GREENSBORO, N.C.—Students from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University lead February 2 demonstration against murder of five anti-Klan protesters last November.

By Andy Rose

GREENSBORO, N.C.—It was a chanting, stamping, singing, shouting victory march here February 2 as 7,000 antiracist protesters demonstrated against Ku Klux Klan violence.

They came together from every state in the South and from many parts of the East and Midwest to protest the brutal KKK-Nazi murder of five anti-Klan demonstrators, members of the Communist Workers Party, who were gunned down in Greensboro last November 3.

Also commemorating the student sit-ins here twenty years ago that helped launch the mass civil rights movement of the 1960s, the marchers cheered calls for new struggles in the 1980s to combat all forms of racism and oppression.

The turnout for this broadly sponsored action was an impressive victory.

A victory over the Klan, which didn't dare show its face on the streets of Greensboro, much less assault the demonstrators.

A victory over the cops, who had stood by and allowed the November 3 massacre but were forced to cooperate with the organizers of the February 2 march and to muzzle their Klan collaborators.

A victory over the state and city authorities, who had done everything they could in the weeks before the action to sabotage it, resorting to red-baiting and baseless warnings that violence would occur (see story on page 5).

Last but not least, the demonstration Continued on page 3
New Mexico prison rebellion

We are men. We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. . . .

What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed.


The Attica prison rebellion nine years ago exposed to millions of people the struggle for rights and dignity by the much abused victims of the American prison system.

Their words could be echoed today by the angry rebels at New Mexico State Penitentiary. Victims of overcrowding, brutality by guards, arbitrary and illegal restrictions on mail and visitation rights, denied adequate recreation, education, and medical facilities, the prisoners at New Mexico State finally said, enough! They rose up to air their legitimate grievances and press their legitimate demands.

What was the response of the capitalist media and of the government authorities?

The same as at Attica.

The media has filled the air with grisly stories of alleged savagery by the angered inmates, stories similar to the lies told about the Attica rebels. Some of the falsehoods spread about the New Mexico rebels have already been exposed (see story on back page) and more will be as time goes on.

The sensationalism, lies, and exaggerations of the capitalist media serve a function: to suppress the truth about the prisoners' grievances; to havitate people to think of prisoners as a subhuman species, to whom human justice should be denied; and to cover up for the daily brutality and violence inflicted on the prisoners by the agents of capitalist law and order.

The capitalist authorities and media can never tell the whole truth about prison rebellions or about the prisons because the prisons are a mirror of the capitalist society that they uphold.

The prisons express in sharpest form the degradation of man which is imposed by this irrational system, and the naked terror and violence that is used against those who refuse to put up with it, who rebel against it.

It is only when capitalism is eliminated, when it is replaced by a socialist society that aims to provide for human needs, that the brutal and degrading prison system can be eliminated.

Some get caught

It's the grease that moves the wheels of Congress, state legislatures, and other government agencies, and it comes in brown paper bags, envelopes, and briefcases.

It's pay-off money—tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars passed to Democratic and Republican representatives and senators, who then scurry off to do the bidding of the rich.

Big business—including organized crime—has always found this kind of lobbying to be virtually surefire.

But unfortunately for at least one U.S. Senator, seven members of Congress, the mayor of Camden, New Jersey, and assorted other public figures, it seems that cameras and tape recorders were rolling as these rites—sacred to most capitalist politicians—were being performed.

They were caught up in an FBI operation aimed at setting up a few bribe-taking politicians (mostly Democrats, so far) for public exposure and possible indictments.

The eager-handed politicians include certified "friends of labor" like Sen. Harrison Williams and Rep. Frank Thompson of New Jersey, and blatant reactionaries like Rep. John Murphy, known for his defense of the Somoza tyranny in Nicaragua.

Williams is said to have accepted an offer of mining stock in exchange for agreeing to help a firm get military contracts. And he is said to have boasted of the help he gave an Atlantic City gambling casino in avoiding conflicts with the law. His wife turns out to be an $18,000 a year "consultant" to the firm owning the casino.

Other representatives took tens of thousands in bribe money to help an "Arab sheik" avoid deportation proceedings. (Imagine what chance a real Arab or Mexican would have if they got into trouble with immigration.)

And the mayor of Camden (a member of the New Jersey state legislature) reportedly asked $400,000 as a bribe for his help in "purchasing Atlantic City land, building a casino, and operating the resulting business."

And that's only the surface of the garbage pile.

"Abscam"—for "Arab Scam," the name of the FBI's bribery investigation—has shown that American capitalist politicians haven't changed much since Watergate. Greed, corruption, and utter contempt for the rights and needs of ordinary people remain the rule at the top.

There's no indication that these legislators have to be bribed to vote to draft young people or break strikes. Those votes come straight from the heart. But on most other things, they apparently need a little incentive.

"Abscam" was an attempt to further popularize the stereotype of Arabs as oil-rich "billionaire sheiks," and as the source of corruption. (No right-thinking American businessman—an oil company executive, for instance—would think of buying a congressman, right?)

The accused representatives—and some of their colleagues who didn't get caught this time around—are now yelling about FBI entrapment.

Of course these legislators were silent when the FBI was using bribery, forgery, murder, and frame-ups to repress honest people who disagreed with the government. And they are pushing for a charter that will allow the FBI to commit more of the same. No, they have no moral basis for complaint.

Their squawks bring to mind the title of the old W.C. Fields movie—"You Can't Cheat an Honest Man."
...anti-Klan protest

Continued from front page

was a victory over North Carolina employers, who seek to use KKK terrorism and intimidation to keep Black and white workers divided and to block union organizing efforts.

"An Injury to one..."

The February 2 action dealt a blow to the myth that a Klan "resurgence" is sweeping the South. It gave expression to the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of working people—Black and white, in the South and nationwide—against racist violence and for equality.

Especially viewed together with the labor-sponsored action in Richmond, Virginia, two weeks earlier—at which 5,000 people marched for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment—the Greensboro demonstration provides evidence of the new mood of struggle among working people in the South. In directing their murderous gunfire last November against the Communist Workers Party, the Klan and its backers clearly hoped that, broader civil rights and labor forces would not rally to the defense of the relatively small and isolated group of racists.

But this divide-and-conquer gambit failed. More than 300 organizations and prominent individuals endorsed the February 2 Mobilization Committee, the coalition that organized the protest.

The united action by such authoritative civil rights groups as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), some chapters of the NAACP, some union locals, and religious figures, together with students and leftist political groups, showed how deep is the conviction that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

The successful action adds substanti- fully to the political pressure on local authorities to seriously prosecute the fourteen Klansmen indicted for the November 3 slayings. It gave the lie to cop and news media slanders that is sweeping the South.

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"We say no, we say no, we say no to racism!"

"Hey, hey, ho—KKK has got to go!

Signs of the times

A big contingent of Black students come from North Carolina Central University with their own hand-lettered signs:

"What about our future—Stop racist terrorism!"

"Students of NCUC—1960s—We are not afraid!"

"1960 sit-ins—1960 a new movement!"

Several busloads came from the Tidewater area of Virginia, bringing their own huge banner and percussion instruments that kept up a lively beat.

Norfolk's Black Vanguard Resource Center had printed signs: "Smash the Klan! Now!"

Others highlighted the many issues of concern to demonstrators. There were signs against nuclear power and the draft, for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and for gay rights.

Matilde Zimmermann, vice-president of the Communist Workers Party, headed a contingent of supporters on the march.

Other political groups participating in the march included the Communist Workers Party, Workers World Party, Southern Conference Education Fund, Revolutionary Communist Party, Revolutionary Socialist League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Anti-Racist Organizing Committee, and supporters of the Guardian newspaper.

Reclaim civil rights gains

At the concluding rally at Greensboro Coliseum, speakers again stressed the need for renewed civil rights struggles.

"We are here because we must reclaim the ground that we took in the civil rights struggles of the '50s and '60s," said Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a national SCLC leader from Cincinnati. "We must reclaim the ground that we took in the civil rights struggles of the '50s and '60s," said Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a national SCLC leader from Cincinnati. "We must reclaim the ground that we took in the civil rights struggles of the '50s and '60s," said Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a national SCLC leader from Cincinnati. He condemned the role of the police in allowing the November 3 massacre of anti-Klan protestors in Greensboro and warned the cops to heed the lesson of earlier civil rights battles in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma. "You..."
A&T: '60s sit-ins inspire '80 marchers

By August Nimtz
GREENSBORO, N.C.—On February 1, 1960, four Black students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College sat down at the Woolworth's lunch counter to protest segregation. Their action helped spur the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Twenty years later, the students and their struggle were showcased in a week-long series of activities here.

The high point came on Friday, February 3, when the four former students—Joseph McNeil, David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Jibreel Khazan (who had been a junior, Jr.)—returned to Greensboro.

In the morning they were guests for breakfast at the Woolworth's where they sat-in. Later in the day, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce presented awards to the four and the city unveiled and dedicated a highway marker and plaque to mark the site of the 1960 sit-in.

The student governments at predominantly Black A & T State University and Bennett College, an all-women's institution, also scheduled a number of activities. Those were afternoon addresses by former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and Rev. Ben Chavis.

The welcome met that the city administration and business interests liked. They opened up the doors to a better life for all the people, especially poor and working-class white people.

"We are here today and we are not going to take a stand," said Ben Chavis, who spoke at a late afternoon convention, homeland the political importance of the "anti-Klan protest.

"The resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan," Chavis said, "is only the tip of the iceberg." The Klan represents the more entrenched and less visible racist forces that run America, he asserted.

"We are here today to fight for the liberation of the Black masses of the South, especially at A & T and Bennett, where the Klan represents the most powerful force in the nation."

Chavis thanked those present for their support, including the students and the residents of Greensboro, and urged an alliance between labor and the civil rights movement.

"We are going to draft. We are going to march. We are going to keep on marching. We are going to tear this system down!"

The rally also heard from Philip Thompson of the Communist Workers Party, who said that the new Ku Klux Klan are fighting not only for Black but also for the rights of labor.

"The Klan is the enemy not only of Blacks but of working-class whites and the labor movement," Thompson said.

Klan in 3-piece suits

"The Klan's efforts to mobilize new forces toward union organization in the South, in which Black and white workers are fighting side by side against labor-busting bosses and "right-to-work" laws," the leaders of the rally said.

"A number of speakers pointed out that the Klan is the enemy not only of Blacks but of working-class whites and the labor movement. As Skip Robinson, leader of the United Nations of North Carolina, put it, "The Klan is the enemy not only of the South, but of this country, because it wears the white robe" whereas the "real threat" comes from the "white workers.""

"We are here today to fight for the liberation of the Black masses of the South, especially at A & T and Bennett, where the Klan represents the most powerful force in the nation."

The march also reflected the impact of the new movement toward union organization in the South, in which Black and white workers are fighting side by side against labor-busting bosses and "right-to-work" laws.

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Gov't disruption plan
How sabotage of Feb. 2 action was foiled

By Andy Rose
GREENSBORO, N.C.—Rev. Ben Chavis drew cheers from the anti-Klan rally here February 2 when he declared, "Despite how the media have tried to destroy this occasion, despite how the law enforcement has tried to prevent this event, despite all the adversities—we made today!"

This victory for the right to protest was won over concerted opposition from state and local government officials, and capitalist news media, who spared no effort to sabotage the action.

The coalition organizing the demonstration applied for a parade permit and, for use of Greensboro Coliseum, the only suitable rally site, a full month in advance. But authorities gave them a lengthy runaround.

With the aid of attorneys from the Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based group associated with attorney William Kunstler, the anti-Klan coalition successfully went to court to win its right to obtain a march permit.

But using a loophole in the court ruling, the city next insisted that the coalition raise a $6,500 rental fee for the coliseum and find $10,000 worth of insurance. The money was raised and the permit finally granted—but not until the day before the march. These stalling tactics were designed to put a question mark over whether the march would be allowed to proceed legally.

This in turn paved the way for the violent activities of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) began interrogating student leaders across North Carolina in addition to demanding information about those who might attend the anti-Klan action, the SBI agents "warned" that Communist Workers Party members would be armed and that violence would result.

Buses blocked

This almost fell to the SBI harassment. It introduced sworn statements by student leaders about the SBI's intimidation, along with evidence that the SBI was trying to block local coalitions from renting busses in the Durham area and in Norfolk, Virginia.

At the same time, the local press kept alive the stereotype of propaganda branding the march as the work of "outsiders," "Communists," and vandals of local groups.

To further whip up a crisis atmosphere, North Carolina Gov. James Hunt called up the National Guard; Greensboro Mayor E.S. Melvin proclaimed a limited State of Emergency on the eve of the march. These attempts to wreck the march were part of the ongoing government cover-up of police complicity with the November 3 massacre of five CWP members in a Greensboro demonstration. The cops, who had told the KKK and Nazi gunmen where to find the protesters, disappeared from the scene shortly before the racist killers opened fire.

Fourteen racists were indicted for the slayings, including several for first-degree murder. But police and news media have persistently tried to shift responsibility for the violence onto the victims, suggesting that the "CWP" "provoked" the Klan. The Klan fired the first shots. Three CWP members were arrested and charged up as triggers of initiating to riot and insurrection.

Police intimidation was successful in forming a consensus of an anti-Klan demonstration and a memorial service planned last November to protest the killings. The anti-Klan demonstration and violence-baiting were unleashed against the February 2 action.

Outrage at the November 3 killings and the bloodshed in opposition to the Klan in North Carolina and nationwide were the crucial factors that made it possible for the February 2 Coalition to overcome the sabotage campaign. Support for February 2 grew from student groups, established civil rights forces, union locals, and prominent individuals, making it more and more difficult for city officials to openly violate the rights of anti-Klan demonstrators.

As the city's official backing for the commemorations of the 1960 sit-ins showed, Greensboro officials have no illusion they can simply return to brute force suppression of civil rights activities. To the contrary, they seek an image of being enlightened supporters of equality and the right to peacefully protest.

Persistent explanation by the February 2 Mobilization Committee that the march would be peaceful and nonviolent added to pressure on the city. Coalition supporters from across the country sent telegrams to the mayor demanding that the city stop its threats against the demonstration.

Central to the government's disruption plan was to single out the CWP as "violent" and thus use as a provocation at the march, important steps taken to shift public attention away from the Klan massacre and the city's stifling of democratic rights.

At the same time, the coalition's move against the CWP hampered efforts to convince the CWP, through discussion, to make a public statement of their position.

Fortunately, in the final days before the march, important steps were taken to overcome these divisions.

In Greensboro Daily News, CWP leader Nelson Johnson was quoted reaffirming the group's intention to make sure the demonstration was nonviolent. "The CWP has no interest in committing violence," Johnson said. "Instead the CWP is the target of violence."

The Daily News continued, "Johnson said the party is committed to the right of armed self-defense that does not imply the CWP necessarily will march with weapons.

The same day's papers quoted Lucius Walker, the chief organizer of February 2, saying the CWP was welcome at the demonstration and that he did not believe they would come armed.

The night before the march, CWP leaders were introduced immediately after a coalition news briefing to state their position on the peaceful, legal, and nonviolent nature of the march.

"If there is any violence or disruption it will come from the city, state, or Klan," declared Nelson Johnson. "Everyone else is coming for a peaceful, legal protest."

The success of the united march the next day dealt a big blow to the cop and media slanders.

The widows of the slain CWP members were introduced at the coliseum rally and a CWP leader was among the speakers.

A powerful appeal for unity was made by Ben Chavis, who dedicated his remarks to the memory of Jim Waller, Bill Sampson, Sandy Smith, Cesar Cauce, and Mike Nathan. "It matters not what their political ideologies were," Chavis said to thunderous applause. "It matters that they have given their lives for everybody in this building, for everybody in Greensboro, for everybody in the world today.

Chavis also introduced Paul Manzella, who was wounded in the attack, and urged solidarity with Nelson Johnson, who faces serious frame-up charges.

Chavis called on "brothers and sisters, whether they're in the CWP or SCLC [Southern Christian Leadership Conference] or ICOF [Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization] or Urban League or Interfaith Council of Christ] or regardless of what organization you're in . . . we'd better come together and stand up against racism."

The crowd roared its approval.

They knew better than anyone that this expression of the unity of antiracist forces to defend victims of Klan violence was, as Chavis declared, "a victory for people who want freedom, for all the people who want justice."

Defend N.C. frame-up victims!

Three anti-Klan protesters face frame-up charges of inciting to riot and resisting arrest in the wake of the KKK-Nazi murder of five demonstrators last November in Greensboro. The trials of Nelson Johnson, a leader of the Communist Workers Party, and demonstrators Willena Cannon and Randi Manzella are set for February 20.

The charges against them are part of the government's attempt to turn the victims of the November massacre into the criminals and to whitewash the crimes of the Klan.

Telegrams demanding that all charges against the three be dropped should be sent to Mayor E.S. Melvin, 210 N. Greene, Greensboro, North Carolina 27402.

February 2 march brought together groups and individuals of many different political viewpoints in united action against racist violence.
Antidraft protests spread across country

By Suzanne Haig

Peers against Carter's call to reinstate draft registration continue to mount across the country. In addition, planning meetings for future actions are spreading on the campuses.

The University of California Student Body of Berkeley, which includes student presidents of all nine UC campuses, has called a statewide day of "protest and education" February 11 to consist of teach-ins, rallies, and marches on campuses throughout the state.

The call was announced at a press conference February 4 by Jerry Kurkland, vice president of the student government at UCLA.

Also present at the press conference were representatives of Students for Economic Democracy and Tom Hayden, a national leader of the Black United Front, who said there should be no war in the Persian Gulf for big oil.

Building is already under way at the nine UC campuses and, in addition to a UC Berkeley rally, actions have sprouted in San Jose State and Central and to San Francisco campus.

At the UC San Diego campus, 100 people met February 4 to map out plans for their action. The student government has offered all its facilities to the protesters and a tentative plan to fan out with leaflets to the community, factories, and work places in the area.

In addition, 100,000 leaflets have been printed to build a candlelight vigil, February 8 in front of the Beverly Hills Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

Protesters will be out in the street demanding "No draft," "No nuclear weapons," while Rosalyn Carter addresses a $1000-a-plate fund-raising dinner inside. (CARD) held a planning meeting to organize a rally at Wayne State for February 7. That rally will be followed by another planning meeting.

Carter addresses a 1000 a plate Carter Against Registration and the Draft and Facism .

A group of seniors at Roosevelt High School in East Los Angeles had a discussion on world affairs for "We just don't trust the government anymore." Herbert Daughtry, a member of the Black United Front, who said the draft should be reinstated, was one of the students who attended.

When their teacher, Howard Shorr, asked whether they believed the draft should be reinstated, the answer was: "No way. Joe." "Joe, don't you want a draft?" asked Shorr.

"I don't want to die," said most.

"I was brought up with ideals, tradition?" Shorr asked.

"It's just money and all that they want is to be rid of us. They just use national honor as a front ."

"Why don't you want a draft?" asked Shorr.

"Hell no, we won't go," said most.

"One, I'm going to be in the army," another student named Zumaya.

A group of seniors at Roosevelt High School in East Los Angeles had a discussion on world affairs for weeks.

Cleveland socialists report a similar response.

People there didn't buy the government's lie about the Middle East," Boorer said. "Many nodded in agreement as speakers pointed to blows against imperialism profiting in Iran and Nicaragua—and not the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan—but the main thing which stepped up U.S. war threats."

Socialists sold about forty YSs and Militants at the meeting.

Opposition to the draft is a strong sentiment on the job also. Sales, especially to young people in the plants, are "definitely much more."

"Sparrs Point steelworker Norton Sandler reports from Baltimore.

"We've sold five subscriptions in just the last three days. Young Socialist sales are also going well."

This is true for women as well as men, according to another Sparrs Point worker. "I sold three Militants in the locker room to women who were talking about how they wouldn't go, either," she said. We just don't trust the government anymore."

By Peter Seidman

"We sold subscriptions of the Young Socialist and seventy Militants in less than an hour," Socialist Workers Party organizer Ray Bohrer reported after one thousand Bostonians demonstrated against the draft February 1.

"We had a great weather day," Bohrer explained. "It was incredibly easy to sell. Almost everything on the demonstration was either a hit or working youth." Chase explained.

"I was eager to learn about Afghanistan and Iran. They just grabbed up the papers." Bohrer told the Telegram and the Young Socialist Alliance from coast to coast report similar results.

Cleveland socialists want to reinstitute the draft have provoked both anger and "real hunger for the information and ideas in the Militant and YS."

"That's how Danny Booher described the mood at an antia war forum of nearly 500 people held February 4 at Indiana University in Bloomington.

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George Chalmers, a member of United Steelworkers Local 4381 at Cleveland Crane, sold three subscriptions so far this week. Altogether, socialists at this plant sold nearly fifteen subs in the last three weeks alone.

And the young workers buying the Militant and Young Socialist at Cleveland Crane want to go into action. One who just bought a subscription is planning to join a newly formed working-class group at Cleveland State University.

A group of nineteen- and twenty-year-olds there is putting together a resolution against the draft to present at the next union meeting. They're also working on getting it through the union for signatures. "This is the discussion here," one of them reports.

Antidraft sentiment among working-class youth in the United States is a key obstacle to Carter's threats against revolutionary struggles in Afghanistan, Iran, and Nicaragua.

While building these actions, socialists can help educate a new layer of antia war fighters by paying careful attention to stepped-up sales of the Militant, Persecution Mundial, and the Young Socialist.
By Fred Feldman

Carter's announcement in his State of the Union address would not go unchallenged. Despite the president's claim that the major issue facing the country was that of education, most Americans-and young people in particular—were more concerned with the national interest, rather than a Vietnam.

"The issue is not one of money, but money, to make a profit. They don't take it for granted that Carter is right. They are eager to hear both sides."

Some of these feelings were given voice by Richard Cohen in a column in the January 31 Washington Post. "Once I was a gullible kid, young and sure that we had to stop them—the cops and the soldiers. I believed them. I believed it even after others were in the streets demonstrating."

Cohen continued, "Maybe Afghanistan is important. I somehow think it is."

By Fred Feldman

"But all a lot of us want a debate. We want people to hear the issues. We don't want to be rushed. I got rushed once, and a lot of men died."

By Brenda Brdar

The Chicago Teachers Union is estrogenized. A membership voted February 3 to make its strike for the first time in 15 years. The United States News & World Report has reported that 68 percent of those polled favored the draft. The only significant exception is young people, those 18 to 24 years of age, added an AP dispatch. "They opposed the draft by a margin of 40 to 55."

Other polls claimed a majority of draft-age youth supported reinstatement of the draft. But the San Francisco Chronicle reported January 31 that poll of Northern California voters found favor for the draft.

It is hardly surprising that many working people give some credence to Carter's claims, especially given the heavy union effort for his reelection preparations by the media and Republican and Democratic politicians.

But even many of those who are initially inclined to support the president are plagued by doubts. They don't trust his motives or environment. "They want to know whether it is the Soviet Union that threatens peace, or the Carter administration's determination to surround the USSR on all sides with deadly nuclear weapons."

And they want to discuss the price they are being asked to pay. But a debate is the last thing Carter wants. He knows that the massive American people have a right to know it.

On with the debate!

Chicago teachers strike against cutbacks

By Brenda Brdar

CHICAGO—"On strike for our contract" reads the slogan on the Chicago Teachers Union picket signs. By a margin of three to one the union membership voted February 3 to make its week-long walkout an official strike until three conditions are met.

One, that the board of education must rehire 883 of the 1,675 teachers and aides it recently cut. Two, the board must provide a full-thirty-nine-week school year as agreed to in the union contract. Three, the board cannot reopen negotiations on the union contract until it expires in September 1981.

The vote followed a membership meeting of more than 10,000 CTU members.

Robert Healey, president of the CTU, explained what was at stake. The board of education wanted to make the issue of rehiring the 883 newly cut teachers and aides unless the CTU agreed to a new two-year contract, which included an 8.5 percent raise this year and 8 percent next year.

"We're going to go to court. Give up a week's vacation pay. Give up family hospitalization. Take a straight 40-hour week and the salary "Shout to the CTU!" "No No!" went up from the audience as Healey listed these concessions demanded by the board.

Healey went on to denounce the bankers as sharks. "I was wrong to call them the banksters. We're all banksters. They encroach on your community and keep up bickieh. Their purpose is not to see that kids get an education, but to make money, to make a profit.

Brenda Brdar is a striking teacher and a member of the Chicago Teachers Union.
Nicaraguan leaders to speak in U.S.

By Nancy Cole

Socialist candidates on visit to Nicaragua

On February 6 Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann left for Nicaragua on a fact-finding tour. Accompanying her were eight other SWP candidates for U.S. Senate: George Johnson from California, Lee Arta from Illinois, Victor Niez from New York, and John Powers from Ohio.

Bill Arth, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Michigan, and Sharon Grant, SWP congressional candidate from Virginia, are also in the delegation, as is Muhammad Oliver, the socialist candidate for Birmingham, Alabama, and Mayor Byron Nelson.

Matilde Zimmermann, SWP vice presidential candidate, touring Nicaragua with delegation

Below is the statement released by Zimmermann as the delegation departed for Nicaragua.

Today, I and eight other socialists will leave for Nicaragua, to begin a fact-finding tour. The delegation includes steelworkers, auto workers, and member of the SWP.

We will have the opportunity to visit with members of the Nicaraguan trade union movement, youth, and women's organizations. We will be able to see the work that the workers of Nicaragua are doing, under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which is carrying on the struggles of its people.

We are going as supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution. When we return, we will use our experiences to report to American working people the truth about what is happening in Nicaragua.

American workers have a stake in the successful reconstruction of Nicaragua. We will report to American working people the truth about what is happening in Nicaragua.

The solidarity tour will begin on February 7, with Zimmermann and other SWP candidates for president and vice president. They will visit Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, and other cities, including Matagalpa, Granada, and Leon.

The tour is planned to last for two weeks, during which time the delegation will meet with Nicaraguan workers, farmers, and students. They will also visit schools, health clinics, and other community centers.

The goal of the tour is to educate American workers about the social and economic changes that have taken place in Nicaragua since the revolution of 1979.

The delegation will return to the United States on February 20, where they will hold a press conference to report on their findings.

The tour is organized by the SWP and supported by Solidarity with Nicaragua, a coalition of trade union and community groups.

The delegation will be accompanied by a small group of Nicaraguan workers and students, who will assist with the translation and interpretation.

The tour is open to the public, and meetings will be held in various cities in the United States to discuss the results of the tour.

The Solidarity with Nicaragua tour is part of a larger movement to support the Nicaraguan revolution and its struggle for social and economic justice.

Matilde Zimmermann, SWP vice presidential candidate, touring Nicaragua with delegation
By Betsy Farley and Robert Miller

TARRYTOWN, N.Y.—January 17 was not just a regular work night for second-shift auto workers at the General Motors assembly plant here. That night Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States, broke the silence of the assembly line.

Pulley visited the Tarrytown plant. He was organized and publicized by a group of campaign supporters inside the plant, so workers were expecting him that night. Whether Pulley would be allowed in the plant or not was a big topic of conversation as the shift began.

Then at 7:00 p.m., Andrew Pulley made his way down the stairs into the chassis department. From the motor line all the way to the high line, heads turned as workers said to each other, "That's Pulley," and "There's Pulley." Many recognized Pulley from his picture on the leaflet. Some waved as they passed by—others raised clenched fists.

"Hi, I'm running for president of the United States," Pulley said, introducing himself. "I'm one of the women workers on the chassis final line. 'Dang right, I'm running for president'—that's the spirit.

As they shook hands, she asked about his chances of winning. Pulley explained, "I'm running because we, the working people, produce everything, and we should run the country, not a handful of super-rich. Our unions have to stop supporting our enemies, the Democratic and Republicans, and build our own political party." "Good," she answered as she went back to her job. "We need a brother to do this kind of thing like you." From 7:00 p.m. to the 9:00 p.m. lunch break, Pulley toured up and down several stories, meeting workers in break rooms and talking to hundreds of workers in the chassis, trim, and cushion departments. He was accompanied by Barbara Williams-Dixon and Robert Miller, SWP congressional candidates in New York's Nineteenth and Seventeenth districts, and Masco Dixon, chairperson of the SWP national campaign committee. Miller works at the Ford Metuchen plant in Edison, N.J. Williams-Dixon is participating in the Socialist Workers Party's tour of the General Motors Tarrytown plant.

As the socialist campaigners entered the plant, they got a sense of the mood. "I've heard a lot about you, and I want to shake your hand," one worker said. They chatted for a few minutes, and before the worker had to run back to catch up with his job, as it moved down the line, Pulley said, "Check out our meeting tonight after work.

"I'll be there," the worker replied. Another worker shook Pulley's hand, explaining he had wanted to meet him for a long time. "1 read your pamphlet. How I Became a Socialist, and being from California, I know about the things you talk about like picking cotton." This worker subscribes to the Militant and helped get the word out about Pulley's visit to Tarrytown.

The high point of the evening was a meeting after work at 9:00 p.m. at a nearby bar. The meeting grew out of the mass of workers demanding that Iranian and Afghan workers be freed from the hostages and try to blackmail us too?" Pulley responded that it is the banks, corporations, and bloodsucking landlords that Iranian and Afghan workers are fighting, not American workers. This prompted a discussion of who the shah really is, his crimes against the Iranian people, and the U.S. government's military role in placing him in power in the first place.

Most of the discussion centered on the question of how to make change in American society and the role of the unions. One worker who had helped publicize the meeting asked, "I agree with all your proposals to change things, but how can we do it?"

Other participants pitched in to answer his question, pointing to the need to get involved in struggles going on right now, like the fight to ratify the ERA, and the Greensboro demonstration against Klan violence. Pulley added that the best way to do that is to join the Young Socialist Alliance or the Socialist Workers Party.

After the meeting, a twenty-five-year-old black worker who supports the SWP campaign said he was impressed in joining the YSA.

"When I first started working at GM I thought you socialists had a lot of good ideas," he explained, "but I didn't have the hope that you could really do anything to make any change. I agreed with you, but I saw GM as a big powerful monster. But over the past nine months I've seen people's attitudes change, and I've seen workers begin to stand up for each other.

"I still don't know if we can do anything to make those changes, but I can see the hope, and that's why I decided to join."

Back in the plant now it's clear the Pulley tour made an impact. Workers ask campaign supporters more often now how Pulley is doing, and some who had never bought the Militant before have begun reading it to keep up with Pulley's answers to the Carter administration's war drive. Some have been following the progress of the SWP ballot drive in North Carolina. Several workers who didn't get a chance to meet Pulley heard about his visit and have approached campaign supporters to find out more about the socialist campaign.

The other worker remarked after Pulley was gone that this was the most exciting thing to happen to the twenty-seven years he had worked in the plant. "Nothing like this has ever happened before," he said. "It's a good thing you young people are here to stir things up."
Partisan of Cuba dialogue switches sides

By Harry Ring

In a sudden about-face, a leading figure in the normalization of relations with Cuba has launched a scurrilous smear attack on the movement. He is one of its participants: Cuban "spies." The totally unsubstantiated and patently absurd charges were levied by Rev. Manuel Espinosa, a Miami-area minister who had been an early supporter of the Committee of 75 that has developed between the Cuban government and the Cuban community abroad. Espinosa's attack on the Committee of 75, which initiated the dialogue, coincides with a step-up in government-sponsored terrorist attacks against counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles. It fits in with moves by the Carter administration to whip up new hostility toward Cuba and to thwart the developing friendship-real or pretended-is also a major threat against our candidates," he warned.

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The Crisis of Imperialist Domination
Theunion title are also an abbreviation for the
term I LOVE AMERICA. As a result, the ILA has consistently supported through collective action the consensus of expression by indi­
vidual members as occurred recently in the union suspension in handling Russian ships and Russian cargoes in ILA ports.

The ILA boycott was not voted on, debated, or discussed in a democratic way by the union membership. It was decided by the “expression of individual members”—as the advertisement politely calls the top bureau­
crats. An open debate among ILA members might have turned up quite a few who don’t
have the same idea of patriotism as Scotto, Gleason, and the waterfront employers.

The State Department announced January 10 that “we hope foreign policy decisions will
be left to the chief executive and his branch of government and not be made outside of it.”
The New York Times complained in a January 14 editorial about “dockworkers apply[ing] their own foreign policy to foreign cargoes… It is intolerable for foreign policy to be thus mortgaged to a strategically
poled trade union.”

This government supported shipping and stevedore companies in court actions that forced ILA officials to allow some grain cargoes for Russia to be loaded.

The ILA bureaucracy’s boycotts don’t do ILA members a bit of good. Scotto and Gleason are just playing a part in Carter’s attempt to soften up working people for new Vietnam. The price for union members is steep.

Carter presented part of the bill in his State of the Union speech. It included draft registra­
tion to prepare the way for rippings young workers, and the children of workers, out of their homes, jobs, and schools, and sending them off to war.

It included “realistic” increases in the price of gasoline and heating oil. It included inflation eating away at our living standards, and wage ceilings to make sure we don’t catch up.

The boycott is Scotto’s and Gleason’s way of strangling union members onto the wrong side in Iran, Afghanistan, and other places where workers are challenging the interests of the ruling rich.

No doubt Gleason and Scotto feel a certain kinship with the dope pushers and loan sharks who head up the counterrevolutionary gangs in Afghanistan.

But dockworkers, along with the large majority of other workers in the United States, have a lot more in common with the Afghans who are fighting this scum with Soviet help.

Despite the vast differences between the two countries, American workers share similar aspirations with the Afghan masses who are fighting for better pay, medical care, decent housing, the right to an education, more rights for women, and the right to till the soil without paying exorbitant rent to a landlord.

Gleason’s and Scotto’s opposition to the Afghan people’s struggle is an extension of their cozy and lucrative relationship with the waterfront bosses against the interests of dockworkers.

Why then the squawks from the government and a ruling-class mouthpiece like the New York Times?

Because times are changing. The rulers know that if American working people get the idea that they should make their own foreign policy, the results are not likely to bear much resemblance to the foreign policy of Gleason and Scotto.

The rulers are afraid that some workers would rather boycott Chile and South Africa than the Soviet Union and Iran. They are afraid that some may see their unions as opposing economic blockades against Cuba, Vietnam, or Kampuchea (Cambodia).

They are afraid workers will want unions to take action against the draft and other at­
tempts to make us pay for Carter’s war prepa­
rations.

What they really fear was signaled by their reaction when Black leaders began to hold discussions with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization and criticized Wash­
ington’s pro-Israeli policy. The cry went up, “Blacks should keep their noses out of for­

gion policy”—just what the Times says today about unions.

There was a time when dockworkers did begin to carry out a foreign policy in the interests of working people, rather than those of the employers.

In 1919, for instance, the Seattle local of the ILA boycotted military shipments to reaction­
arian and U.S. army units that were seeking to overturn the Russian revolution. Opposition of working people to this war move led to riots in the United States, conferences organized by the ILA, and the formation of an independent labor political party. Such a party, based on the unions, would be to the real concerns of working people and force these issues into the center of the campaign.

A labor party could voice the opposition of millions of working people to a new draft and new war moves.

A labor party could bring together the unemployed, women workers, working farmers, and other potential allies of the union movement in a common fight against the government’s austerity drive.

A labor party could call for a boycott of the war in Afghanistan, instead of helping big busi­
ness try to whip up hatred among American workers for their struggling brothers and sisters in other lands.

This perspective—of independent labor political action in the interests of all the oppressed and exploited—will be advanced in the 1980 elections by Pulley, Zimmerman, and SWP candidates across the country. They deserve the support of all who want to see labor’s power used effectively in the fight against capitalist austerity and imperialist war.
The Crisis of Imperialist Domination

By Doug Jenness

The new crisis of imperialist domination, which was ushered in by the defeat of the U.S. rulers in Vietnam, has deepened considerably in the past year.

Four developments indicate the scope of the change:

Four victories

First, the Vietnamese government moved about 200,000 troops into Kampuchea (Cambodia) a year ago to help overturn the hated Pol Pot regime. Pol Pot was linked to the Thai military dictatorship and Peking in a campaign of military pressure against Vietnam that was being orchestrated by Washington.

The Vietnamese then successfully beat back Peking's invasion, which was designed to force them to pull out of Kampuchea. And the social transformation in neighboring Laos deepened.

Second was the overthrow of the shah of Iran following a year-long series of huge mobilizations by the tolling masses. Now, the confrontation with Washington over the occupation of the U.S. embassy has deepened anti-imperialist consciousness and mobilization.

Third, the Somoza dictatorship was toppled by a popular insurrection and civil war. A workers and farmers government has been established in Nicaragua, opening up the prospect of establishing a second workers state in our hemisphere.

Fourth was the use of Soviet combat troops to block an imperialist-inspired counterrevolution in Afghanistan. This was the first Soviet military move into a capitalist country since just after World War II.

The setting for these events was the struggle of tens of millions of oppressed workers, peasants, and other toilers advancing their interests against imperialism.

The imperialist response

What was the response of the imperialists, the U.S. imperialists above all?

The American ruling class has assembled the greatest military force the world has ever seen. It has the most technologically advanced weaponry ever devised.

But Washington calculated that the political costs were too great, or the chances of success too low, to use this formidable power—or even any important part of it—against the four biggest anti-imperialist offensives of the last year.

Fifteen years ago, in 1965, Washington quickly sent 35,000 marines into the Dominican Republic to crush a revolt. This was during a major escalation of the aggression in Vietnam.

But in 1979, when workers and farmers government emerged in Nicaragua, and the U.S. rulers found it politically impossible to send a single combat soldier to stop it.

Ten years ago, in 1970, when Washington still had 40,000 troops in Vietnam, Nixon launched the invasion of Kampuchea and carried out saturation bombing of Kampuchea and Laos.

But in 1979, when Vietnam sent troops into Kampuchea and when CIA-organized mercenary armies were receiving decisive blows in Laos, Carter was reduced to siphoning aid through

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Thailand and instigating the Chinese invasion of Vietnam, a move that ran aground in seventeen days.

(As one Western diplomat, quoted in the January 5 New York Times, put it, Chinese officials "now recognize" that the invasion "was a disaster.")

Five years ago, only a few weeks after the U.S. had been driven out of Indochina, Kampuchean captured the U.S. ship Mayaguez in their waters. Washington's response, in total disregard for the lives of the American crew, was to strafe the port where the ship had docked and send in the marines. Forty Americans died.

But in Iran today, the Carter administration figures the political costs of sending in a raiding party would be unacceptable high, since it would result in the death of many hostages and a world outcry against U.S. imperialism.

So we have to write new lyrics for the marine corps hymn: From the halls of Montezuma, where mass pressure forced the Lopez Portillo government to prevent the shah's return to Mexico; to the shores of Tripoli, in Libya, where hundres of demonstrators ransacked the U.S. embassy last month; the U.S. marines have not been able to fight the employers' battles.

The inability to use its great military power has created the biggest crisis for American imperialism since World War II. There are reams of articles by bourgeois journalists and politicians bemoaning this as an "age of vulnerability," and describing U.S. capitalism as "Gulliver among the Lilliputians." And they are not simplistic about reversing the situation.

The Wall Street Journal wrote a New Year's Eve balance sheet called "Clouds of Debacle?" The article said: "As the decade turns, the nagging fear persists that for all their agonies the 1970s were the good old days. As we enter the 1980s, the clouds of debacle seem to be gathering...."

During the 1970s, the article asserts, "seven nations—South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Angola, Ethiopia, South Yemen and Afghanistan—joined the Soviet camp thanks to the force of arms." They mean that these seven countries went far down the road of challenging imperialist domination. "Politically," they go on, "the influence of the United States has declined to the point where we can be humiliated without end by an ayatollah." (December 31, 1979.)

This crisis of imperialist domination is the central feature of world politics today.

Oppressor and Oppressed Nations

"The characteristic feature of imperialism," Lenin explained to the Comintern in 1920, "consists in the whole world, as we now see, being divided into a large number of oppressed nations and an insignificant number of oppressor nations, the latter possessing colossal wealth and powerful armed forces." (Collected Works, Vol. 31, page 240.)

The conflict between oppressor and oppressed nations has its own dynamic that is not identical with but is part of the overall class struggle. This is what's behind the descriptions commonly used today, such as the North-South conflict, developing and developed nations, the rich and poor, the haves and have-nots, the third world.

Asida from the workers states, the world today is divided into twenty-one imperialist nations, only a minority of which have substantial economic power and only one of which really has world-strategic military power; and more than 120 oppressed nations. The vast majority of the world's population—about three billion human beings—live in the oppressed nations. The big majority in the oppressor nations are white; most peoples of the oppressed nations are non-white.

Regardless of size, regardless of formal status as colony or independent state; regardless of the nature of the regime, the level of economic development, or possession of oil resources; all of these countries—from Argentina to Puerto Rico, from South Korea to Saudi Arabia—have one thing in common: they are oppressed by imperialism.

Imperialism depends on its control over these nations in order to:

1) Export capital and exploit cheap labor to reap super-profits;
2) Buy raw materials at monopoly-priced rigged and at unequal exchange rates;
3) Have sources for essential raw materials.

Imperialism's dependence and vulnerability are greatest in the last area. All the imperialist countries have become increasingly dependent on imports of raw materials from the semicolonial
Debt slavery

Not only are the colonies and semicolonies oppressed as nations, they are exploited as well. By requiring the semicolonial countries to pay stiff interest on the loans they need, the imperialists milk these countries of billions of dollars each year. Thus the oppressed nation is exploited in its entirety, and all of its classes are plundered. The debt is jumping at an alarming rate: from $74 billion in 1970 to $335 billion in 1978. Some $40 billion per year is spent just to service this debt.

The International Monetary Fund, which serves as a clearinghouse for the imperialist banks, lays down conditions for new loans to prevent default on old ones. It demands that governments devalue their currency, impose austerity, and increase taxes—as they did in poverty-stricken Iran, Yugoslavia, Zaire. The closest analogy in American experience is the capitalist exploitation of working farmers by the banks. The farmers have to go into debt in order to produce, and they have to pay high interest rates on these debts. They never get out of debt. The oppressed nations have become debt slaves to imperialism. That is why Fidel Castro described such a huge bailout at the United Nations last October when he said that these debts are “bureaucratic inhumanity, to which no solution can be found. They must be canceled.”

Human suffering

Imperialist oppression and exploitation lead to abominable conditions of hunger, malnutrition, and disease, to high infant mortality rates, enormous unemployment and pervasive illiteracy.

Over one-half of the people in the world cannot read or write, something most of us take for granted. Take three countries where revolutions have occurred this year: in Nicaragua, the illiteracy rate is over 60 per cent; in Iran, over 70 per cent; in Afghanistan, more than 90 per cent.

Last month the Presidential Commission on World Hunger, which probably understates the matter, reported that the number of hungry people in the world is 800 million, and is increasing even after several consecutive years of what were considered good world harvests. Two straight years of bad harvests in major grain-exporting nations, the report said, would bring “widespread famine and political disorder.” A grain-exporting nation, the report said, would die even after several consecutive years of what were considered good world harvests. Two straight years of bad harvests in any major grain-exporting nation, the report said, would lead to “widespread famine and political disorder.”

Repression is the rule

These evils are a permanent condition of semicolonial countries. They are exacerbated by the deepening world capitalist crisis, by the shifting of the imperialist competition to maintain profit levels, and by contrived oil and food shortages. The 1974-75 depression was a crushing blow.

There has been significant industrialization in many semicolonial countries over the last several decades, though, of a low-level and backward character (tailored to the needs of the imperialists). This has led to important growth in the size and weight of the industrial working class in many of these countries, as well as to a massive migration to the cities and a mushrooming growth in the number of urban poor. The political result has been to strengthen the working-class role as the leader of all the toilers and poverty-stricken in the struggle against imperialism. This gives greater impetus to the dynamic of permanent revolution.

Imperialism’s need to squeeze the oppressed nations increasingly limits its ability to grant concessions. Thus, the primary way they try to maintain stability is through dictatorship. To keep the semicolonial slaves in line, the iron heel, not the democratic regime, is the norm. This is true even in the most developed semicolonial countries like Argentina. And with dictatorship goes corruption: the vast corruption of the shah and Somoza is commonplace throughout the semicolonial countries.

There was a time when people pointed to Uruguay, Chile, or India as showcase countries of democracy. But no more. The shah and Somoza were not exceptions in their use of brutality and torture. Washington helped train and finance these dictators, as it does throughout the world.

Bourgeois democracy in semicolonial countries partly rests on the bloody repression, widespread poverty, and base corruption in semicolonial countries.

These miserable conditions are the principal reason why the colonial masses strive to free themselves from imperialist bondage, why they struggle so relentlessly to control their own countries. The imperialists’ refusal to give up control and domination over these countries is the principal cause of war today.


Up through World War II, the main source of war was the conflict between the imperialist powers for domination of oppressed colonies and nations. Secret treaties were made between allies over how the booty would be divided if their alliance were victorious. Entire countries—land, mineral wealth, and people—were transferred to new masters. Outside the framework of war, the colonial peoples were sometimes bought and sold like slaves on the auction block. In 1917, for example, the United States bought the Danish West Indies—what are now the Virgin Islands—and all its inhabitants for $25 million.

Faced with the military and economic strength of the workers states and the struggles of the semicolonial nations, the imperialists have been forced to escalate their struggles to dominate minimum with the imperialists’ refusal to give up control and domination over these countries. The imperialists’ refusal to give up control and domination over these countries is the principal cause of war today.

When World War II ended in 1945, the U.S. military budget slashed from $50 to $3.6 billion. That was exactly right, because the war against the colonial revolution has continued. There has not been a day of peace in the past 35 years. The number of people killed, wounded, maimed, tortured, made homeless, and driven into refugee is greater than either World War I or World War II. Millions of people have faced the most fiendish weapons the world has ever seen, including saturation bombing, napalm, and torture. This is the real meaning of the Nixon “peace.” The toll, including tens of millions killed, is staggering.

In spite of the human cost, in spite of major defeats like the one in Indonesia in 1965, the masses in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have exhibited an amazing ability to rebound. Big gains have been won. More than 100 countries have won formal independence. Revolutions in China, Cuba and Vietnam have torn these lands out of the capitalist system entirely; they have become workers states. The relationship of forces has become more favorable for the colonial masses. And events since the victory in Vietnam have taken this general trend to a new stage.

The Communist Manifesto’s ringing appeal, that proletarians of the world have “nothing to lose but their chains,” has an immediate meaning for the masses in the oppressed nations. This is an irrepressible conflict. In the words of the Second Declaration of Havana, “This great mass...
of humanity has said 'enough' and has begun to march."

This is what lies behind the Iranian revolution, the Nicaraguan revolution, and events in Afghanistan.

The Afghan revolution

In April 1978, Afghan workers and peasants began to march. Long-simmering discontent was ignited by the assassination of a popular anti-monarchist figure. This sparked some large demonstrations, including at the U.S. embassy. On the crest of these, the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) toppled the Daud dictatorship through a military insurrection. This was not the result of a sustained battle as in Nicaragua or Vietnam. The PDPA—while it had won respect as an opponent of the old order—did not have a strong mass base.

The new government that came into being had to deal with big problems, because Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. The average income is $100 a year and half of all children die before reaching the age of five.

The new government wiped out the remnants of the monarchy. It released thousands of political prisoners. It began to implement a thirty-year program of social reforms. It constructed 600 schools and launched a literacy campaign. It reduced the dowry, or bride-price, and eliminated child marriages. It allowed cultural and education rights to the Turkomen, of the monarchy. It released thousands of political prisoners. It even implements a thirty-year program of social reforms.

These measures naturally provoked the resistance of landlords, rich mullahs, usurers, dope smugglers, and others who profited by exploiting the Afghan people. Thousands of them fled to Pakistan. They organized a reactionary, counter-revolutionary guerrilla struggle. Ten to twelve different reactionary organizations, including monarchists, are backed and financed by the Pakistani dictatorship and by American imperialism.

American imperialism was bitterly hostile to the Afghan revolution from the beginning, and cut off all U.S. aid to that country. In June 1978, a high-level NATO symposium was held in Annapolis to discuss Afghanistan. Out of this and other discussions came a concerted U.S.

traditional help to bring down the new government and crush the revolution.

While there is absolutely no indication that Moscow initiated the revolution—it’s not Stalinist policy to promote revolution anywhere—the Kremlin did begin helping the fight against reaction. They did not want to allow the possibility of a U.S.-backed hostile beachhead along their thousand-mile border with Afghanistan.

Attempt at counterrevolution

Why was it then that the Afghan revolution seemed to falter and had trouble dealing with the counterrevolution? The counterrevolutionary attempt was inevitable, of course. The effort to change the old order in Afghanistan was up against powerful forces. World imperialism, the Pakistani regime, and

and Tajiks—oppressed national minorities who speak the languages of the people in Afghanistan.

In addition, at least two purges occurred, reflecting the rampant factionalism inside the PDPA. These, too, promoted disorganization. The Karmal government claims that the Amin government used brutal methods, not only towards big landlords but also towards ordinary peasants who resisted, were hesitant, or didn’t understand the land reform.

In any case, the regime lost some support and the counterrevolution gained some ground, although there is no evidence that the counterrevolution is really widely supported.

A more favorable situation

The presence of Soviet troops, by barring the road to the counterrevolution, creates a new and more favorable situation. In saying that, we don’t say we support all the methods used by the Soviet bureaucracy—for example, the way they executed Amin, charging him with being a CIA agent, and replaced him with Karmal.

But we recognize the fact that if Soviet troops help the new regime secure victories over the reactionaries, this takes pressure off the Afghan revolution and encourages and inspires the struggle for social revolution in that country.

It strengthens the hand of the anti-imperialist fighters in Iran. And it even buys time for the revolutionary government in Nicaragua, halfway around the world. Needless to say, the impact will be great in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Turkey. It will also politicize workers in the Soviet Union, especially the large numbers of workers and peasant families who are largely Turkomen, Uzbek, and Tajik—oppressed national minorities who speak the languages of the people in Afghanistan.

Reflecting the pressure of the revolution, the Karmal regime issued a statement, saying $300,000 in aid from Vietnam, Cuba, Angola, and Palestine. It looks like part of the revolutionary hormone roll on the peace front. He also issued a statement declaring support for the anti-imperialist revolution in Iran—a shift from the sectarian posture of previous governments.

These statements, and Washington’s reaction, demonstrate that Soviet troops were not sent to crush the Afghan revolution but were interested in detente or SALT II. As much as the Soviet bureaucracy wants and pressed for agreements like SALT II, it has interests that are more important; one of these is self-defense against direct imperialist moves to tighten the military encirclement of the Soviet Union.
Saying this does not change by one iota our view of the fundamentally class-collaborationist strategy of the Soviet bureaucracy. Their strategy is defense of bureaucratic privilege in the name of “socialism in one country.” That includes defense of the Soviet workers state, as perceived by and with means expedient to the bureaucracy. Within this framework, the Stalinists carry out a pragmatic policy whose overall goal is a long-term live-and-let-live arrangement with world imperialism. But in the conflict between the Afghan masses and the imperialists, the Stalinists are partly to blame. The Afghan imperialists only began to rise, the counterrevolutionaries tried to strike back, and the Kremlin felt forced to send troops.

The Soviet workers state was strengthened by this move, of course, but this does not mean that the Stalinist bureaucracy has become stronger. On the contrary, it is when imperialism makes gains that the Stalinist bureaucracy is strengthened, and becomes more able to carry out its counterrevolutionary program. But when the relationship of forces is on the side of the oppressed masses, then the imperialists come under growing mass pressure and are weakened.

That’s one of the reasons why the Stalinists generally shrink away from bold moves, for fear of provoking imperialism and upsetting their own stability.

Right sectarianism

Many petty-bourgeois radicals—the Guardian, for instance—have a view similar to that of the Stalinists. They fear that war may be imminent because they believe that the struggles of the oppressed provoke the imperialists.

When the hostages were taken in Iran, when Soviet troops were sent into Afghanistan, their main preoccupation was with the “growing danger of war.” They feared that anti-imperialist actions provided the imperialists with a pretext to “lash out” militarily in response.

What this amounts to is a belief that the struggles of the oppressed lead to war, and that actually the opposite is the case: such struggles make the imperialists less able to launch war.

Some radicals make the mistake of focusing primarily on the limitations of the various leaderships of the colonial revolution. They concentrate all their fire on the errors, bureaucratic functioning, or false ideas of bourgeois or petty-bourgeois leaderships in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, instead of keeping their eye on the position of the masses and how they can move forward, even with less-than-perfect leaderships. Struggles against imperialism are a diversion, in their view, from the “real struggle,” which is against Khomeini, Karmal, or whoever.

One small group, the Sportscast League, used pseudo-leftist diatribes against Khomeini to put themselves in the imperialist camp on Iran.

Many socialist workers have been most concerned about the conflict in the past with left sectarianists, people in and around the workers movement who used ultra-revolutionary slogans and arguments for abstaining from the living class struggle. But today there is a certain growth in right sectarianism in such circles, exemplified by the case I’ve just described.

Right sectarianism abounds in the anti-imperialist struggle, and are often sharply active in expressing their fear of and hostility to this struggle.

Cuba’s revolutionary course

The revolutionary, anti-imperialist line of the Cuban government stands in sharp contrast to the blind hysteric of the Castro government and to the views of the masses. There’s a difference in the views of the masses and the policies of the Stalinists.

When they say there was one, although they acted like there was one. They always referred to it as a coup.

Even though the CIA was never involved in the “Masudi” rebels against atheistic Moscow. This hypocrisy is a bit transparent, given the persistent ultra-leftist propaganda, that the Afghans were fighting for their freedom.

Third, they are trying to isolate the Soviet Union from the colonial world, taking advantage of the unpopularity of interventions in general, and the fear of many colonial governments
leading position. The Cuban government uses this position to expose imperialism, to educate the toiling masses of the world, to explain the need for a new international order, and to help break down the isolation of the Cuban revolution. This was the significance of the Non-Aligned Conference and of Castro's speech at the United Nations.

The Cuban government is the first since that of the Bolsheviks to conduct foreign policy in a revolutionary manner, to use state power to advance the world revolution.

Lenin and Amanullah

The Bolsheviks sought to forge ties with oppressed nationalities struggling against imperialism. Their first formal diplomatic agreements were with Turkey, Persia, and Afghanistan. Afghanists was the first country to recognize the new Soviet government.

In 1919, after a long struggle with British imperialism, Afghanistan won its independence. Replying to a letter from Amir Amanullah Khan, the new ruling monarch of Afghanistan, Lenin said: "May you listen to the first message to be issued by Afghanistan as a free and independent nation, conveying greetings to the Russian people and to the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs. The government of the former Czarist empire, which can be appreciated only when compared with the German workers' hatred of their capitalists. But we also have seen in Iran how religion can serve as a cloak for anti-imperialist, nationalist struggles, and we are sensitive to that. It's not the first time, and it won't be the last time that this will happen. When it does, our attitude is basically the same as the Bolsheviks.

The general approach that the Bolsheviks took concerning the alliance between the proletariat and oppressed nations was succinctly expressed by Lenin in a speech to a Moscow party meeting in 1920:

"Today we speak not only as representatives of the proletariat of all countries, but also as representatives of the oppressed nations. The Communist Manifesto, The National Liberation Movement in the East, Moscow, 1962, pp. 218-19.

The Baku Congress

The Communist International and the Soviet government also tried to promote anti-imperialist struggles in the East. The first Congress of Peoples of the East was held in Baku in 1920, bringing together anti-imperialist fighters from all over the East. There were many Turks and Iranians, some Chinese, Kurds, and Arabs; there were many Armenians and Georgians and others from the Caucasian and Central Asian peoples of the former Czarist empire. Zinoviev gave the main speech, and it is reported that he said:

"The workers of all the oppressed nations have gathered here under the banner of the Communist International. The Congress of the Peoples of the East is in a state of ferment, and so is Asia. You read the report of how the revolutionary movement is advancing in the East, and you can start on the organization of a true and powerful united front. The whole of Germany is in a state of ferment, and so is Asia. You read the report of how the revolutionary movement is growing in the East, and you can start on the organization of a true and powerful united front. The whole of Germany is in a state of ferment, and so is Asia.

The working class is the direct spokesman of all the oppressed of the world. They are not partisans of any religion, of any race, of any nationality. They are workers, and they are workers of all countries. They are not partisans of any religion, of any race, of any nationality. They are workers, and they are workers of all countries.

The Bolsheviks took a different approach to the problem of the workers of all countries. They set up the Communist International and the Soviet government to help build revolutionary parties around the world, or at least in the immediate period, should the time come that the working class of all countries, the proletarians of all countries, but also as representatives of the oppressed nations. The Communist Manifesto, The National Liberation Movement in the East, Moscow, 1962, pp. 218-19.

The Socialist Workers Party, and other organizations that collaborate with or are part of the Fourth International, have the program, perspective, and a nucleus of cadres to advance the building of such an international.

We can help build an international movement provided that we recognize and identify with the struggles that emerge and establish fraternal relations with the revolutionists of action, who may not be full-fledged Trotskyists or Leninists at the beginning, but who have earned the right to be regarded as revolutionary leaders by their actions. We must be able to solidarize with them, collaborate with them, learn from and help influence them. That's the only way a mass international party is going to be built. That's what we have to contribute to the whole revolutionary process, as we link up with revolutionists of the Castro and FSLN type.

U.S. hands off!

Now that Washington's options are limited and the large-scale use of combat troops is unlikely, at least in the immediate period, should the demand, "U.S. Hands Off" revolutionary struggles be stressed as much by socialist workers?

First, Washington is not going to let the colonial revolution advance unchallenged. There are many military moves that it can make, short of outright war: show-of-force operations, quick strikes, building up counterrevolutionary forces, organizing paramilitary groups, or establishing military bases.

These are all part of a continuing attempt to provoke, to find weak spots, to score a victory here or there, in order to begin somehow to reverse the relationship of forces. Whenever the U.S. threat was to make any military move we should sound the alarm; it is an elementary obligation.

But at the same time, the axis of socialist propaganda today will be solidarity with and education about colonial revolutions. During the Vietnam war we described the socialist revolution and sought to win support for it, but the axis of activity was around antiwar demonstrations.
and the demand for self-determination: “Out Now.”

The main threat right now is not the use of U.S. combat troops. In fact, the most effective weapon that the American ruling class has today is the economic boycott: attempting to sabotage economies and starve the masses into submission, as they have tried to do to Cuba for twenty years. This is the approach they have taken in Southeast Asia, Nicaragua, Iran, and Afghanistan when revolutions took place. Even against the Soviet Union, the strongest weapon they have used is cutting off grain shipments. (It won’t have the same effect there as in Nicaragua.) To counter the imperialists, we must campaign for aid from governments and from mass organizations.

Working people vs. the ‘food weapon’

American working people don’t like to see people in other countries starve, even if they don’t agree with everything that is happening in those countries. Their response to the threat of famine in Kampuchea showed this. American workers think it’s wrong for food to be used as a weapon; and they think the use of this weapon against very poor peoples is especially repugnant.

American farmers see food production, and how food is used, as important questions. Cutting back production and preventing people from obtaining food offends their morality. Thus, many farmers were opposed to Carter’s cutoff of food to the Soviet Union; they were not willing to sacrifice for it. And not just for economic reasons. The U.S. ruling class tries to say it isn’t really using food as a weapon against the Soviet Union, that it is only feed for livestock. But that livestock consists of milk cows, the source of beef. The boycott will hurt the people of the Soviet Union. And it may affect other nations that get food from the Soviet Union.

It is necessary to convince American workers of the historical and political struggles of the oppressed masses around the world. The facts show that the interests of American steel workers, auto workers, miners, and farmers are not the same as those of the employers’ government. The American workers have interests in common with oppressed peoples in other countries.

Big business drive

That is because the big business drive to increase profit rates at the expense of working people is international. They fight to keep impoverished Afghan peasants or Zairean copper miners from getting a little more, just as they fight to keep American workers from getting a little more, just as they fight to keep American workers from obtaining food offends their morality. Thus, many farmers were opposed to Carter’s cutoff of food to the Soviet Union; they were not willing to sacrifice for it. And not just for economic reasons. The U.S. ruling class tries to say it isn’t really using food as a weapon against the Soviet Union, that it is only feed for livestock. But that livestock consists of milk cows, the source of beef. The boycott will hurt the people of the Soviet Union. And it may affect other nations that get food from the Soviet Union.

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Nicaraguans celebrate: 'Mines belong to people'

The following article by Manuel Pereira appeared in the January 6, 1980 edition of Granma, the Cuban newspaper. Titled 'The People's Gold,' the article describes the reaction of Nicaraguan miners to the nationalization of mines formerly owned by U.S. companies.

They are nationalizing the mines of Bonanza, Rojita and Stunia, and a mass of people listen, attend and applaud, to the voice of the Revolution. The miners with their hard hats and their women with black umbrellas. Under heavy downpours and sweltering suns, [Sandinista] Commander Daniel Ortega visits the mines and manufacturing installations, reading decrees and improvising speeches on the dais so that the workers are still hammering away at the ceremony's end.

The surrounding jungle quivers. Shots off, sirens wailing, songs, applause, dancing, and even the church bells. The miners, almost all Mosquito Indians, who for half a century have been mining gold for a foreign army, are celebrating. "I've been working here for 50 years," a smiling miner with three teeth tells me, "I'm a Mosquito miner. It's an enormous open mine. Whose grave will this be for? The miners? Or will it be gold? They are going to bury foreign capital here!"

The harvest from Nicaragua and gold as well. The engineers, the geologists, the foreign officer over there in the bunker, and the inaccessible hill where nothing is wanting, are a bit too silent and oblivious. Down there in the mine, the gear is the crowd of the men. True phalansters [cooperative communities], with the black umbrellas hanging on the panchetas that it's impossible to see the smiling Mosquito coming out to walk in a group of new supervisors pass by.

The traces, the leavings, the works of a fever struck by capitalism on the faces of the men are evident. Those miners made sick and emaciated, look more like walking corpses. At least 50 percent of these works have chronic bronchitis and silicosis, the miners' occupational diseases. "Look, look," says the toothless miner, "that little one over there is missing a lung, and the one with the red hat had also lost one."

Gold has its shine, but it also has its demons. Workers who come out of the tunnels with lungs perforated by the residue of gases and who receive no compensation from the company. And if they did get anything—after being fired—was 500 córdobas, about (90 dollars) to go and die on the banks of the River Coco. There's the famous case of the Mosquito named Skeleton, who refused the Yankee boss' money, telling Mr. Robert Byrd that he preferred to starve to death than be humiliated.

There's as much rage in these men as there is gold below the ground. Which is why an excited Mosquito climbs on the platform and, ignoring the microphone, shouts out: "This belongs to the people now, not to the gringos!" He says it first in Mosquito, and then in Spanish. And it's curious that in his bilingual harangue the word revolution is always pronounced in Spanish, because this was a concept unknown to the Mosquitoes and, therefore, they had no word for it.

The veins of his neck bulging, the Mosquito miner shouts: "The Yankees haven't trampled on us with their coagulant, or cortisone in stock, very much, they come from the mine and are lost in the sand of the rivulets. We have to keep it at all work, stack in this mudhole, killing ourselves to pawn a penny of gold," one of those miners tells me. I learn that a penny of gold is about the size of two beans and goes for 100 córdobas, or ten dollars.

"But there are no dollars here," says one of the men in the mudhole, "and 100 córdobas isn't anywhere near even buying a life." And now that the mines are Nicaraguan, wouldn't you like to work in them? "Of course," he answers. "They earn more there, and the work is better than fishing around in the sand for tiny grains of gold."

Looking at the sparks of gold in the riverbed, I think of the false, but beautiful theory of the architect Michel Majer, who declared that gold was nothing but the product of the millions of times the sun had rotated around the Earth, spinning gold around the planet. For the Aztecs, on the other hand, gold was the sign of the everlasting. This is why they placed in the months of the dead a precious stone that would live on after the body was burned. And legend has it that Quetzalcoatl's mother who had swallowed a nugget of gold in order to conceive him afterwards.

It's an old story, that of gold—and at times odious—that goes back to that phrase in Christopher Columbus' journal: 'From gold one gets fortune and whoever has it can do whatever he pleases in the world and can even buy his way into heaven.' They came looking for cinnamon and pepper, and soon stampled on gold. And from then on they acted as if they were the ones bringing their swords into Indian flesh until they came upon the shiny mineral. "A smile would come even their faces... they were like mongrels grabbing it... they thirsted after gold like a bunch of sweating pigs..." wrote the native informants of Sahagun, when describing the conquistadores.

Such is the story behind the gold of all Our America, and whose true outcome is now being verified in Nicaragua. Because the old trick of treating the Indians' gold for gold did not end with independence, or the Republic, but was prolonged under other names, until our times, giving the workers silicosis in exchange for gold. Gold that will no longer go to enrich foreign societies that live high at the expense of our hunger. Because this gold—from the mines now in Nicaragua—thanks to the Sandinista Revolution—will be transformed into social and material justice. It will be turned into light. It will stop being the gold of others to be the people's gold.

Medical supplies urgently needed in Nicaragua

A vital part of the solidarity campaign against U.S. aggression in Nicaragua is providing medical supplies. The health situation in Nicaragua was the subject of an interview with Dr. Jean-Michel Krivine who appeared in the December 14-20 issue of the French Trotskyist weekly Le Rouge.

Dr. Krivine spent a week in Managua before returning to France to launch the Nicaraguan Solidarity Association.

"For several months," he noted, "the health situation in Nicaragua has taken on an alarming aspect. Many medical supplies are lacking. Drug distribution has become a serious problem and the flow of foreign aid medical equipment has become nonexistent. The poverty in health care is a growing concern about the health-care situation in Nicaragua and asked that internationals make health care a top priority."

While in Nicaragua, Krivine saw first hand how the country is trying desperately to provide medical care despite a lack of medical supplies. He visited two hospitals and a health center in eastern Managua. The center, the largest in the city, provides medical attention for 40,000 families.

When you enter," Krivine told Rojo, "you immediately notice that things are very well organized and that everyone will eventually be examined. While there is a sufficient supply of vaccines, the center lacks syringes, antibiotics, and medicine for diarrhea and respiratory infections. Managua's hospitals have 1,200 beds for 600,000 inhabitants. "The shortage of medication and medical equipment is so great that only urgent cases can receive treatment," Krivine said.

One institution, the Mother and Child Hospital, has only 420 beds. Sometimes two children and at times two women are in each bed.

"There are forty to fifty births a day at this hospital—a total for which the facilities are just barely adequate. At times the number of deaths there from nutrition-related diseases are quite high—as many as a nine a day."

"At Manolo Morales P. Hospital in eastern Managua, the best equipped hospital in the country, there is no more film for X-rays, lab work has had to be cut in half because of a shortage of medical supplies. There is no more anticonvulsant or cortisone in stock, very little in the way of antibiotics—and yet the emergency room receives 490 patients a day." Despite promises from the major capitalist countries, Krivine noted that there has been "little concrete aid from that front Cuba and, I think, Sweden. I saw packages of American gauze stamped with the date 1967."

The French government has been hailed on television for having sent two tons of medical supplies. But that amounts to only about four or five cubic meters of supplies.

Pereira has promised to help in the construction of a hospital. UNICEF has distributed packets of rehydration salts made available by Wenon, an extremely useful medication for combating infant toxemias. Aid is particularly needed to help equip rural health-care centers, which are almost totally without supplies and serve a large population.

Krivine urged that Nicaragua solidarists and all revolutionaries set up the following for each medical center:

- A set of surgical instruments.
- Blood-pressure gauge and stethoscope.
- Portable sterilization equipment, or portable sterilization equipment.
- A small stock of indispensable drugs, such as penicillin, aspirin, and anti-diarrhea medicine.
1,670 UAW members out of work

L.A. workers rally against Ford plant closing

By George Johnson

LOS ANGELES—Auto workers here are outraged at the closing of the Ford Pico Rivera assembly plant.

More than 300 workers rallied January 22 to protest the shutdown. When 1,670 members of the Pico Rivera, scheduled for February 8, 1,670 workers instead, fired the workers of the closing only on January 10.

The Pico Rivera workers will join thousands of California auto and steel workers who are on indefinite or permanent strike.

General Motors South Gate plant in Los Angeles laid off its second shift, 1,200 workers, on January 10. GM's Fremont plant laid off 1,300 second-shift workers at the same time. Ford's Milipus plant is now down to one shift, idling 1,500.

Pico Rivera workers were stunned by the callousness with which Ford was turning them out of work. "They just left us hanging," said the wife of one worker.

At the rally, the Pico Rivera workers told me about the Steelworkers' action against the future. Jim Coll was an assembler in the plant. "I live by myself with three kids. I need the money just to feed my kids," he said.

Winston Johnson has been an assembler at Pico Rivera for fifteen years. He told me, "I don't know, but I'll feed my kids." He has a number of UAW locals, including my own at the Fremont plant, have long continued this conversation.

The auto barons disagree, because the larger cars are more profitable. A GM spokesperson told the Los Angeles Times that while sales of small gas-guzzling cars have fallen, "we may be going through only a temporary slowdown. . . . Buyers are a little pessimistic. We're predicting that as the world economy and political turmoil get straightened out, and the public can get a measure of certainty with regard to the oil supply, then in the spring the market should begin to strengthen.

GM anticipates, the Times wrote, "that Americans will return to the practice of buying big cars.

Bigger cars, with more massive interiors, are profited through the GM scrapped rebuilding of its South Gate plant for the smaller Chevette several years ago in order to realign for ChevroletImarnata and Caprice and Cadillacs. Not a single Chevette has been assembled, despite the fact that the plant has been completely readied for them.

With the second shift laid off, South Gate workers are worried. "We're next," I was told by Al Pederson, president of UAW Local 216. "Our neck is already in the rope. Sales of the bigger cars are off 20 percent or more from last year.

The rally at Pico Rivera marked a step forward in labor solidarity. For one thing, Local 925, in organizing the rally, reached out to other UAW locals, to small, medium, and large unions, and to community organizations. As a result, the rally's head, Art Chavez, head of United Farm Workers, was there with dozens of UFW supporters.

It was evident that the Pico Rivera workers have the sympathy of their fellow unionists in those other unions nearby who come to express solidarity. One was a worker in a cosmetics company whose fellow workers 【...】

Three busloads of students rode by, from the Montebello and El Rancho schools. A group of auto workers gathered near the rally.

It was announced at the rally that Local 925 is going to sponsor a rally in Sacramento against plant closures. Several union officials pledged support at the Pico Rivera rally for the Sacramento action.

The statement also pointed out that working people need a labor party based on the unions to represent their interests.

The statement was passed out to everyone at the rally. A number of workers expressed surprise and pleasure that "one of us is running for office."

Tenneco files anti-labor suit against designers

By Jon Hillson

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—Tenneco is out for the blood of United Steelworkers Local 8417, which represents Newport News Shipyard's marine designer workers.

The suit seeks a court order for decertification elections of the shipyard union, a finding that the shipyard brass are openly financing and organizing the effort to crush the union and promptly provoked a union fight for justice.

The shipyard union is by no means at home with the company when the designers, who are on indefinite or permanent strike, have never received what they were "obeying" the order long enough to authenticate its handwriting.

The suit was filed on January 13 by Tenneco against the United Steelworkers of America and its affiliate with the Steelworkers in February 1977.

The shipyard's whole game plan in this was evident that the Pico Rivera plant is a case in point. Ford refused to invest in water-base paint processes, and the coolness required for oil-base paint limited the plant to one shift to meet antipollution requirements. Ford, of course, blames the environmental requirements, not their own short-sightedness and greed, for their declaration of "war" on the plant.

Murphy also said Ford "should be able to call a shorter workweek with no pay cut, no forced overtime; an end to procedures which now employ 13,000 workers.

The shipyard brass are openly financing and organizing the effort to crush the union and promptly provoked a union fight for justice. The shipyard's whole game plan in this was evident that the Pico Rivera plant is a case in point. Ford refused to invest in water-base paint processes, and the coolness required for oil-base paint limited the plant to one shift to meet antipollution requirements. Ford, of course, blames the environmental requirements, not their own short-sightedness and greed, for their declaration of "war" on the plant.

Johnson complained that during the years of high profits the auto corporations had not invested in new technology. That was cited by Betty Murphy, a member of the executive board of UAW Local 149, at the giant McDonnell-Douglas aircraft plant. She has worked since 1942 at the plant, which now employs 13,000 workers.

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Texas
By Jana Pellusch

Hundreds of complaints have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board by locals of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers on behalf of workers at Amoco, Charter, and Marathon oil refineries in Texas. These oil companies have stopped paying their share of premiums for employees insurance policies. Gulf Oil stated February that it will also stop such payments.

Meanwhile the strike spread as 400 workers at the Idroco division of Dresser Industries in Beaumont struck due to expiration of their contract and 750 workers at Amoco production company's West Texas/Eastern New Mexico division joined the walkout February 4.

OCW's national oil policy committee has approved settlements reached with a handful of independent oil companies. Jerry Archuleta, OCAW spokesman, said the agreements cover only about 1,200 of the 50,000 striking oil workers.

Members of the Petrotext group in Local 4-227 voted to raise the union dues by $3 a membership in May to help the local union. Jerry Archuleta, OCAW spokesman, said the agreement covered only about 1,200 of the 50,000 oil workers striking.

One of the members of the local who lives near the US Chemical plant, which is being struck, reported that a number of workers from the local police control office were not being held responsible for pollution problems since the plants are "forced to operate with unskilled labor" during the strike. Union members are checking into this.

The OCAW District 4 office in Houston GATX loading facility has returned to the public the dangerous conditions inside the strike refiners and of the threat posed to the surrounding community.

The forum will take place on Monday February 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Houston Room of the University Center, University of Houston.

The nearly fifty workers at the GATX loading facility have returned to work after being fired for honoring a picket line set up there by Amoco strikers. OCAW returned the OCAW members to their jobs on condition that the pickets come down. Letters of reprimand were placed in each worker's file, and GATX is threatening further action against the workers and their union. This is yet another example of the oil industry's effort to smash solidarity.

Indiana
By Mitchell Rosenberg and Steven Ashby

Gary, Ind. — More than two thousand oil workers on strike in the Calumet region have come up against police and court action favoring the oil companies.

At Amoco, where 1,400 workers are striking, picket lines of 100 or more were set up to demonstrate that "people are getting fed up with the company's attitude and want to show they support the strike," according to Local 7-1 Maintenance Representative and Strike Committee Chair Ron Yorke.

Militant OCAW pickets blocked tank trucks and outside contractors from the plant's entrances. But after three days, Lake County Superior Court Judge Cordell Pinkerton slapped a temporary restraining order on the Amoco pickets, restricting them to three at a gate. Failing to implement off-duty cops, he also attacked the picket lines in an effort to break them, arresting two unionists in the process.

Many of the "off-duty" cops were working for a private security company hired by the oil companies: Industrial Security Management Corporation, owner of the East Chicago Police Chief Stephan R. Szilagyi and former Hammond chief George Wies.

To back up his pro-company ruling, Judge Pinkerton also hit OCAW Local 7-210 members with an injunction limiting picketing to three at a gate at the other big oil company in the area, Exxon. The picketing was modified by setting picketing to three at a gate at the other big oil company in the area, Exxon. The picketing was modified by setting picketing to three at a gate at the other big oil company in the area, Exxon. The picketing in the process. The capital police press has joined the forces of "justice" in lining up behind the oil companies. The Hammond Times states: "If the oilworkers are so fearful for the public's safety while they are off the job, perhaps they should not have left." The Gary Post-Tribune asks, "Is the strike really a strike?"

OCAW has won a lot of support, however, by focusing on the callousness with which the petroleum companies pursue their profits in the face of extreme safety hazards to the surrounding communities. According to Local 7-210 President Nancy Regas, "the city of Whiting has homes a half block from American Oil refinery; the city of East Chicago has homes and two schools 300 yards from the refinery." Regas was speaking at a press conference called by the two OCAW locals and three area locals of the International Association of Firefighters (see the Militant's February 1 issue). Known fires have occurred about twice a week since the workers went out, and they suspect there are more they can't see from the picket lines.

Fires and explosions are not new to these refineries; a serious fire broke out at Amoco last February. The Amoco refinery was almost destroyed in a well-remembered blaze in 1950 that blew out a number of blocks of nearby homes. Local 7-1 executive board member Yorke termed it "one of the worst refinery fires in history."

Kansas
By Marty Pettit

KANSAS CITY, Kan.— Isabelle Lister, 7-210 Maintenance Representative and Robert Sales, two Black OCAW strikers who were on picket duty at the Phillips refinery here, said, "Insurance is the main thing in the strike." Sales said, "It means a lot to us; it's $60 or $69 that comes out of people's checks. I really don't think that's asking too much. Most major companies pay health insurance."

Wage increases were very important, Whitehead explained. "I'm not a greedy man, but I like to keep my nose above water. The only ones who get hurt are the working man. Anyone who punches a clock—the ones getting hit by these wage guidelines. It's an uphill struggle every year. Any wage increases under 20 percent, and you won't catch up."

Sales agreed. "And whatever happened to that rebate we were supposed to get if we stuck to the 7 percent guideline? I haven't heard anything about that since. I think we just get screwed out of some money, that's what I think."

Both men, who said that they didn't expect a resumption of negotiations for a few weeks, said they were looking for other jobs so they could hold out. "There's no way you can agree on anything with your mouth closed," Sales said.

In the separate interview before the strike, L.B. Davis, President of Local 5-904, told Militant correspondent Lisa Hickler that the OCAW workers "feel we have support from the other unions because we were one in the same boat, and if one doesn't support his own people, then who is going to support us? Basically we feel that if the labor class of people would stick together it would be better for everyone concerned."

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"Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement." V.I. Lenin

SWP Leadership School Fund

Eugene V. Debs once said: "The strength of any working class, and their thorough organization, both economic and political, on the basis of the class struggle, must precede their emancipation. Without such education and organization they can make no substantial progress."

The Socialist Workers Party, beginning Debs' view, has decided to start the SWP Leadership School, which will begin March 1. It aims to free SWP leaders from their heavy daily responsibilities for political work and open them up to study. The $50,000 fund drive to launch the school now stands at $45,081—just short of half of our goal.

Fund-raising social events are being planned by the SWP in Detroit and Los Angeles on February, 16 in the New York/New Jersey area on Saturday, February 23.

The fund drive ends March 31. Please fill out the coupon and contribute all you can.

I want to contribute: $1,000 $500 $200 $100 $50 $10 other

Make checks payable to: SWP Leadership School Fund

Mail to: SWP Leadership School Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

Name _____________________________ Address _____________________________

City _____________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Farmers to demonstrate in Washington, D.C.

By Osborne Hart
For the third straight year, farmers will drive through the streets of Washington, D.C. to protest government farm policy and rising production costs. The American Agriculture Movement, a national farmers' organization, presented a demonstration on the Capitol Mall for February 16. The AAM has been in the forefront of farmer protests during the past several years.

The farmers are demanding government action to offset the effects of inflation; rising fuel, machinery, and production costs, and the decline in farm income of 10 to 20 percent projected by the Department of Agriculture for 1980. The AAM plans a two-day conference in Washington February 19-20 to discuss farmers' economic conditions and proposals for the 1981 Farm Bill.

In addition, farmers have expressed anger and disgust at the grain embargo imposed by the Department of Agriculture. The embargo, which is suffering.

About half of Guatemala's 6.5 million farmers are worried about the impact of the growing involvement of capital in the country's highlands. Several million dollars have been invested in traditional languages and customs in Guatemala, as Alan Riding noted in a January 21 article titled "The occupation could be solved if we keep working on the Capitol grounds against Carter's farm policy."

In 1979, some 3,000 farmers demonstrated on the Capitol grounds against Carter's farm policy.

Copper miners strike challenges Chile junta

A strike by 9,000 workers at one of Chile's largest copper mines, El Teniente, has developed into the biggest political challenge to the country's military government since it took power in a savage coup in 1973.

The strike began when the smaller worker union, which represents more than 1,200 workers at the facility voted January 18 to reject a contract offer from the state copper company by a margin of 1,050 to 50. On January 24 workers represented by the mine and mill workers union received a second contract offer, two-to-one.

In voting to strike, the copper miners and smaller workers dealt a blow to the government-appointed union officialdom as well as to the company and the government. Maximo Cajal y Martinez, the president of the union, had recommended acceptance of the company's initial offer.

The Chilean labor movement suffered a tremendous defeat in the 1973 coup that overthrew the government of Salvador Allende. Allende was driven out of office at the beginning of the month in wages in a country that has undergone ruinous inflation. As one Christian Democratic diplomat noted, "All the viable centrist leaders have been killed."

Two substantial guerrilla groups are carrying out operations throughout the country—the Guerrillas Army of the Poor and the Organization of the People in Arms. Over the past year, according to Amnesty International, thousands of farmers across the country have been at work to help cushion the loss, including the employers' share, while on strike.

Social conditions are explosive. One percent of the country's families owns a full 55 percent of the cultivable land. Half the population earns less than 20,000 pesos (U.S. $300) a year. Literacy, malnutrition, and disease rampant. In the cities the unemployment rate is over 30 percent.

According to Amnesty International there have been at least 2,000 political murders since May 1979. The 20 percent of the regime, were murdered for political reasons. A Guatemalan professional, critical of the military regime, was murdered in neighboring El Salvador.

The people are fed up with the military is float...
U.S. feminist speaks out

'Iran revolution was great advance for women'

By Robbie Scherr

Los Angeles—In December my union, United Transportation Union Local 32 on the Southern Pacific Railroad, passed the following resolution:

"We oppose the continued development of nuclear generating facilities and the continued unsafe transportation of nuclear material by rail."

This is one resolution that won't be filed with the minutes and forgotten. Because the men and women who work on the railroad are reminded constantly, just in the course of doing our jobs, of the potential danger in every car marked "radioactive."

Local 32 represents engineers and other engine service workers. We see derailments nearly every day. Only the worst are reported in the newspapers—a flammable car that explodes or a chemical that breaks and forces a town to evacuate. But man-made disasters are never examined. We pull into the yard, right opposite a playground, and are never asked how the CIA was working day and night to try and take away those people's revolution and their independence. We do not think that is true, whatsoever.

They think that during the revolution many women got to the point where they said, "We participated in all the demonstrations and also on a community level. In the committees that were set up, women played a large role in these. They feel as though the revolution has been a great advance for women—to have gone through this experience.

Q. Did you visit the U.S. Embassy?

A. Yes. The students gave us documents found in the embassy. These are very revealing. You just get a sense of how the CIA was working day and night to try and take away those people's revolution and their independence and get them back under the U.S.'s thumb.

Q. What do you think of the media campaign in this country that portrays women as being worse off now than under the shah?

A. It is just ludicrous to think people would say that under the shah's reign there was so much progress and so few repressive and impoverishing, that it was improving the lives of anyone except the shah and his family and their cohorts.

Everyone in Iran just scoff at such a notion that women were "liberated" under the shah. Especially the women themselves. They do not think that was true, whatsoever.

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Q. Do you think the shah should be sent back?

A. Oh absolutely, for sure. Futhermore, there is a final point I want to make to women in this country, particularly those who are involved in the women's movement. I think we should go right on working for women's rights.

However, I don't think we should do that exclusively. As women, we need to incorporate an international understanding about what's happening to women and all people around the world and support and identify with these revolutionary struggles.

Rail local takes stand against nuclear power

By Robbie Scherr

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What's Going On

ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM

EIGHTH REPORT FROM NICA-
RAGUA. Speaker: Marcelo Zunzunegui, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 900 5th Ave. N., Denver; 8772 Austin; Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 389-5940.

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES

MARTIN MELTON IN OUR TIME. Speaker: Jack Barnes, national secretary, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., 16 7:30 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m. program. 2111 N. LaSalle St. Donation: $1.50. For more information call (312) 257-3120.

SAN FRANCISCO

THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ. Speaker: Eunice Stokes, recording secretary, United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m. program. Metropolitan Edison Company, 12th and Market Sts. Donation: $1.50. For more information call (415) 864-5101.

INDIANAPOLIS

TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ. Speaker: Orson Welles, magazine writer. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m. program. Simon Skandalakis building, 802 N. College Ave. Donation: $1. Austin; Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 855-5900.

Massachusetts

BOSTON

MEET ANDREW PULLET, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Fri., Feb. 15, 2-5 p.m. Bennett Street Park. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m. program. Morse Auditorium, 602 Commonwealth Ave. Donation: $2. For more information call (617) 388-4211.

Campaign Rally and Reception

Speakers: Andrew Pullet, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; others. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. reception followed by rally. Community Church, Boylston St. Austin; SWP Campaign. For more information call (617) 242-5021.

"BUURN." A film showing and fund raising. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. reception; 9:30 p.m. program. Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, Mass. Donation: $1.50. For more information call (617) 242-5021.

MICHIGAN

DÉTROIT

NIGERIAN TRADITIONAL SPEAKERS' REPORT: OUR FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC EXTREMISM... Fri., Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m. reception; 8-10 p.m. program. Michigan Technological University, Menchville Hall, Michigan City, Ind. Donation: $1.50. Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 947-3310.

LABOR'S CASE FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. Speakers: Charles Chas, Younglove, director, United Steelworkers of America; Marion Calapo, press secretary, Virginia Education Association; coordinator for Labor for Equal Rights Now; Tom Turner, president, Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO; Maryann Mahlhuber, Michigan state AFL-CIO, president pro-tempo. Detroit City Council. UAW District 39. For more information call (313) 579-2170.

American Cyanamid Sued By 13 Women

SUED BY 13 WOMEN

American Cyanamid Company is being sued by 13 women in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York for sterilization under the guise of American law. The women in the suit, ranging in age from 20 to 40, worked at the Company's chemical division in New York. The suit was filed on February 1, 1979.

There are a few dollars difference to be reconciled between the two bills and then it goes to the White House for approval. Under the House measure, a disabled worker with three dependents who had been earning $880 a month on the job would have benefits reduced from $805 to $695. That’s less than $100 a week to feed, clothe and shelter four people.

In Brief

WASHINGTON

American Cyanamid Sued By 13 Women on Sterilization

Thirteen women workers filed a suit against the American Cyanamid Company, charging they were pressured to undergo sterilization to keep their jobs.

According to the plaintiffs, the company said that fertile women could not continue working in the lead pigment division of the plant at Willow Island, West Virginia, because they would be expected to lead dust that is dangerous to un­born children.

To hold on to their jobs, four of the women had themselves sterilized.

The company did not tell the women they must become sterile. It merely informed them they would be out of work if they weren’t.

PAPER TO PUBLISH STORIES ON NUCLEAR PLANT

A Pennsylvania paper got the go-ahead February 4 to publish articles on the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

Metropolitan Edison Company, owner of the plant, tried to block the articles, charging that they would be a threat to "national security." Met Ed’s lawyer claimed, "We don’t want to have made public the specific details of the security system.”

Judge John Dowling of Daup­hin County Court said the request could not be granted. "The experience of our found­ing fathers explains the importance, and which was reinforced throughout history, suggests the press must be left free to report the news without prior restraint."

The articles were written by Robert Kapler, a reporter for the Guide, a local weekly with a circulation of 117,000.


died of cancer.

Agent Orange Victim Who Filed Suit Dies of Cancer

Edmund Danes, who incurred cancer after being exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, died February 3. He was thirty.

Danies had filed a class action suit seeking $4 billion damages for veterans exposed to the deadly chemical which the U.S. war machine used as a defoliant in Vietnam.

He filed the suit against the government and five manufac­turers of the chemical in 1979.

In 1979, he forced the government to reverse itself and admit his cancer was the result of exposure to Agent Orange.

The suit is now pending. If successful, the money will be used as a trust fund for the U.S. families of the victims of the chemical warfare program.

Anti-Smash T-Shirts Get Women Disqualified

Two women at the Women’s National Powerlifting Championships in Culver City, California, were disqualified from competition after wearing "Send the Shah Back" T-shirts to the events.

The women, Ellen Schmigaj and Becky Chalker, members of the Feminist Women’s Health Center in Los Angeles and Orange County, were thrown out on the grounds that "only a nation’s or club’s emblem on sports attire could be worn, and no other markings.”

Chalker said they wore the t-shirts.
S.F. cops attack El Salvador march

By Juan Martinez

SAN FRANCISCO — Police attacked a demonstration in solidarity with the people of El Salvador here February 2, arresting five of the marchers and launching the new in the sponsoring coalition.

Two hundred people were on hand to demonstrate by the Solidarity Bloc with the Struggle of the Salvadoran People, a new action demanding no U.S. intervention and was brushed by its ruling junta. The march received a warm re- sponse from its one-mile route through the Latino Mission District of San Francisco.

March organizers charge the police diverted the march several times from its prearranged route. Then with the police in hot pursuit, they reached the rally site.

By Juan Martinez

The U.S. armed forces are the nation’s biggest single user of fuel. The military machine devours 20 percent of all federal energy consumption.

Sales appeal — A number of journalists for major papers and TV stations were shocked up when they got a mail, inscribed "In Memoriam" [sic] with their names and the suggestion, "It pays to think before you die." To an ad agency, assurances were given that they were not death threats, just a first-part teaser ad for life insurance. "It was meant to have strong emotional appeal. To make people think," an apeekesman said.

Women in Revolt

Suzanne Haig

Women & antinuke fight

On January 24 the specter of a nuclear catastrophe again surfaced when a powerful earthquake shook northern California, causing a leak of radioactive water at the Livermore nuclear weapons facility east of San Francisco.

No，在 one was killed. The nuclear safety that was not enough, a report of an investigation sponsored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Three Mile Island was released the same day. It noted that the March 1979 accident had actually come within thirty to sixty minutes of a catastrophic core meltdown.

Women have a vital stake in joining the fight to stop this nuclear madness. The health, if not the survival, of humanity depends on it.

On April 20 women will have an opportunity to join with thousands of other people in a march on Washington.

Nuclear power is killing people right now even without accidents. Thousands of nuclear power plant workers and their families are dying from occupational radiation sickness showing a connection between infant mortality and radon gas made an underground leak.

Women & Antinuke fight

The crux of the argument is this: We are not enough.

No "nukes: everyone's guide to nonnuclears"

It's no coincidence that some opponents of women's rights are also nuclear enthusiasts. Anti-ERA figure Phyllis Schlafly, who subscribes to the "Noстревгольге" position that a nuclear war is winnable, favors more nuclear weapons.

But Schlafly isn't the only one in favor of beefing up the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Carter's new war budget includes developing more nuclear weapons and bombs.

Even if these weapons are not used for mass destruction, they are lethal, as the Livermore accident shows.

Polls show that even more women than men oppose nuclear power plants. New York Times/CBS news poll released last spring showed that 56 percent of women and 36 percent of men opposed further construction of nuclear plants. The opposition has undoubtedly grown since then.

This was illustrated at the January 13 Equal Rights Amendment march in Richmond, Virginia. When the marchers passed the office of the Richmond electric company, which had a provocative display in its window they hurled into a spontaneous chant of "No Nukes!"

The women's movement can play a vital and needed role in organizing this sentiment into active, visible opposition to nuclear power and weapons.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women, the National Organization for Women, and other women's organizations can mobilize and educate their members on this issue. April 20 is one which is part of international protests, can be a focal point for this turn.

Just as the activity of women's organizations helped to win justice for the children and removing of Francis Skidmore's slaves for his efforts to expose nuclear dangers — so women today should continue the struggle that she died for.
Our Revolutionary Heritage

Origin of 'peacetime' draft

Carter's recent call for reinstatement of draft registration has touched off widespread protest. Young people, especially, fear this move is the first step toward being forced into new wars.

During the Vietnam War, the Young Socialist Alliance played an important role in draft protests as a part of the movement to end the war. In an article that appeared in the December 1966-January 1967 issue of 'The Young Socialist,' Doug Jenness discussed the origins of the post-World War II peacetime draft and the purposes it served for U.S. imperialism. Excerpts follow:

For most people of our generation it comes as a surprise to learn that compulsory military conscription, except during major wars, is a relatively newcomer to American life. Before World War II the draft would have been unthinkable to most Americans and almost impossible to have imposed upon them.

Many Americans were immigrants who had left Europe because they were tired of the war and wanted to escape the militarization in their homelands. Even after World War II had begun, but before U.S. entry into the war, opposition to the establishment of a selective service law was very strong.

During World War II opposition to the draft was restricted to a small handful of militant socialists. Most Americans certainly did not welcome the war, but nonetheless believed it was necessary in order to defeat fascism.

At the victory of the Allied powers over Japan and Germany in 1945, almost everybody had thought the war was over, that the troops would be brought home, and that conscription would be ended. The American rulers, however, had other plans. They wanted to take advantage of America's position as the top military power in the world and the only nuclear power to impose their rule throughout the world and make the world safe for American investments.

The GIs, who were tired of the war and eager to get home, resisted the attempts to distribute them around the world as occupation forces. Large scale revolts broke out in both the Pacific and Europe with the GIs refusing to sign loyalty oaths, thus preventing them from being brought home.

These revolts played a significant role in preventing the United States from immediately crushing the rising colonial revolts, and possibly, ending Eastern Europe and the USSR.

The World War II conscription law expired in 1946 and was extended again until the Selective Service Act was passed in 1948. This was America's first peacetime draft law. The Act has been extended and amended numerous times since it was passed.

It's impossible to understand why the American rulers wanted so desperately to establish peacetime conscription, despite its unpopularity, without understanding the origins of the cold war.

The cold war did not emerge as a result of a misunderstanding between the USA and the United States; nor was it due to 'violations' by the Soviet Union of League of Nations treaties, or to a 'betrayal' by Truman of FDR's wartime alliance with the USSR. It was the direct consequence of the incompatibility between two history/socio-economic systems.

The American rulers hoped that through their military strength and nuclear hegemony they would be able to prevent the advent of capitalism in Eastern Europe and roll back the gains made in Russia by the 1917 Revolution.

World War II also unleashed a revolutionary wave in the colonial world as one colony after another broke away from its European masters. The threat of this struggle was anti-imperialist and brought it into direct conflict with the United States—chief defender of world capitalism.

Senator Gurney, Republican from South Dakota, expressed the attitude of the ruling politicians on June 3, 1946, when he spoke in favor of extending the war-time draft. "Far from being against the war, we are for it," he said. "We are confronted with a world containing more explosive elements than ever before. The time world War II began. It would be inherently easier to go to war now than then.

To back up its aggressive cold war foreign policy the American rulers badly needed a standing army. There was no chance whatever that the anti-communist needs could be fulfilled by a volunteer army. The population was too sick of war for that.

Therefore, to be ready to intervene wherever the capitalist order was threatened, a conscription army was needed.

The Truman administration not only tolerated but brought by a Selective Service Act and but it took steps to regiment the entire society in many other ways, a policy actually begun under the Roosevelt administration.

In March 1947 Truman launched his program requiring all government employees to sign loyalty oaths and, thus, taking the first big step in what became a vicious witchhunt lasting over a decade during which radicals were driven out of the trade unions and Congress. The Selective Service Act was whipped into line to serve government policy.

The conscript army is not a crusading army carrying the ax of capitalism around the world. Rather, as post-war history affirms, it is a counterrevolutionary army designed especially to crush the rising revolutionary movements in the world. It is a counterrevolutionary army designed especially to crush the rising colonial and socialist revolutions. American military intervention in Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Latin America bears witness to this fact.

Castro speech

I am a faithful reader of your paper, and I would love to have a personal subscription if at all possible.

However, I mainly desire a copy of the pamphlet Fidel Castro at the UN with the speech he made last year. Please rush it to me.

A prisoner

Ohio

Letters

Terrible disasters

Year Iranian and Afghan guerrillas have been terrible disasters! You've thrown away the chance to extend your support to this country. You should have stuck to attacking (Der Angrift) the oil oligarchy (CIA bureaucracy). You were on solid ground there!

Tom Hamilton
Washington, D.C.

Tyrant capitalism

We of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, will not stand idly by and watch our livelihoods be denied away by "inflation" into the pockets of the politicians and corporation owners. Rebellion is at hand. This city has raised sales taxes by dictatorial means. There are Social Services Workers, church members, older and normally highly conservative people willing to listen to whatever sound of protest I can get up the gates to. They’d respond in a way they never were willing to before because TYRANT CAPITALISM HAS INSURGENCY WARRANT FOR THE POOR.

Martin Ballew
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Einstein

I want to congratulate you and thank you for the fascinating article by Cliff Conner on 'Albert Einstein and the Revolution in Modern Physics' (International Socialist Review). It was a delightful surprise to pick up a socialist newspaper and find an article which explains the most complex developments in twentieth century science.

Since I have practically no background I found the article took a lot of time and attention to read but was well worth the effort.

Like many people, I have found materialism to be a relatively easy concept to grasp but dialectics a difficult
concept, since we are not trained to think dialectically. Consequently, an article has brought me closer to an understanding of dialectical materialism. It inspires me to see how propositions of Marxism are confirmed in physical science as well as in human history.

I applaud the decision to devote so much of the article to the detailed rendering of scientific theory; this laid a strong foundation for the Trotsky polemic that followed. I hope we can count on the ISR for more of this kind of accessible scholarship in the future.

We would like you to publish this letter in your next issue. This way some organizations that have lost contact can read ours and give us a hand. And there are some of the people who have lost touch, with: eating the inmates' food in the mess hall; beating and harassing inmates at random; taking away our recreation; forcing us to work on holidays; firing shots in our heads; shooting them up with drugs so they can't pay for them. To write the abuses, it would be useless without you. We don't do more of the article to the Trotsky polemic. It's a new world, a new world.

Trotsky explained that the Stalinist bureaucracy, unlike the imperialists, was far from seeking world conquest. Instead, Stalin's goals were to reach a live-and-let-live agreement with world imperialism at the expense of the struggles of working people against capitalism and imperialism. The imperialists, however, were still out to undermine the gains the 1917 revolution achieved.

At that time, Stalin was covering up for Hitler in exchange for guarantees against a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. The moves in Poland and Poland were intended to further secure Soviet borders.

Trotsky explained that Stalinist policy in the world arena was necessarily conservative and defensive, not imperialist or expansionist.

It was not "Soviet aggression," Trotsky explained, but the Stalinist policy of supporting imperialist objectives in exchange for diplomatic and economic deals that represented a danger to struggles of working people around the world.

Trotsky's main contributions to this discussion are collected in In Defense of Marxism ( Pathfinder, $4.50).

Trotsky's book up speculation in the autumn of 1939 letter to Solna M. Peres, a Cavalier socialist who was sympathetic to the Fourth International.

If you like this paper, Look Up

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

**ALABAMA: Birmingham** SWP, YSA, 1609 4th Ave. N. Tel: (205) 228-4003. Send mail to P.O. Box 3488, Birmingham, AL 35202.

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Behind New Mexico Prisoner rebellion

Inmates’ relatives speak out

By Mark Curtis and Dick Geyer

SANTA FE, New Mex., Feb. 6—Packed in overcrowded cells, intolerably mistreated, angry inmates rose in rebellion at the New Mexico State Penitentiary here February 2. The thirty-six-hour uprising ended when state and local cops, backed by the national guard, stormed the prison.

When it was all over, thirty-three prisoners lay dead and about fifty were in hospitals. State officials expect to find more bodies in the rubble. The rebellion was national news—"The worst prison rioting in modern American history," declared the New York Times, leading up sensationalist reporting.

Television and newspaper accounts have been filled with gruesome tales of torture and mutilation inflicted by drug-crazed prisoners on each other: arms and legs severed; beheadings; castrations; iron bars stuck through the head; blowtorches used on people’s faces, people being burned alive. The lurid reports handed out by New Mexico police and government officials were dutifully reported as fact from coast to coast.

Medical examiner’s report

But Dr. James Weston, the forensic pathologist in charge of the medical examiner’s office in Albuquerque, where all the bodies were sent for examination, told a different story to the press on February 5.

"I personally saw three cases in which there was what you would call ‘mutilation,’” he said, after examining the thirty-three bodies found so far. "The injuries indicated there was a great deal of rage, but not what I would call mutilation. It’s more what I would call overkill, more injury than what is necessary to kill a person.”

Weston also said there was no way to determine whether any of the victims had been tortured before they died.

Most died as a result of being struck, stabbed, or a combination of the two, he said. A few died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Drugs may have been involved in two or three deaths, but he had not yet performed tests for drugs, according to the February 6 Albuquerque Journal.

The examiner’s descrediting of the police accounts of the deaths and injuries will surely fire the anger and skepticism of the families of the prisoners. Many do not accept the official version of the events, as we found out yesterday when we talked here with relatives waiting outside the prison for news of their loved ones.

"I blame the penal administration, not the prisoners, for all this,” said Joseph Jaramillo, brother of an inmate, voicing the sentiment of all the other relatives we talked to.

Tony Santoyo, who has a son and a brother-in-law in the prison, blamed overcrowded conditions for the uprising. "I wouldn’t treat my animals the way they (the prison authorities) treat those people,” he said.

Relatives abused

The fierce anger of the prisoners’ families was stoked further by the way they themselves had been treated by the authorities as they stood for hours or days by the road outside the prison waiting for news. They didn’t know if their relatives inside were dead or alive, and when, hearing nothing, they stood in the roadway to protest, they were shoved back by the national guard. So, here they stood, bitter, facing the guardsmen, as a state trooper read through a list of names, the same incomplete list that had been read over and over again.

The relatives, like a former inmate we talked to, and like the prisoners themselves, could point to the statistics that back up their charge of overcrowding in the prison: 1,136 inside at the time of the uprising, one-third over the prison’s capacity.

"We have ninety, sometimes plus, individuals living in a single dormitory, which is approximately 32 x 48 feet,” one inmate wrote in a letter that was published in the Albuquerque Tribune on February 2.

"We sleep almost like sardines,” one prisoner had complained to his wife before the uprising. "Something’s going to happen.”

Terry Seaton, who had been imprisoned here for six and a half years before public pressure brought about his release in 1978, confirmed that overcrowding was a chief source of prisoner complaints. The prisoners were also victimized by the staff, he said, which was hired through nepotism and was little concerned with the prisoners’ welfare.

Seaton, who is Black, also told us that the prison authorities continually sought to, foment racial divisions in the prison, where 58 percent of the inmates are Chicano, 10 percent Black, and 1.5 percent Indian.

Almost all the dead, according to newspaper reports, were Chicano and Black.

The uprising came as no surprise, Seaton told us. "It wasn’t anything the authorities didn’t see coming,” he said. "They had hearings, court decisions, etc. which said, ‘do something’ about the intolerable conditions.”

Lawsuit against conditions

In fact, the American Civil Liberties Union had filed a class action suit two years ago on behalf of the inmates at the prison. Chief demands were for an end to overcrowding, for an end to the arbitrary restrictions on mail and visits, and for an end to mistreatment.

But except for a federal court order last year easing the mail restrictions, nothing was done. “The state penitentiary is pretty far down in the bureaucratic process,” was the attitude, as summed up a few weeks ago by Brian Sanderoff, an aide to Gov. Bruce King.

That legitimate grievances were at the root of the uprising was shown by the prisoners’ demands, eleven in all, most of them paralleling the issues raised in the ACLU suit.

These included demands for an end to overcrowding, for improvement in educational and recreational facilities, for better visiting conditions, and for a change in the composition of the disciplinary committee. The prisoners also demanded that the news media be allowed into the prison.

Indications from most of the media reports are that another big issue angering the prisoners was the mistreatment they had suffered as a result of informers used against them.

The state officials, acting in accordance with a prearranged strategy, made some fake concessions—stating they would take up the matter of overcrowding, recreation, and education in the state legislature; that they would “take a long hard look” at the prison complaints about harassment; that they would even raise prisoners’ wages above the present twenty-five cents per hour—in order to obtain the release of the guards who had been taken hostage.

When their release had been achieved, Governor King, citing the lurid stories that the police and state officials themselves had been circulating, ordered police and national guardsmen to storm the prison.

And in the sensational stories that followed, the prisoners’ grievances were buried.

What really happened at the state penitentiary? That will be fully established only when the prisoners themselves are permitted to speak.