robeson"

The Communist Party's Daily World and People's World devoted a great deal of space to articles blasting the play, with headlines such as "The Crime Against Paul Robeson."

Paul Robeson, Jr. headed up the campaign and succeeded in gathering the signatures of an impressive array of Black cultural and political figures on a manifesto attacking the play. Among the fifty-six signers were James Baldwin, Coretta Scott King, Julian Bond, representatives John Conyers and Charles Rangel, and the entire Board of Bishops of the AME Zion Church. The statement described the play as "a pernicious perversion of the essence of Paul Robeson."

If you watch this play on public television (and I strongly recommend that you do when you get the chance to see a rehashing of it) you will probably be left scratching your head in bewilderment as to what the protest was all about.

Whatever weaknesses it may have, the play portrays Paul Robeson as a hero and an inspiring model for young Black people to emulate in the struggle against racism. His socialist and pro-Soviet Union views are clearly stated.

Oak Stokes, who had been the first Black mayor of Cleveland, apparently was among those who opposed the protest. Now a television journalist, Stokes is a laun­cher of the son of his own. He concluded that most of the prominent figures who had signed the statement had not seen the play and that many had signed for superficial reasons.

"Alvin Ailey told me he signed because his friend, Ossie Davis, asked him to," Stokes reported. "And Nikki Giovanni openly admitted to me that she hadn't been in a position to say 'no' when a friend asked her to. . . ." Stokes also revealed that Rep­re­sentative Rangel's name had been improperly granted by a member of his staff.

The shallowness of the protest was made evident when Stokes interviewed Paul Robeson, Jr. and asked him whether any play would be able to present an image of his father that he would find acceptable.

"No play could do that," replied Robeson, Jr. To follow that logic, of course, is to leave Paul Robeson in permanent obscurity.

Stokes summed up his view, with which I concur, by saying, "This is a play Americans need to see . . . because it reintroduces Paul Robeson to the American public and con­strains and Black Americans to confront the atrocious treatment they accorded this remarkable man."

There is more to this curious protest than meets the eye. Why were the American Stalinists so ferocious in their opposition to widespread, favorable exposure of Paul Robeson for the first time in decades?

I found a possible key to this puzzle in an interview with Robert Earl Jones, who was a personal friend and political associate of Paul Robeson's, and who happens to be the father of the stage "Paul Robeson," James Earl Jones.

Robert Earl Jones is also an actor by profession and, like Robeson, was blacklisted throughout the cold war years and before witch-hunting congressional committees. He is now an activist and executive board member of the Greenwich Village-Chelsea branch of the NAACP in New York City.

I asked Robert Earl Jones if the play represents Paul Robeson as he remembers him.

"Oh, yes. It is very right, very honest, very true."

"Could he possibly have been biased in favor of the play because his son is the star?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, I went to Philadelphia [where the play showed before opening in New York] thinking I was going to have differences with the play. I'm a member of the Paul Robeson Citation Committee, and I knew that other committee members were against it, so I wasn't expecting to like it, either. But I saw it and thought it was great."

I asked what he thought the protest was all about.

"It was empty, if you ask me. The complaints were picayune. I think it shows contempt for the public, telling people they shouldn't see something like this. It's censorship, and I don't like it."

Why, in his opinion, did a lot of prominent figures endorse the protest statement? "As Jim [James Earl Jones] said, it comes from the pain and guilt of the nation, and especially of the Black people, for allowing Paul Robeson to be cut down in such a blatant way. Those who were in a position to defend him—our newspapers, our educators, our leaders—didn't stand up for him."

"So, you see, everybody feels guilty about this. Now they see a chance to protest something and they don't know what the hell they're protesting. They hadn't seen it. Coretta Scott King saw the play later in Washington and then said she wished she hadn't signed the statement."

Invasion of Hungary

I noted that there is a single line in the play where Robeson indicates that he was opposed to the invasion of Hungary by the Soviet Union in 1956. I asked Robert Earl Jones if that was historically accurate.

"Yes. He was violently against the invasion of Russia into Hungary." As for his own views of the matter, Robert Earl Jones's voice rose and shook with anger, as if it had all happened only yesterday: "What the hell right did Russia have going into another country with tanks and taking over another people's nation by force?" he thundered. "It was wrong, it was a crime, it was immoral, just like the Vietnam War."

In my opinion, this may well be the terrible secret that the Stalinists want to hide: Paul Robeson could not stomach the Stalinist line on Hungary. And to safeguard that secret they are willing to torpedo a play that begins to rescue the historical Robeson from obscurity.

This episode raises a deeper question: Did the Stalinists collaborate, albeit indirectly, with the McCarthyites in silencing Paul Robeson? Do they share at least a small portion of the blame for making him a nonperson? Their attempt to squash this play indicates that they may have wanted him to be quiet after 1946. This is a subject that deserves further research.

* * *

The play should not be judged by this sideshow, but on its own merits. In my opinion, James Baldwin's criticism of its excessive sentimentality is valid. But this weakness of the script is overcome by James Earl Jones's performance, which is one of the best you're likely to see anywhere.

Robert Earl Jones gave the best reason for seeing the play and encouraging other people to see it: "I want young people to know the truth about what happened to Paul Robeson, so this kind of thing will never—never—be allowed to happen again."

—Cliff Conner
PALESTINIAN WINS RECONSIDERATION ON DEPORTATION

An Immigration Service appeal judge ruled November 14 that a deportation order against Elias Ayoub, a Palestinian student, be reconsidered by local immigration officials. Ayoub, an Israeli citizen, had been ordered deported on trumped-up technicalities. The real reason is his anti-Zionist stance that Ayoub was "a very strong activist in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Ayoub says he is a member of the organization and that the charge was made to be used against him if deported. At his appeal hearing, the U.S. attorney did not try to justify INS inaction on Ayoub's request for college transfers, leaving little basis for upholding the deportation order.

OK SOUGHT TO 'EASE' ENVIRONMENTAL CURBS ON MX PROJECT

Even before it wins congressional ratification, the Pentagon wants approval to sidestep environmental impact procedures for its giant MX missile project.

The project includes a network of roads covering the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada. Two hundred MX nuclear missile vehicles would shuttle along these roads, with their precise location supposedly never known to the enemy.

With a decision to go to war, the vehicles would head for bunkers along the road to launch their deadly weapons. It would be the biggest single construction project in U.S. history—bigger than the Panama Canal or the Alaska pipeline.

The service roads alone would equal one-fourth of the nation's interstate highways. The cost was initially estimated at a modest $3 billion. Before it's even off the drawing board, that figure has already gone up to $60 billion. And the end is not yet in sight.

According to The New York Times, 70 percent of the people of Utah favor the project. "But," the paper adds, "many of them have doubts, and the closer to the site they live, the more doubts they seem to have.

Area residents have suffered a high cancer rate as a result of 1950s A-bomb tests which the government had repeatedly assured were "harmless."

Recently, the governor of Utah filed suit to prevent the transfer of leaking nerve gas bombs into the state.

"Some of our people," the governor said, "have gone from complete trust in the government...to a bitter attitude where they don't believe any- thing the government says."

RUTGERS STUDENTS: 'FBI OFF CAMPUS'

Law students at the Newark campus of Rutgers University held a demonstration demanding an end to FBI recruitment on their campus.

About fifty students participated in the November 14 protest. Although the FBI has sought recruits at the law school for several years, the students said it was particularly important to protest this year because of efforts by the Carter administration to put through an FBI charter which, in the name of curbing the agency's illegal activities, would actually do the opposite.

The proposed charter, the law students declared, "authorizes the FBI to seek the continuation of FBI abuses." A student statement cited concrete examples of FBI abuses, including:

* illegal collaboration with judges and prosecutors in the Chicago Eight trial.

A consistent drive of harassment against the Black Panther Party."

N.Y. legal service workers face...by Eric Poulos

The national legal services agency behind it, CALS is demanding crippling givebacks on numerous noneconomic gains from the last contract. It told the union that unless it accepted, it should prepare for a lockout.

An expensive law outfit, The New York arm of the federally funded Legal Services Corporation (CALS) figured this latest strike would be a November 14. There have been recent similar strikes in Philadelphia and Detroit. Boston just went back victorious and Chicago went out a few days after New York.

The legal workers—lawyers and support staff—are in the Legal Services Staff Association, the union most responsible for the spread of legal services unionism to some fifty cities.

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**The Great Society**

_The Militant_ November 30, 1979

Harry Ring

**Union Talk**

A day at Bunting Brass

This week’s column is by Peter Archer, a member of the United Auto Workers.

TOLEDO, Ohio—One day last month, the foreman at Bunting Brass’s foundry here ordered two workers down into the basement. A conveyor belt runs through this area carrying sand to the molding machines. As the belt moves, sand falls off it and periodically must be shoveled back onto the belt.

The job is considered to be one of the worst in the foundry—not a place noted for its easy working conditions.

The basement is cramped and has virtually no ventilation. In the summer the heat is intense. Even in the fall, workers went down that day, they didn’t expect anything out of the ordinary—just a few hard and unpleasant hours of work.

Things turned out differently.

Somehow—no one knows exactly how—one worker, a young man who had been in the plant only a week, caught his arm in the conveyor belt. The belt pulled muscle, the arm fell off it, and periodically must be shoveled back onto the belt.

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The lesson of Guatemala

Twenty-five years ago the elected government of Jacobo Arbenz was overthrown in Guatemala. This right-wing coup was carried out by mercenaries armed and financed by the United States government. It was a victory for imperialism and a brutal defeat for the Guatemalan workers and peasants.

When in May 15, 1954, President Joseph Hansen reported that U.S. President Eisenhower boasted after the coup that he would be deceitful if he tried to hide his pleasure over the ouster of the communists and their supporters in Guatemala.

The powerful American-owned United Fruit Company (now United Brands), a collaborator in the imperialist-engineered coup, also celebrated as their stocks rose two days in one day after the overthrow of Arbenz.

United Fruit had vast investments in Guatemala. They controlled all of Guatemala's banana exports, ran 580 of the land's 732 miles of railroad, behold a monopoly on its telephones and telegraph facilities, owned its largest electrical plant, and administered one of the most important ports in the Caribbean coast. It was making vast profits from the land, blood, and sweat of the Guatemalan workers and peasants.

When the Guatemalan masses forced Arbenz to extricate some of United Fruit's plantations and companies appealed to Eisenhower to protect its lucrative business. Eisenhower responded with a secret war against Arbenz. U.S. arms were shipped into neighboring Nicaragua and Honduras. The Honduras-based CIA put together a ragtag mercenary army under the command of Carlos Armas. It was not a large army. It was not well-trained. It was not even courageous. It did not have the backing of Guatemala's well-organized working class and the CP, which Arbenz led.

Yet, in June 1954, Armas brought his army across the border into Guatemala and seized power. For the twenty-five years since, the people of Guatemala have suffered under the gang headed by Armas.

When Arbenz proposed a health program, the capitalist class of semicolonial countries such as Guatemala have neither the intention nor the capacity to move the revolution forward.

Like all such governments, Arbenz feared the workers and peasants more than imperialism. He did, without basis that mobilizing its power masses would bring them into conflict not only with imperialism, but with the Guatemalan ruling class as well.

No matter how reform-minded, Arbenz was committed to capitalism. He would not initiate an anti-imperialist struggle that would also threaten Guatemalan capitalist property.

The treacherous "two stage" policy of Stalinism was not new. The history of Stalinism includes a trail of bloody defeats for the masses of workers and peasants.

The 1973 right-wing coup in Chile, for example, bears many parallels with the Guatemalan situation. When the capitalist government of Allende was brought to power, the CP supported bringing army officers into the government.

The CP vigorously opposed proposals to allow the imperialists to block the election of a workers government. The CP vigorously supported proposals to arm the masses as being "equivalent to showing distrust in the army." This policy of trust in Allende's army paved the way for the defeat of the masses and the victory of the counterrevolutionary pro-imperialist dictatorship.

Compare that kind of Stalinist treachery with the revolutionary leadership of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

After mobilizing the masses in the overthrow of the Somosa dictatorship, the Sandinistas have continued to rely on the power of the workers and peasants to move the revolution forward.

The masses in Nicaragua are armed throughout the country. They are appealing to and recruiting—aid from working people around the world. Nicaragua, which once served as an outpost for the U.S. imperialist assault on Guatemala, now serves as a shining example for all working people throughout the colonial world.

The Sandinistas recognize that there are only two sides in Nicaragua, as there were in Guatemala. On one side are the toiling masses. On the other side are the native capitalists in Nicaragua as there are only two sides in Nicaragua as there are in Nicaragua.

After the bloody lessons of 1954, the Nicaraguan masses are pointing the revolutionary way forward for the workers and peasants of Guatemala.

-Friscilla Schenk

Iran-I

The floor manager, night doorman in the midtown office building where I work, a Black man, stopped me to ask—since he knew I was a militant feminist—what I thought about this hostage affair.

I said, "The answer's simple: send the shah back to Iran!" He responded by saying "I knew you'd say that. I agree. It's only Kissingering and Rockefeller who want that son of a bitch here. Think about how much money they get for protecting him. But you don't read about that part either. I feel bad about the hostages, but let's face it. We should send him over to Europe. We feel for those Iranian people. And, while we're at it, why not send Kissinger and Rockefeller too!"

Marilyn Vogt

New York, New York

Iran-I

Your November 16 issue's coverage of the Iranian situation is disappointingly one-sided. What you condemn as "imperialist military threats," it says not a word about Iranian imperialism. The Iranian has never endured imperialism, yet, by its silence, it seems to now.

"Iranian popular support" or not, I question the wisdom of the embassy takeover. First, it confuses the nature of U.S. Imperialism relations by effectively allowing the imperialists to portray the Iranians as aggressors, contrary to history. This creates a fine pretext for military intervention; aggression in self-defence.

As you've often pointed out, the main thing tying the Pentagon's hands is the anti-war mood among American workers. Yet, notice how they're responding. While a few progressive unions took a stand and said the shah will eagerly condemn this action!

True, whatever support the Iranian revolution has had among American workers is being eroded. Enlarged. That's because they see the hostages not as imperialists, or even against imperialism, but primarily as innocent victims of terrorism.

The evils of terrorism are more comprehended than those of imperialism, even though the latter are more important. Thus, in this situation the paper concentrates exclusively on the latter, it undermines itself.

Does the Militant really think that American workers will support the demand to extradite the shah? It will be seen as weakness and acquiescence to terrorism. It won't be so the justice dies as the "Crowned Cannibal's" victims.

Also, this action seems bound to weaken the Iranian revolution internationally by inviting diplomatic isolation. Finally, it has placed in jeopardy, if not the lives of the hostages there, then the lives of thousands of Iranian students here.

Paul Dougan

Iowa City, Iowa

Protest Kissinger

On November 8 Pierre Du Pont, the multimillionaire governor of Delaware, gave a $500-a-plate fund raiser at the ultra-posh Hotel DuPont. The guest of honor was the Nixon administration's well known criminal Henry Kissinger.

About forty people were there to protest Kissinger's presence. The pickets chanted "Hey. Hey. Kissinger. How many Cambodians starved today?" alternating with "$500 a plate while people are starving!" at each new carload of politicians who arrived.

The slogans carried by the demonstrators included: "Kissinger is an enemy of democracy." "Send the shah and Kissinger to Iran." One protester, Dianne Crispus, a textile worker from Newark, unfurled a banner: "Copenhagen is on Henry's hands," inside the banquet room.

During the press conference before the banquet, both Kissinger and Du Pont made rather revolting comments. When a reporter asked Kissinger if his conscience bothered him about the Iran-ll, Kissinger replied "no" and went on to talk about the Vietnamese and the antiwar movement for the Cambodian famine. When another reporter suggested that the proceeds of Du Pont's banquet could be used for famine relief in Cambodia, the millionaire politician replied "I don't think we will.

The protest was put together on rather short notice by the religious peace group in Terri and an ad hoc student group called the Coalition to Stop Kissinger, Royal Inglese

Wilmington, Delawre

Harrissburg reporting

The follow-up article on Harrissburg in the November 2 Militant needs more of this kind of reporting.

The protest is tremendous when we put flesh and blood on the workings of a crazy social system. The drive for profits losses its abstraction when ordinary working people sit down and say "Hey. Hey. Kissinger. My friends have their lives been ruined, are being ruined minute by minute, day by day. They talk about the conclusions they have drawn about the necessity of fighting—fighting for their lives and the lives of their children.

This may be what socialists have been saying for years, but it is well with the space to give ordinary "you and me" people some room to talk in detail. The message is concrete, and powerful.

Moreover, every week I'm proud of the Militant. Kathleen Denay

Cincinnati, Ohio

From a veteran

I read Arnold Weisberger's review of Apocalypse Now, and the recent letter by Lin Norris
Nationalized industry & social needs

A reader asks:
Where I work the topic of nationalization, for example, of Chrysler or the oil companies, is increasingly discussed. An opponent of nationalization, which I frequently viral, is that it would probably not serve the interest of most Americans, because the workers in a particular nationalized industry be strongly inclined to try to take advantage of workers in other areas of the economy. According to this objection, instead of the oil bosses ripping us off, we would simply have the oil workers doing it. How would you handle this time?

Thomas Awtar
Lauson, Ohio

Dick Roberts replies:
The demand for nationalizing the energy trusts flows from the fact that the private-profit drive is at the root of the energy crisis. All of the decisions made by the oil companies resulting in the source of the profit is, however, and the prices they sell it for flow from the single consideration: where are the highest profits?

These profit increases are far higher than the increases in OPEC prices. They show that the oil companies raised final prices that are more than the percentage increase in profit. Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, and the other energy trusts are driven by their owner's demand for higher profits. Suppose the management of one of these firms dropped out of the competition. If they did that, they would rapidly lose their edge in national and international markets, they would lose their profits, and the stockholders probably would find the trust selling.

Thus it is not simply out of conspiratorial misfeasor that the managers raise prices whenever they get the chance. Competition between the trusts in this country, 

and with their foreign rivals—forces the managers of these monopolies to constantly scramble for the highest prices.

Moreover this is a ceaseless process. The higher the prices, the more capital accumulated, the greater the demand on that firm to gain even more profits. A 10 percent increase in the price of oil, for example, might be a couple of thousand dollars. A 10 percent increase in Exxon's profits is $400 million.

One reason for this profit increase rattle service stations across the United States and dozens of foreign nations. It shaves and shapes world politics.

The profit opportunity to raise prices so lasts, in other words, privately-owned monopoly had to do. A nationalized oil company would not have to.

By eliminating the profit drive and bringing the energy sector under one centralized management the need

raising prices has been eliminated.

For example, the nationalized energy could have to compete with all the oil now hidden in the books of the oil companies. I would know where the cheapest domestic and international 
reserves are; it would know the real production and distribution costs.

Is it really cheaper, for example, to ship oil to Texas refineries from Latin America, the Middle East, and even Alaska, than it would be for Texas to purchase the oil now flowing in abundance from Mexico? The Mexican govern-
ment wants to sell this oil.

One possibility imposes tremendous inefficiency and wastage on production and distribution. Look at the question of hoarding. Immense amounts of oil are being hoarded, to drive up prices and profits. This massive inventory itself wastes time and money.

All advertising by the oil companies is socially wasteful. A nationalized energy firm would be compelled to spend tens of millions of dollars on lies about its products. Thus a nationalized energy industry could save tremendous amounts of money that is now being wasted.

The workers in this industry would have no reason whatsoever to "take advantage of workers in other areas of the economy." They want a decent living standard; safe working conditions; and to remain free in all aspects of their lives, and so on. These aspirations—unlike the limitless drive of capital for more and more profits—in no way require ripping off anybody else.

Oil workers share with the rest of the working class an interest in abundant, low-cost, environmentally safe energy supplies. A nationalized energy industry could easily provide that as well as higher wages and better conditions for its workers.

In calling for workers to control production in the energy industry, we specifically mean decisions over hiring, discipline, safety, health, hours, speed of production, and so on. We are talking about the workers in this industry being in the best position to keep a close watch on management and help assure that all decisions are made in the openness and not subject to any private-profit interests.

We advocate placing management of the nationalized industry in the hands of a publicly elected board whose meetings, records, and actions are open to public scrutiny. Along with workers control of production, this step can put the working class in the strongest position to see that the nationalized energy industry is run in the best interest of society as a whole.

The letters column is an open forum for the viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please send in the form a statement that the views you wish to express. Where necessary they will be abbreviated. Please indicate your full name rather than your initials used rather than your full name.
Nicaragua meeting sets U.S. aid drive

‘Labor’s new meaning for Solidarity Forever’

By Nancy Cole

DETROIT—At the request of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, activists in the U.S. solidarity movement have agreed to immediately launch a drive to raise funds for workers in Nicaragua’s literacy campaign.

One of the legacies of a half century of bloody and greedy rule by the Somoza family is a nation that is 65 percent illiterate. The new government, led by the Sandinistas National Liberation Front (FSLN), has set out to teach 700,000 of its people to read and write.

Teaching teams are scheduled to be on the roads of Nicaragua beginning in March. The U.S. effort to aid the literacy drive was decided at a conference here November 17-18, sponsored by the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People.

Specifically, the effort in this country will focus on obtaining 270,000 yards of fabric. Berets and buttons and arm patches, with an already designed insignia, are also needed to complete the uniforms.

About 330 activists from across the country attended the solidarity conference and were treated to speeches by and dialogues with representatives of the FSLN and of the Government of National Reconstruction.

The FSLN is also urging support for two other long-term, but desperately needed, material aid campaigns—those for tools and medicine.

The conference decided that the Boston solidarity committee will coordinate the effort to send medicine and medical equipment to Nicaragua.

United Auto Workers International Representative Robert Lopez agreed to take responsibility for convening a trade union task force for the National Network, which will operate out of Detroit. The union subcommittee will build support in the labor movement for campaigns decided at the conference, with special emphasis on the drive to collect tools for Nicaragua’s reconstruction.

In addition, the conference set the week of February 21, the date when Nicaraguans will be commemorating the assassination of Augusto Cesar Sandino, as a national week of solidarity activity.

Future work important

The featured guest at the conference was Moises Hassan, one of the five junta members of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Praising the past work of the National Network, Hassan said, “the work it is doing now and will be doing in the future will be of even greater importance.”

Hassan reviewed some of the accomplishments of the new government, which has only been in existence since dictator Anastasio Somoza was ousted in July. These include returning the holdings of the Somoza clan to the people, including 60 percent of the country’s arable land, and nationalizing the mining, industry, and foreign trade.

He also pointed to the unions being organized by workers, the Sandinista Workers Federation (CTS), and by the peasants, the Association of Field Workers (ATC).

“Perhaps the greatest achievement,” he said, “is that the nation has been able to maintain at every moment the absolute trust and confidence of the Nicaraguan people.”

Yet the revolution faces serious problems, he told the conference, and “this is exactly what makes your solidarity work of such fundamental importance.”

Before Somoza fled Nicaragua, he bombed factories and shops, Hassan explained, solely to leave the country in ruins.

In addition, the war that brought liberation to the Nicaraguan people coincided with the planting period for grains, the cotton season for Nicaraguans, and for cotton, the country’s main export product.

“The sinister consequence of all this is hunger, unemployment, and disease,” Hassan said.

News blackout

But little news of this reaches people outside Nicaragua. “On the one hand, they try to hide what is happening” in Nicaragua, Hassan said. On the other, “when they do talk about Nicaragua, they paint a distorted picture” of the political situation there.

The only objective of such false reporting, Hassan said, is to discourage solidarity and aid for Nicaragua in its difficult path to reconstruction.

“I want to say,” Hassan declared to cheers and applause, “that the Nicaraguan revolution is not only a revolution of the Nicaraguan people, but a revolution of all the oppressed people of the world.”

One of the highlights of the conference here was a solidarity rally Saturday night. Detroit city council member Kenneth Cockrell and council president pro tem Maryanne Mahaffey both spoke.

Cockrell read a testimonial resolution passed unanimously by the city council the day before. It resolved in part that “the Detroit City Council . . . express its continuing support for the people of Nicaragua as they reconstruct their nation into one of freedom, justice, and peace; and that it make its own the demand of many concerned United States citizens to their federal government for granting generous, unconditional reconstruction aid to the people of Nicaragua.”

UAW International Representative Robert Lopez, who just returned from a trip to Nicaragua, told the rally about the newly formed Sandinista Workers Federation. “This union is being organized by the workers of Nicaragua, the workers themselves, from the bottom up,” he said.

“I sat in the central [federation] day after day and watched the groups of workers coming in—ten, fifteen, twenty at a time. The very first day that their place of work was again in operation, at the day’s end of work they marched to the Sandinista central to join their union.”

‘They will join us’

Lopez urged an effort to reach hundreds of thousands of rank-and-file workers in the United States with the truth about what is happening in Nicaragua. “If we reach them, they will join us” in the solidarity campaign, he said.

“We who sing ‘Solidarity Forever’ have got to put new meaning into the words of that song and join the struggle with our compañeros and compañeras in Nicaragua to reconstruct their country and to lay the foundation of a new and happy and better Nicaragua that could someday join our struggle for a better America.”

In the midst of the rally, National Network coordinator David Funkhouser rushed to the stage to announce that two representatives of the FSLN—Monica Baltano and Gilda Bolt—had just arrived.

As the two women marched down the aisle, one of them in the uniform of the Sandinista army, the crowd jumped to its feet, in the most excited of the rally’s many standing ovations.

“Our people know you are gathered here to help us,” Baltano told the audience.

A collection at the rally netted more than $1,300 for Nicaragua’s reconstruction.

At workshops the following day, Baltano suggested that the FSLN consider future tours of the United States by children from Nicaragua and workers from the Sandinista Workers Federation.

At the closing conference session, Baltano said she would take these ideas back to Nicaragua and communicate the needs of the U.S. solidarity movement.

“We recognize there is also a struggle going on here,” she said, “and that a victory for the people of Nicaragua will be a victory for the working class here as well.”

For information on the solidarity group in your area, contact the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People, 1322 Eighteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 223-2238.