El Salvador: next Vietnam?

Int'l outrage at murder of opposition leaders
Protest U.S. aid to blood-drenched junta

The cold-blooded assassination of six leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) in El Salvador November 27 brought worldwide condemnation.

In the United States, emergency demonstrations sounded the alarm:
"CIA out of El Salvador!"
"No Vietnam!"
As the El Salvador government desperately tries to stem the advance of the liberation forces,
tion team study calls for ridding the State Department's Latin America desk of "social reformers" and for "changes designed to reduce the influence of human rights advocates."

These are intended to test public opinion on a massive new escalation of U.S. involvement in the war in El Salvador.

That escalation has already begun—under the Carter administration.

An editorial

Washington has intensified its threats to intervene militarily:

* Two days after the assassinations, the New York Times ran a front-page story about a meeting between top Reagan advisers and Salvadoran businessmen. The subject: more military aid to the junta.

* On December 4, the Times reported that a new Reagan tran-

gency plan by the U.S. government to use U.S. combat troops in El Salvador if necessary to block victory for the liberation forces. It provides extensive detail of current U.S. involvement in that country's civil war—including work with paramilitary death squads, coordination of Guatemalan and Honduran aid to the junta, and links with Cuban and Nicara-Continued on page 2

INSIDE: Full text of State Dept. 'dissent paper'
Document reveals U.S. war plans in Central America

—PAGES 1
...no Vietnam!
Continued from page 1
guan counterrevolutionary exile groups in this country.
As the dissertation document states, "... should President Reagan choose to use military force in El Salvador, historians will be able to show that the setting for such actions has been prepared in the last year of the Carter administration.
The document also explains that, contrary to the slanted reporting in the capitalist media, the U.S.-backed junta is weak and isolated. The liberation forces are rapidly winning new support. It's in this context that Washington and the puppets it back in Central America are stepping up their drive to stop the revolution.

As we go to press
Thousands brave tanks to honor FDR leaders
By Aníbal Yáñez
Tests were given and Salvadoran and U.S. journalists filled the Metropolitan Cathedral and collected into the plaza to pay homage to the six leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) murdered November 27 by the military/Christian Democratic junta.
Rev. Greg Chiabon, representing the Canadian Interchurch Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, led the crowd to express our solidarity because of the genocide by this Government against our own people." Chants continuously rang out, condemning the junta and the armed forces.
Most of the people gathered in the Cathedral were from the poor neighborhoods of San Salvador, wearing worn clothes and many of them bare-foot. Their spirits were high, however, as they shouted, "The people will avenge their martyrs!"

The six assassinated FDR leaders were buried inside the Cathedral itself, next to the sepulcher of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, also slain by right wing forces. A demonstration and march originally sched­uled to go to a west side cemetery was called off by the FDR due to the government's deployment of tanks and other military units throughout the city, along with hundreds of troops. Jet planes buzzed the Cathedral, while army and police units set up check-points in outlying neighbor­hoods and entrances to the city, stopping vehicles and shaking down the passengers in search of arms.
The junta clearly fears the conse­quences of the brutal assassination of the revolutionary leaders. All radio and television stations in the country were ordered by the High Command of the Armed Forces to not transmit any national news. The army and the ruling junta are des­perately seeking ways to eliminate from public opinion the widely known fact that the capture, kidnap­ping, torture and murder of the executive committee of the FDR was the work of uniformed members of the National Police and armed for­ces.

Foreign correspondents have been instructed to print nothing other than the official version of the event.
On December 3, the junta ordered the expulsion of El Salvador of United Press International's corre­spondent, Demetrio Olaciregui, who was one of the last regular corres­pondents for foreign news services in that country. Olaciregui also re­ceived a death threat.
Meanwhile, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) stepped up its guerrilla actions in response to the assassinations. Three powerful bombs shook the city of San Miguel, in the southwestern part of the country, on December 1.

The liberation forces are rapidly winning new support. It's in this context that Washington and the puppets it back in Central America are stepping up their drive to stop the revolution.

It explains the increased provocations against the Sandinista government in Nica­ragua, and the recent killings in Grenada, as well as the crackdown in Haiti by Duvalier.
The dissertation paper already shows that the U.S. rulers consider it vital to hide the truth from the American people.
But the facts are coming out. And as they do, the potential for united action to block U.S. war moves is greater than ever.
Emergency protests of the assassinations of FDR leaders have already shown what can be done. More of these activities are planned.
Teach-ins, speakouts, news conferences, and picket lines can be organized to spread the word. A broad array of groups are becoming involved in these activities, from Catholic Church organizations to Black, Latino and women's rights groups, to organizations on the left.

The recent Fifteenth Postwar Congress of the Socialist International (Second Interna­tional) in Madrid also took important stands on solidarity with El Salvador and Nicaragua. The points to new opportunities to involve U.S. unions, and labor internationally, in the fight against Washington's secret war.
If the U.S. government tries to carry out its plans, it will have to go forward with the draft. The Committee Against Reimposition of the Draft has already called for a February 14-16 conference in Detroit to plan future national and local antidraft actions.
This important meeting can bring together all those concerned about the new provocation and open a new protest movement against Washing­ton's aims. It can serve notice to the U.S. government that the American people will not tolerate another Vietnam!

Militant Highlights This Week
By Aníbal Yáñez

The National Black Political Party (NBPP) has launched a national recruitment and political education campaign. A week of activism in the second largest city in the U.S., Chicago, was the first stage of the party's national recruitment drive.

The NBPP has a long history of political organizing among African Americans. Founded in 1966 by23. Learning About Socialism
If You Like This Paper...
Moscow steps up threats

Polish workers press fight for socialism

By Fred Feldman

The Solidarity bureaucrats are stepping up hints of possible military intervention to crush Solidarity, Poland’s anti-Stalinist union movement. On December 3 a report claimed that East Germany’s border with Poland had been closed and that troop maneuvers were under way near the Soviet-Polish border.

Moscow categorically denied planning to invade Poland. But on November 30, Soviet newspapers published an account of an article from the Czech government paper Rude Pravo that compared the situation in Poland today to that in Czechoslovakia before the Soviet military intervention in August 1968.

In addition to trying to intimidate the Polish workers, Moscow wanted to firm up the resistance of Soviet-Stalinist bureaucrats to the workers’ demands for union rights, a voice in economic planning, an end to censorship and police persecution, abolition of bureaucratic privileges, and equality.

Moscow’s moves coincided with the December 3 opening of a two-day meeting of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party, the Stalinist ruling party.

The Soyuz workers have been alarmed at the workers’ ability to force dismissal of Stalinist officials who violate their rights. In a document that was passed to the union by an employee of the Ursus factory and drew up a list of demands, the workers became enthusiastic about Solidarity with the other demands. The general strike was called off.

Victory over secret police

Moscow’s threats escalated as Polish workers emerged victorious from another confrontation with the bureaucrats and their cops. On November 20 Polish secret police raided the Solidarity office in Warsaw. They were looking for a state document that had allegedly been passed to the union by an employee of the State Prosecutor’s Office.

The document revealed some of the methods of the secret police. It recommended stepping up searches of dissidents’ apartments. It urged cops to use force to stamp out any movement advocating the violent overthrow of the government. It pointed to advocacy of independent unions as subversive propaganda.

Police found a copy of this document in the Solidarity office.

Following the raid, police arrested Jan Narozniak on November 21. Narozniak heads the union office in Warsaw. He was accused of violating the law protecting state secrets. At the same time, U.S. officials expressed opposition to Soviet military intervention. They uncondi­tionally will try to use any such move as a pretext for stepping up the army race, attempting to restore the draft, and escalating U.S. military intervention in Central Europe.

Denunciations of the Polish workers by the Soviet bureaucrats and their allies in Eastern Europe on charges that the workers are controlled by “antisocialist elements” plotting to restore capitalism. The Czech government paper charged that “counterrevolutionaries” are carrying out an “insidious plan—to set in motion and strengthen anti­socialist aggressive trade unionism.”

Who represents socialism?

Such charges once contempt for working people. The bureaucrats claim that only—they—with their fancy cars, villas, servants, and slush funds—represent “socialism.” The workers become “counterrevolutionary” as soon as they speak their own minds.

The opposite is the case, however. The Polish workers have no desire to restore capitalism. They know that the expropriation of the capitalists and the establishment of a planned economy in Poland in the late 1940s represented a great advance for them. They want to build on the progress that the establishment of a workers’ state in Poland made possible. But bureaucratic rule in Poland has blocked the way to further advances toward socialism.

The demands of the Polish workers—for improved wages and working conditions, for giving priority to the needs of workers and farmers in economic planning, and for abolition of bureaucratic privilege and misrule—run against the grain of capitalism.

Advantage of workers’ state

Even capitalist reporters have begun to hint that the existence of a planned economy has put the Polish workers at an advantage, in comparison with workers under capitalism. In the November 27 New York Times, John Darnton noted: “In the West, the demands of the unions are tempered by law, by accepted procedures for collective bargaining and by the economic realities of free enterprise. In a Communist state, the Government is the sole employer, none of these constraints apply.”

“Only three months ago,” Darnton concludes, “people were wondering how the unions could possibly survive. Now they are marveling at their clout, which the A.F.L.-C.I.O. can only dream about.”

Lech Walesa, the most prominent leader of Solidarity, was even sharper in expressing his opposition to capitalism to interviewers from the Polish magazine Polityka: “In our country, things are more simple than they are in the West, because we all form the state and we are closer to the responsibility. There is no one between us and the state, no factory owner. We can work for only a plate of soup . . . if we know we work for ourselves.”

“Not one for capitalism”

“I have not met in our movement anyone wishing the end of socialism and the reintroduction of capitalism,” declared Andrzej Zelinski, a lawyer active in the struggle.

The fight of the Polish workers isn’t leading toward restoring the wretched capitalist system they junked decades ago, but toward ending bureaucratic rule and advancing socialism under the leadership of the working class.
Meet with Salvadoran capitalists

Reagan aides plan more arms to junta

By Suzanne Haig

Two days after the assassination of six revolutionary leaders in El Salvador, the New York Times ran a front-page story about a meeting between Ronald Reagan's top Latin America advisers and leading Salvadoran businessmen on increased U.S. military aid, including combat equipment, for the junta.

Meeting with the Productive Ali­liance, described as "the Salvadoran private-enterprise steering group" by the Times, were Jean Kirkpatrick and Roger Fontaine of the American Enter­prise Institute; James Theberge, former Ambassador to Nicaragua and a member of Reagan's State Depart­ment transition team, and Constantine Mengden of the Hudson Institute.

Regan is in Reagan's principal Latin America adviser and former director of the Latin America studies at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is also the architect of a strategy that calls for a "U.S. backed coup against the Sandinist Government in Nicaragua through a cutoff of all U.S. aid and by 'molding the national guard in exile into an effective fighting force,'" according to the November 29 issue of the Nation.

The Salvadoran capitalists and Reagan's advisers were in agreement on the need for a counterrevolutionary offen­sive against the Sandinistas, the workers and peasants in El Salvador.

Manuel Enrique Hinds, of the Pro­ductive Alliance, said Reagan's advis­ers "were very clear on the need for strengthening the security forces and on emergency financial aid to halt a collapse in the economy."

In turn, the position of the Productive Alliance, as quoted in the Times, was: "The Salvadoran capitalists and leaders of the revolutionary Democratic Front in El Salvador, the U.S. rulers have secretly been backing, for many years, the actions of the Salvadoran junta from the beginning."

Now, Washington is using the kil­nings of the Revolutionary Democratic Front leaders to throw up its hands in mock despair, claiming that the situa­tion is so out of control that the U.S. has no more leverage.

As State Department spokesperson John Truttner put it, the murders reduce "the chances to bring about a dialogue between the leftist political front and the Government, which we were hopeful would begin as a way of pacifying the country."

The Washington meeting between the Salvadoran businessmen and Rea­gan's advisers included a frank discus­sion of how the U.S. can help prepare El Salvador's military for its counter-revolutionary offensive, "who are in close touch with the leaders of the armed forces," according to the Times, "say the 11,000-member army needs mobile equipment, train­ing and better staff planning to under­take a sustained offensive against guerrillas operating out of rural strong­holds."

If Reagan decides to step up aid to the Salvadoran military, "a public commitment of military aid and com­bat training for the security forces would be expected to follow quickly after the inauguration," according to the Times. "This would also mean beef­ing up economic aid above the $80 million given to El Salvador last year."

From Intercontinental Press

Social democrats back Central American struggle

By Fred Murphy

Managua—The Fifteenth Postwar Congress of the Socialist International (Second International), held in Madrid November 15-17, adopted a special resolution calling for stepped up soli­darity with Nicaragua.

The resolution, passed by unanimous vote, established the International Committee for the Defense of the Nica­raguan Revolution, a body composed of Social Democratic leaders from 12 countries, headed by Felipe Gonzalez, former Secretary General of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE).

The committee includes such promi­nent figures as Willy Brandt of West Germany, Prime Minister Bruno Kreisky of Austria, Prime Minister Antner Jorgensen of Denmark, Olof Palme of Sweden, Bettino Craxi of Italy, Francois Miterrand and Michel Rocard of France, Michael Manley of Jamaica, and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela.

The Social Democratic congress set forth four tasks to be carried out by the new committee: "To support the self-determination of the Nicaraguan people and their process of national recon­struction; to demand the non­interference of foreign countries in the affairs of Nicaragua; to provide inform­ation abroad about the current situa­tion of the revolution; and to promote international solidarity with the Nic­araguan people."

Willy Brandt, president of the Social­ist International, explained in an inter­view with Sofia Montenegro of the FSLN daily Barricada that the estab­lishment of the international commit­tee was the result of a resolution I prepared after a frank and serious conversation with Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce who was here at the conference.

The congress of the Socialist Inter­national also called on the U.S. govern­ment to immediately halt all mil­i­tary and political support to the ruling junta of El Salvador (see box).

Concerning this, Willy Brandt told Barricada: "I strongly hope that no one will fall into the temptation to intervene militarily" in El Salvador. The Socialist International, Brandt said, "must use political means to convince or to make clear to the Amer­i­cans that this is something that we cannot accept."

The congress also adopted a final resolution that stated the following with regard to Latin America: "We believe that the victory and achievements of the Nicaraguan revo­lution reflect the hopes for social change in the region as a whole. We reiterate our support for the Sandinista National Liberation Front."

"Violations of human rights and political repression have nonetheless increased in the Southern Cone and in various Central American countries. We commit ourselves to support the progressive forces of those countries in their struggle for democracy and free­dom." The Socialist International warns in the sharp terms against any attempt by foreign powers to inter­vene in the internal affairs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to remarks made to repor­ters by Commander Bayardo Arce upon his return to El Salvador on November 17, the delegation of observers sent by the FSLN played an important role in persuading, for such a firm stand by the Socialist International, Barri­cada reported.

In a November 16 editorial, Barric­ada pointed to the importance of the Social Democratic drive. "As our leaders have said, the Sandi­nista Revolution is a conquest not only of Nicaragua, but of all the peoples who struggle for national self­determination and social progress. As such it constitutes a model for the joint efforts and solidarity of forces such as the Socialist International."

"The form of this anti-interventionist bloc constitutes a vic­tory for the people and a defeat for the imperialists who seek to overturn the regime of the socialist revolution that means the only means of returning to power."

From Intercontinental Press

El Salvador repression hit

The Fifteenth Postwar Cong­ress of the Socialist Internation­al adopted a resolution on El Salvador that included the fol­lowing paragraphs:

The Socialist International calls on the government of the United States to terminate its political and military support to the current junta in El Salvador and to acknowledge that the junta has not managed to pre­vent continued bloodshed.

"We reject the thesis that the Salvadoran problem is one of a junta that is struggling against the extreme right or left. Rather it is a question of a despotic regime whose actions have brought about a state of civil war."

"We place our deepest hopes and our most active support with the Revolutionary Demo­cratic Front of El Salvador, to which our member party the Nicaraguan (PNI, Nationalist Movement) belongs."
Massive roundup of journalists in Haiti

By Andrea Baron

November’s unprecedented wave of repression in Haiti has arrested more than 150 journalists, human rights activists, and leaders of opposition parties. Information on the crackdown was released at a news conference December 1 by Haitian activists.

By the afternoon of November 28, the Tentative Manifesto of the Haitian secret police, had rounded up the editors and leading reporters of nearly every newspaper and radio station in Haiti that is not directly controlled by Duvalier. Many stations were forced off the air, and the police smashed the transmitting equipment of at least one, Radio Caracol.

Also arrested were Lafontant Joseph, the secretary general of the Haitian League of Human Rights, Joseph is also the attorney for Sylvio Claude, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, who has been in prison since October 13. Sylvio Claude’s daughter, Marie-France, was arrested a week after him. Claude’s wife and son were also arrested in the latest wave.

News reports here say that Jean Dominique, an independent journalist with Radio Haiti-inter, linked the crackdown to the publicity given to the Cayo Lobos incident. Two hundred eighty Haitians seeking an escape from Haiti were stranded on the small island of Cayo Lobos. When they were forced to return to Haiti, the incident received international press coverage. Twenty-one of the refugees disappeared on the return trip.

According to Dominique, Haitian independent reporters covering the return were harassed and threatened by police. Since the Cayo Lobos incident, open criticism of the government in the news media has increased.

A statement released December 1 by the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. in Miami explained: These Haitian reporters dared inform the public about the Cayo Lobos ordeal. And, secondly, they were about to publish a press release from Sylvio Claude’s sympathizers demanding the resignation of the Duvalier government.

At the news conference here, Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste of the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. called for an international campaign to demand that all the political prisoners in Haiti be released. Haitians here in Miami are demanding the immediate resignation of the Duvalier government. Jean-Juste reported that there is a petition campaign in Haiti to demand Duvalier’s resignation and hundreds of people are lining up in the streets to sign the petition. Also speaking at the press conference were Mrs. Levy Ady, mother of Ady Jean-Garvy, one of the arrested journalists from the newspaper Inter-Jeune, and Dr. Edwin A. Grand-Pierre, editor of Inter-Jeune. Grand-Pierre has been in the U.S. to cover the presidential elections. He came to Miami to help publicize the arrests and win the release of the journalists and human rights activists.

The Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. is organizing a series of vigils and rallies in support of the prisoners and to demand their release.

FDR declares struggle continues

Salvador junta slays 6 revolutionary leaders

By Fred Murphy

MANAGUA—The U.S.-backed rulers of El Salvador have committed another massacre against the people of their country.

On November 27, six members of the executive committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador were kidnapped and assassinated.

Their bodies, riddled with bullets and showing signs of torture, disembowelment, and strangulation, were found at a lake near Ilopango International Airport, east of the capital San Salvador.

Among the dead was the FDR’s chairman, former minister of agriculture Enrique Alverez Córdova. Álvarez was a member of one of El Salvador’s wealthiest land-owning families; he was a member of one of El Salvador’s rulers and had broken with the ruling oligarchy to join the forces fighting the dictatorship.

Also murdered were Juan Chacón, general-secretary of the Revolutionary People’s Bloc (BRP); Manuel Franco, a leader of the Democratic Nationalist Union (UDN); Humberto Mendoza of the People’s Liberation Movement (MLP); Enrique Barrera Escobar of the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR); and Doroteo de Jesús Gómez Arias of the Slum Dwellers Union (UPT), which is part of the BRP.

Rightists raid news conf.

The six were captured shortly before noon on November 27 as they were about to hold a news conference at the San José High School in San Salvador.

The school was surrounded by about 200 men in Army and National Police uniforms. About twenty men in plain clothes burst into the school and forced everyone to the floor. The FDR leaders were beaten, blindfolded, and carried off in pickup trucks. Some twenty-five other persons who were in the school at the time were also captured.

Soon thereafter a group called the “Maximilianos Hernández Anticommunist Brigade” called news media in San Salvador to claim credit for the kidnappings and to say that the FDR leaders had all been killed. (Maximiliano Hernández was the military dictator who massacred 50,000 Salvadoran workers and peasants after the defeat of an uprising in January 1932.)

The military/Christian Democratic junta firmly denied all knowledge of responsibility for the murders and kidnappings, but it is well-known that the junta allows Death Squads such as the Maximilianos Hernández Brigade to operate with total impunity. These gangs are made up of security personnel and extreme right wing activists and are commanded by top military officers.

Government helicopters

Moreover, the Salvadoran military had announced early on the day of the murders that its intelligence units had broken up a supposed “guerrilla plot” to assassinate members of the junta and the armed forces. The FDR charged that government helicopters hovered over the school during the attack.

The junta’s disavowal of responsibility for the killings of the FDR leaders was further discredited by the first news dispatch on the events sent from the Salvadoran capital by the Associated Press.

“The authorities have announced the capture of the top leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Front,” the AP said. “A government source said that the specific charges against each one of the detainees would be made known later.”

The bodies of the assassinated FDR leaders were first taken to the Cathedral of San Salvador in the center of the capital. Hundreds of activists from the organizations that make up the FDR gathered to pay homage to the fallen leaders.

But the terrorists had not finished their work. During the evening of November 28, a powerful dynamite blast was set off in front of the cathedral. It destroyed the massive wooden doors of the church, injured five persons, and dashed the cherished dream of the BRP leader Juan Chacón.

Credit for this new attack was also claimed by the Maximilianos Hernández Brigade, which went on to issue death threats against all Jesuit priests in El Salvador.

On November 29, the Revolutionary Democratic Front held a news conference in San Salvador to announce that a new executive committee had already been established to replace the fallen leaders.

The new leadership body includes two members of the old one—Leoncio Pichinte of the February 28 People’s Leagues (LP-28), and Saul Villalobos of the United People’s Action Front (FAU). They had not attended the November 27 news conference and thus had escaped the massacre.

“The movement of the Salvadoran people for their liberation has not been beheaded,” one of the new FDR leaders told the press. “There is mourning but no demoralization.”

The new FDR executive committee announced plans for a massive funeral for the dead leaders, to be held at the San Salvador Cathedral on Wednesday, December 3.

“We call on all democratic governments and popular organizations throughout the world to participate in the services for our fallen compañeros,” an FDR representative stated.

The FDR also called for three days of mourning throughout El Salvador to begin December 3. A similar mourning period for slain Bishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered in March, turned into a general strike.

In its statement on the murder of the leaders, the FDR declared: “These assassinations demonstrate once more the criminal character of the Military- Christian Democratic junta, that wants to impose its ‘peace’ by way of massive extermination of the Salvadoran people. . . . “The FDR strongly and energetically condemns these acts and warns the enemies of the Salvadoran people that they have not defeated the spirit of the people.”

From Intercontinental Press

THE MILITANT/DECEMBER 12, 1980
Salvador killings spark protests across country

By Suzanne Haig

Actions protesting the assassinations in El Salvador and demanding "No U.S. aid to the junta" are taking place across the country.

In response to the killings, Archbishop John R. Roach, head of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, sent the following message to a press conference held in Minneapolis on December 3:

"My heart bleeds for those who have suffered violence, death, and loss of human rights in El Salvador. A lack of respect for persons and institutions, including the Church, is a blight on our society. The prayers of all of us are with those victims of injustice."

Present at the news conference—organized by the El Salvador Solidarity Committee and Clergy and Laity Concerned—were Sen. Nick Coleman, state-senate majority leader; Sister Del Marie Gibney, provincial administrator, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; Frank Gurman, National Chicano Alliance; Professor Julio Quan, Fullbright Scholar, visiting professor at Hamline University, from Guatemala; and others.

Some 100 people attended a broad El Salvador solidarity meeting in New York City on November 30.

The meeting was called out of a planning meeting from the following groups: El Salvador Solidarity Committee; Methodist Federation; Cordoran Consulate; and Panamanian solidarity groups; meeting from the following groups: El Salvador Solidarity Committee; El Salvador: Revolution or Death; National Organization for Women, had the following item in the subscription. The address is P.O. Box 12095, Washington, D.C. 20005.

The booklet contains statements by the FDR, letters of resignation by civilian community members of the junta, reports on U.S. military aid, information and statements about refugees, and expressions of international solidarity with the struggle in El Salvador.

'Grenada News' and 'Caribbean Perspective'

Two publications that will interest readers of this column are Grenada News and Caribbean Perspective. Grenada News is published by the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the Organization of American States, 1434 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Suite 203, Washington, D.C. 20006. It is distributed free. Caribbean Perspective is a new monthly magazine published by the Caribbean People's Alliance. It is available for ten dollars for a one-year subscription. The address is P.O. Box 2144, Brooklyn, New York. 11202. The September 25 issue (Volume 1, Number 3) features murdered Guayana revolutionary Walter Rodney on the cover.

Women's rights in Nicaragua

The October/November issue of the National NOW Times, put out by the National Organization for Women, had the following item in the "In Brief" column:

"Recently, we alerted readers to a report that following the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua, poor women were hoarding contraceptive pills in anticipation of a pre-natalist government's making it difficult to obtain them. "We have heard directly from Leni Guido, Nicaraguan Minister of Health, who says: 'There is no government policy to restrict the availability of contraceptives and no plans to do so in the future.' She added that the Ministry of Health is promoting educational programs on family planning in cooperation with the AIDS, the number of women's organizations in Nicaragua. Ms. Guido emphasized, for the record, that 'Women's health care is a national priority at this time.'"

"Included in her statement were translated copies of several new legal dispositions which are designed to protect the rights of nursing and pregnant Nicaraguan women who wish to work; they are impressive by any country's standards. Our thanks to the Minister for providing us with this updated information."

—Stu Singer

FDR booklet available

The Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador has published a seventy-page booklet in English with valuable information about the civil war in that country. It is titled, El Salvador: A Struggle for Democracy and is available for $2.00 from the U.S. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, P.O. Box 12095, Washington, D.C. 20005.


International outrage mounts

Demonstrations and protests around the world began immediately as news of the murder of the FDR leaders spread: thousands of Nicaraguan students and workers rallied on the Salvadoran embassy in Managua on November 28. In Mexico City members of the External Commission of the FDR headed a march of thousands, which terminated at the Salvadoran embassy.

Trade union leaders from eight Latin American countries meeting in Costa Rica sent an energetic protest to the Salvadoran junta and called for stepped up international solidarity with the people of El Salvador.

A second rally was called out of this action. On November 30, 300 people, primarily Latinos, marched in the Mission District of San Francisco.

Some 300 people protested in San Francisco demanding "No U.S. aid to the junta!"
YSA tours spread truth about Cuban revolution

By Harry Ring

In the weeks before the election several national leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance made speaking tours of various parts of the country. Their aim was to win support for the Socialist Workers presidential ticket and to build attendance at the YSA national convention to be held in Indianapolis December 27-30.

On their return, I talked with three who had been on the tour: Kara Obra­dovitch, Richard Fawkes and Agnes Chapa.

Fawkes, a YSA national staff member, toured a number of southern cities, while Agnes Chapa, editor of the Young Socialist, spoke in New York and New Jersey.

All reported a particularly good response to the YSA's defense of the Cuban revolution. Even though people are subjected to the barrage of U.S. propaganda against Cuba, more and more are willing to listen to the other side.

"Somehow," Kara said, "they seemed to feel in their bones that the media is lying about Cuba. I think this is especially true among Blacks and Latines. They don't identify with the arrogance the papers show toward Cubans.

Slide shows

Agnes and Kara both visited Cuba recently and showed slides of their trip. They felt this brought more people to meetings than if there were just a talk announced.

People asked a lot of questions about everyday life in Cuba. Is it true they can't buy a lot of clothes? What about rationing?

"At first they thought rationing was real bad," Kara said. "But not when I explained that it's the fairest way to deal with shortages, make sure everyone gets a share. Not like here where you can have everything you want—if you can pay the price."

Kara was encouraged by the pro­portion of the YSA is making on the West Coast.

In Portland, a new YSA chapter organizer, well-attended meetings were held by her and then a successful meeting at Lewis and Clark College. Twenty-five students came to it.

At San Jose City College forty-five students attended the slide showing and talk.

Richard spoke about Cuba and Grenada at two mainly Black high school classes in Washington, D.C. "When you compared the situation of youth there and here," he said, "you really got a good discussion."

Richard was particularly excited about an after-school meeting he had with Black Lockheed workers in Atlanta. Several had been brought to meet him by YSAers who work in the plant. Then another half dozen work­ers in the bar where the discussion was held just sat down and joined in.

Made sense

Then I talked about racism in Cuba and how they eliminated it when they got at the root of the problem—the profit system—they thought that was pretty good. It made sense to them.

"They also liked the idea of working people in this country having their own party—a labor party," Richard added. "There were questions about whether or not we could bring about the kind of change right now. But certainly everyone was convinced there was nothing to be gained by supporting either of the big business party candidates."

Richard drove up to Virginia Poly­technic Institute with YSAers from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to meet a student who had written to the SWP national campaign. Since then he's been selling a bundle of ten Militant each week.

He organized a campus meeting, and a dozen people came. Eight or nine of them considered themselves socialists and are among the leaders of the anti­draft movement on campus. One of them want to come to our convention so they can get a better feel for the YSA," Richard said.

Agnes Chapa said her most exciting experience was her two visits to John Jay High School, a mainly Black and Latino school in Brooklyn.

First, she participated in an election symposium attended by more than 500 students. There her sharp opposition to the draft made a visible impression.

Then she was invited to speak to classes about her visits to Cuba.

"One thing I focused on was educa­tion," Agnes said. "How in Cuba edu­cation is totally free, all the way up to even medical school."

"I told them about the textile factory I visited, where the workers get an hour off with pay each day to take classes right there at the plant.

"I described several workers who are going to the University of Havana at night. They told me that fifteen days before exams they get time off with pay to study. I asked the people I was talking to if they could imagine that in this country."

No scalpers

"Then I told them about sports in Cuba. How it's in the constitution that sports have to be accessible to everyone. I said that, for instance, if the World Series had been held in Cuba, the tickets would have been free, like all other sports in Cuba."

A lot of the students were especially interested when she told them how Cuba got rid of racism.

"They asked, 'How? How do they do that?'

"I explained that it's the law. But unlike this country, they enforce it. I gave them the example that if you were refused service in a restaurant because you were Black you could get the closest police officer and have that person arrested."

Some of them wanted to know how they could get to Cuba.

"We have friends at that school now," Agnes said. "A couple of days after I was there, two came to the forum I gave in Brooklyn. Then they came the next day to a class on the Communist Manifesto."

"When you talk about Cuba," Agnes continued, "we can explain that what's been done in Cuba can be done here. And it would be even better because we've got a big head start economically. This is the richest country in the whole world. And it's the workers and young people who know how to run the country."

Mexican socialist, a peasant leader, murdered

By Aníbal Yáñez

Donaciano Sorcia González, a Mex­ican peasant leader from the state of Veracruz, was murdered November 12 by landowners' agents because of his participation in the struggles of his community of Palmario.

Sorcia was recruited a number of year ago to join the leadership of the CCRI, a member organization of the Independent Revolutionary Peasant Coordinating Committee (CCRI) and of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT—the Mexican section of the Fourth International). Sorcia was also a member of both organizations.

A year after they had gotten off of the bus, a pickup truck that had been following them stopped a few yards behind them, then started up rapidly and tried to run them down. Paredes was able to jump free, but Sorcia was run over and killed.

The Mexico City daily Uno más Uno reported the murder November 13, along with the charge of CCRI General Secretary Margarito Montes Parra that Sorcia was murdered because of his political activity.

PRT National Secretary Sergio Rodríguez declared: "We believe this is a clear-cut case of political assassination carried out by landowners from the states of Sonora and Veracruz.

"One of the objectives," he stressed, "was the murder of our comrade Grego­rio Paredes, since just a few days earlier he had participated along with the Independent Peasants Front (FPI), the member organization of the CCRI, in land seizures in the state of Sonora, in the Yaqui Valley.

"Paredes had been arrested by the police for his role in the land seizures in Sonora. After being held incommu­nicate for several days he was re­leased over the state border in Sinaloa and warned never to return to Sonora. Paredes has also been a prominent leader of the Palmarillo peasants in Veracruz organizing strong resistance for land in that area. He got the peasants of Palmario to join the CCRI and also recruited a number of peasant leaders to the PRT, among them the murdered compañero Donaciano Sorcia.

All this would suggest that the at­tack that resulted in Sorcia's death was aimed at Gregorio Paredes. It is an integral part of the attempts by the government to stop the revolutionary and the advancing process of independent organization of the Mexican peasantry. And it indicates, as the attempt to intimidate the most militant peasant­organizations who are involved in the building of groups such as the Inde­pendent Revolutionary Peasants Coordi­nating Committee, Sorcia's visit to Washington was a clear and explicit message to the U.S. government."

From Perspective Mundial
Central activity to focus on suit against U.S. govt.

By Harry Ring

An expanded meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers' Party was held in New York November 29. Committee members, participants included SWP branch organizers and leaders of SWP front organizations in various industries.

A central point on the agenda was the organization of an extensive political campaign around the party's suit against the federal government, slated to come to trial next March 16.

Sales & tours

It was agreed to expand the sales of subscriptions to the Militant, which will provide extensive coverage of the trial.

There will be national speaking tours by SWP leaders to report on the case.

In addition to the Militant coverage, special literature about the political issues involved in the trial will be made available for wide-scale distribution.

To finance this campaign, the Militant was to organize a special fund drive.

The fund will be launched at a nationwide rally on the suit, to be held during the convention of the Young Socialist Alliance in Indianapolis December 27-30.

The YSA is a co-planning unit in the suit, which is seeking to win a billion dollars in damages for illegal harassment and disruption by various government agencies, as well as a permanent injunction against such political victimization.

The report on the case was made by SWP National Committee member Larry Seigle.

Seigle stressed the importance of utilizing the remaining weeks before the trial to mobilize maximum public support for the suit. Members of the SWP and YSA should spread word of the case where ever they are politically active, especially among co-workers.

Popularize socialism

in conjunction with the election, there was an extraordinary opportunity to popularize the socialist ideas which are, fundamentally, the best answer to the problems of the day.

Explaining these ideas in the context of an effective fight against govern­ ment threats to civil rights, Gannon emphasized the defense of socialists Marian Bustin and Héctor Marroquin, two important world revolutionaries who were Meerlach's most active agitators and organizers.

Marroquin is currently appealing a deportation order to Brazil. Bustin is a permanent resident of the United States who was born in Scot­ land and has been a union activist for over 35 years. Heinrich Bustin is a union organizer and leader of the OMU, the union for Black miners in the United States.

And, Seigle added, "she is a union militant who believes her union, the United Mine Workers, should not bow down before the coal bosses when their contract comes up for renewal next March 27."

Pointing to a rising wave of violence against Black activists, Seigle noted the government threats to Black leaders from the Justice Department, the IRS, and the FBI.

Marroquin, Seigle explained, is the fact that she is a union militant who believes in the fight for civil rights.

She is an opponent of the draft and an activist in the women's rights movement. She helped to organize the recent Pittsburgh labor conference on women's energy. She is an active fighter against the war.

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The socialists will defend their right to join hands with revolutionaries all over the world, explaining that the imperialists are working to contain the revolutionary forces and to thwart the further development of an international revolution- ary leadership.

Within the United States, he continued, the working class and oppressed minorities face an accumulating employer offensive tied to the international drive of capitalism.

The employers utilize two key weapons in this fight. One is the legally constituted repressive forces—the FBI, INS, local police, the courts with their harassment or spying, to engage in antilabor injunctions, and so on.

And in tandem with these, they deploy the ideological repressive forces, such as the KKK, Nazis, and gangs of counter-revolutionary exiles who like the murder of Martin Luther King and others. These forces are operating with police and court protection.

In the fight against the reactionary forces of the federal government, Seigle emphasized, the defense of socialists Marian Bustin and Héctor Marroquin is critical. Bustin is a union organizer and leader of the OMU, the union for Black miners in the United States.

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By putting the government on trial, the SWP will take a direct and decisive step toward a more extensive fight against governments which utilize all methods of repression, mass arrests, and other forms of harassment to try to intimidate the people and the masses.

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maps key party campaigns

Support to revolutions in Americas a top priority

Joel Britton and Mac Warren reported on the socialists’ work in solidarity with revolutionary Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada, along with the advancing revolutionary struggles in El Salvador and Guatemala. The recent murders of revolutionary Salvadoran leaders point up the urgency of this work.

Britton explained why such solidarity campaigns are at the center of the party’s work. “Revolutionary Grenada, Nicaragua, and Cuba need our active support. They are under attack from the imperialists, U.S.-dominated capitalist governments in Latin America, and counterrevolutionary exile gangs,” he declared. “And now to prevent the spread of revolution to El Salvador and Guatemala, the imperialists are in an all-out drive to drown in blood the rising revolution in El Salvador.”

Active, visible solidarity with these revolutions “is an elementary duty for internationalists,” he continued, and “can help make a difference between victory and defeat in El Salvador.”

Get out truth

At the center of this work is getting out the truth about these revolutions and demanding an end to U.S. interventions. Organizations of the party’s members are building solidarity with the struggle in El Salvador is of special importance to socialist workers. “Bank-end file workers need the facts on the repression in El Salvador and the fightback being waged by workers and peasants there. By distributing our press and the newly published El Salvador Alert newsletter, we can help get a discussion going in our unions on how to aid our brothers and sisters in El Salvador,” Britton said. “We can begin to counter the scandalous backing given to the junta by the APL-CIO executive board.”

Solidarity activities with the deepening revolution in Nicaragua remain vital, Britton said. The National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan people is continuing to organize speaking tours, most recently that of Silvia Reyes, a Sandinista National Liberation Front combatant and leader of the mass women’s organization. The Eyeglasses for Nicaragua campaign announced by the United Steelworkers is one in which socialist steelworkers are getting actively involved. This effort coincides with Nicaragua’s present “Year of Health.” If taken to the ranks of the union, the effort could be of significant help to the people of Nicaragua.

Another union that has backed the idea of solidarity with Nicaragua is the United Auto Workers, which passed a resolution at its 1980 convention supporting economic aid to Nicaragua. Two activities in solidarity with revolutionary Cuba were singled out by Britton. One is the national conference to end the U.S. blockade against Cuba now slated for February in Washington. The other is a national conference on education in Cuba to be held in Boston in January.

An important activity in 1981 will be organizing to get members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance to visit Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada to see firsthand the achievements of these revolutions. The Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, and the Young Socialist will organize tours to coincide with Sandino Day commemorations in Nicaragua in February, the second anniversary celebrations in Grenada in March, and the massive May Day rally in Cuba.

Tour of Grenada leader

The Grenada Friendship Society is currently helping sponsor visits to several U.S. cities by Warren. Grenada’s consul general to North America, Burke spoke at five colleges, a high school, and a Black community meeting in Los Angeles. Hundreds signed up to do work for the society. This is no small operation, Warren said, but can be duplicated in every city where the society is active. With organizing, committees can be established in new cities as well.

Because Grenada is the first English-speaking Black country where workers and peasants seized power, the revolution there has a special attraction for U.S. Blacks, Warren said.

The society can involve broad forces in the Black community, as well as labor, students, left groups, and others.

Another important aspect of our defense of the Grenadian revolution, Warren added, is the coverage of events in Grenada and the Caribbean in the Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, and Intercontinental Press. These publications provide a major part of the news available in this country about Grenada.

Another important source of information that should be utilized in all areas is the Free West Indian, published in Grenada and available through subscriptions.

While Warren and Britton focused mainly on Grenada, Nicaragua, and El Salvador in their reports, Britton made clear that solidarity with revolutionary Cuba will also become more important in the days ahead.

Britton noted that Washington is increasingly seeking to block aid on Cuba for the revolutionary developments in the Caribbean and that its anti-Cuba drive is spreading.

Just as each of these three countries is firmly committed to defend one another, so U.S. socialists see defense of all of them as a single major responsibility.

Mac Warren, recently returned from a visit to Grenada, reported on activity in defense of that revolution. He stressed that such defense has added importance because imperialism is on a drive to isolate and destroy revolutionary Grenada and block the spread of its gains in the Caribbean. He pointed to the CIA’s role in helping install the right-wing Seima regime in Jamaica. He noted stepped-up collaboration with Washington by right-wing regimes, like that in Barbados.

The imperialist government continues to protect ex-Grenadian dictator Eric Gairy, refusing to extradite him and allowing him to organize counterrevolutionaries in this country.

The most important way of developing solidarity with Grenada, Warren reported, is building the U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society. The society has chapters in cities across the country that work to get out the facts on the Grenadian revolution and build U.S. solidarity.

Several recent events, he noted, confirm the potential for involving thousands in solidarity with Grenada.

The first was the response to an effort by southwesterners to hold a public meeting in New York as an initial move in the effort to topple the new People’s Revolutionary Government.

A countermobilization by Grenadian supporters of the revolution turned the pro-Gairy meeting into a pro-revolution rally. The few Gairy supporters were met by a large crowd and Gairy ended up holding a small, private meeting instead.

And, shortly thereafter, a Brooklyn rally of 500 was held for Selwyn Strachan, a leading figure in the Grenadian government.

in fight against nukes, racism, draft

turned out October 19 for a rally against the murders of Blacks there, with unions playing a significant role.

And Black activists have launched a national Black party, independent of the Democrats and Republicans. Gannon also noted that current school desegregation suits involve dozens of cities. He emphasized the need to involve the unions in the fight for housing to achieve equal education. In Boston and other areas, unions have responded positively to the issue. If socialism caries the issue to the city council floor, support can be won and greater union involvement achieved.

Gannon suggested that SWP branches mark the February 21 anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, pointing to the continuing relevancy of his work and teachings.

In participating in the 1981 elections, Gannon said, particular attention should be paid to areas whereKKers or Nazis run for office. Both groups have indicated they intend to step up their electoral activity and where possible they should be actively opposed by SWP candidates.

Fight against nuclear power

A significant portion of Gannon’s report related to the fight against nuclear power.

He cited the angry protests over the latest accident at New York’s Indian Point nuclear power plant as an indication of deepening antinuclear sentiment.

In this context, he continued, the successful October labor conference on nuclear energy in Pittsburgh assumes special importance.

Central role of miners

Coal miners played a central role at this gathering. The miners effectively explained that they support coal as an alternative to nuclear power not simply because it would improve their employment prospects but because they are concerned for the safety of their children.

The entire conference, he said, confirmed that labor can and must take the lead in the fight against nuclear power. And it confirmed that the coal miners, rail workers, and other unionists will play a central role in the fight. THE MILITANT/DECEMBER 12, 1980
Leaders discuss goals of Black party

Sizemore: 'Twin parties of capitalism'

Our problem is teaching the masses of Black people in this country that there is only one party. That is the Republican and the Democrat are the same people. We do not have two parties in this country. We only have one party—that is the capitalist party of America. It has two branches: the Republican and Democratic. We've got to teach our people to be on guard against people who are for sale for money. We've got to teach our people to be suspicious of even our Black independent organization if it comes to us talking about supporting anybody who is not responsive to our needs. We must be conscious of this. This organization first and foremost must be independent. It must represent the interests of Black people.

Barbara Sizemore

Daniels: 'Ours a new kind of party'

We're creating a new kind of party. Some people are asking, what is it going to look like? The first thing we have to be clear about is what it will not look like. It will not look like the Democratic Party and it will not look like the Republican Party. It is unlike anything we have ever seen in recent times on the American scene.

It is a party that stands for the politics of social transformation.

We recognize that we are afflicted by racism in this country.

We are also afflicted by a capitalist political economy.

We must struggle to transform this political economy as a basis for self-determination of the Black nation and of reparation for the Black nation.

We have never been paid for all the work that we've done.

It's a community-building party. It will stress community organizing.

Ron Daniels

Chavis: 'Atlanta, Buffalo, Miami, Los Angeles'

The interest of our party must not be to improve the political lot of a small group of radical intellectuals.

The interest of our party must be to improve the living conditions of all of our people as we progress in the struggle to eradicate the demonic system of monopoly capitalism and white racism.

In 1965 the prophet Malcolm X correctly predicted that it is impossible for capitalism to survive. Capitalism needs some blood to suck, he said.

As the nations of the third world are gaining their independence, capitalism has less and less blood to suck and it becomes weaker and weaker.

It is only a matter of time, said Malcolm, before it will collapse completely.

This is a very crucial moment in history.

I would detail all of the things that have happened to us as a people in this nation.

From Atlanta, Georgia, where our children have been killed. To Buffalo, New York, where our brothers have had their hearts cut out.

To Miami and Los Angeles, which is becoming the capital of police brutality. There's white policemen who have choked young Black men to death and shot defenseless young Black women.

The two party system in the United States has not failed.

It is the ones who have failed by allowing themselves to be manipulated by the Democratic and Republican parties.

We must not fail our people now.

We are here to take care of some business in the interest of Black liberation.

Ben Chavis

James Turner: 'No draft—No war!'

All of the Caribbean, and even Nicaragua, is going through maximum pressure by the rise of the right-wing tide in this country.

The inhuman treatment at the hands of the government is a reflection of not only a draft but in fact a new move to militarization in which the Black working class youth will become a major part of any international military adventures on the part of the U.S. We cannot be party to that.

We have to raise the question of no draft, no military participation!

The option to unemployment is not the military.

We must include in the international program of the party the call for breaking of diplomatic relations with South Africa, and removing all commercial offices of South Africa from inside the United States.

We must understand clearly what Malcolm's last message to us was. That we are not involved in a domestic struggle. That is in fact a human rights struggle.

Our party must have an international perspective.

The move to expand markets and to control vital strategic seaways and marketplaces is also related to the same crisis that has caused a growing move to support the employers against the workers; a growing move to support the landlords against the renters; the growing need to promote profit over human welfare.

International and domestic issues are linked. We must have an international program that's on the side of national liberation struggles in Africa, liberation struggles in the third world, and progressive movements inside the industrial countries.

Manning Marable

Multicultural leaders brought us here

We are here in part because the so-called Black elected and appointed officials have failed so miserably to do anything constructive or meaningful on behalf of the masses of our people.

At a time when neither Jimmy Carter nor Ronald Reagan merited the support of the majority of African people in this country, our so-called Negro leaders stumbled hastily over themselves to get behind the evils of two lesser.

Malcolm X taught us that the political philosophy of Black nationalism means we must control the politics and politicians of our community.

We must organize and sweep out of office all so-called Negro politicians who are the puppets of outside forces.

Look at the past twenty years of Black political history.

The number of Black elected officials has risen dramatically from 100 in 1964 to 1,100 in 1970 to over 5,000 today.

Blacks became mayors in cities like Atlanta, New Orleans, Detroit, and Cleveland.

But real political power escaped the clutches of those who would-be Black power brokers.

Too many of our people gave their hopes and their votes to so-called leaders—most of them Democrats, but Black Republicans as well who had nothing to offer us.

For these and other reasons we have come here to begin the difficult and painful task of constructing an independent national Black political party.

We cannot wait to liberate ourselves by looking on high. Only the masses can liberate themselves.

Manning Marable

Protest treatment of Puerto Rican prisoners

By Nelson González

Despite police harassment, 100 demonstrators gathered at the Dwight Correctional Center in Dwight, Illinois, on November 29.

The demonstration was organized to protest the treatment of four Puerto Rican independence fighters imprisoned there.

The four and seven others were convicted and jailed on charges of terrorism earlier this year. All were accused of belonging to the Armed Forces of National Liberation (ALN).

In an attempt to intimidate the demonstrators, a state police air­plane buzzed their car caravan as it approached the prison.

According to the protest organizers, the four prisoners, all women, are denied the right to meet collectively with their attorney. They are not allowed reading material of their own choice. They have been given punishment as if they were men.

One of the women, who has an injured hip, was refused the right to correspond with a doctor.

The five Puerto Rican Nationalists jailed for their pro­independence activities in the United States suffered similarly cruel treatment.

The inhuman treatment at Dwight Correctional Center stops immediately. All supporters of Puerto Rican independence and human rights should join in demanding an end to these conditions.
By Nan Bailey

The formation of the National Black Independent Political Party by 1,500 Black activists meeting in Philadelphia November 21-23 is a promising development in the struggle for Black rights. It points the way forward not only for the Black community but for working people across the country.

Serious Black activists have every interest in helping to promote the new party's development along the antiracist, anti-capitalist, and politically independent lines that its founders have outlined.

New leaders

The Philadelphia meeting was a leader's conference. It brought together some of the new, young leadership that is emerging from among the masses of Black people. The 1,500 who attended represented a broad cross section of the Black community. They included community activists, young people, women, students and workers.

They came to Philadelphia determined to fight back against racist attacks, cop brutality, rising unemployment, the threat of war, and intolerable conditions in housing and the public schools.

They came disgusted with the dead-end political strategies of Black elected officials and other leaders. They came to Philadelphia and they must become their own leaders if progress is to be made in the fight for Black rights.

Most were looking to found a new kind of political party—one that would challenge the policies of the Democratic and Republican parties. They wanted a party that would represent the interests of Black people.

A large portion of the delegates were young people. Many were getting involved in this kind of political action on a national level for the first time.

Radical views

The views expressed in Philadelphia in support of women's rights, affirmative action, democratic rights, against U.S. imperialist military interventions, and for a political break with the twin parties of capitalism reflected the radical sentiments of millions of Blacks.

Outrage at racist terror in Atlanta, Buffalo, Miami, and across the country was a prominent theme of the formal and informal discussion at the gathering.

The convention offered a glimpse of the extent to which the capitalist system has exposed itself in the eyes of millions of Black people. Many pointed to capitalism as the root of the racist oppression and economic exploitation of Blacks.

The convention expressed the growing disillusionment within the Black community with the Democratic and Republican politicians—Black and white.

The most repeated phrase describing the new party was the declaration that it would not be like the Democratic and Republican parties.

Both these parties represent the wealthy, convention participants overwhelmingly agreed.

Eductor Barbara Sizemore was enthusiastically applauded when she said, "We don't have two parties in this country. We only have one party...the capitalist party of America. It has two branches. The Republican and Democratic."

A new strategy

The founding of the National Independent Black Political Party distinguishes the Philadelphia convention from other Black political conventions sponsored by the National Black Political Assembly. The NBPA was founded at the 1972 conference of 8,000 Blacks in Gary, Indiana.

The fundamental political error made at those conventions, beginning with Gary, was the pursuit of a strategy of working in or with the Democratic and Republican parties. Instead of charting an independent course.

Eight years later, it is clear that this strategy was a failure.

Recognition of this fact by millions of Black people is what pressed leaders of the National Black Political Assembly to join with others to implement the resolution presented on the floor of the NBPA's August convention in New Orleans, to call a convention to found an independent Black party.

This is how the Philadelphia convention was initiated.

It was unfortunate, as many activists in Philadelphia pointed out, that the majority of the convention deliberations were devoted to adopting an organizational structure for the party.

This means the discussion still ahead for the party is the adoption of a political program that can direct the party's work.

The character of the political program adopted will play a decisive role in charting the future course of the party.

But the political thinking of convention participants and their proposals for what such a program should be came through in many ways at the convention.

It was evident in the discussions in the women's, youth, and student caucuses that met at the convention.

The hundreds who attended these caucuses discussed the political problems facing Black women and youth. The youth caucus focused much of its attention on the problems of youth unemployment and the draft, for example, and adopted these as two important issues that the caucus will take up in its ongoing work.

The political thinking of delegates was revealed in the convention discussions on the need for a woman's caucus and the political role of such a body in the Black party.

Delegates showed a clear understanding of the issues involved when they overwhelmingly rejected the proposal that a male caucus be organized if there was going to be a woman's caucus.

Delegates also overwhelmingly approved the formation of a labor caucus, an idea that was not originally set forth in the proposed party charter. "Black workers are going to play a central role in this party if it is going to have a future," the delegate from Maryland said when he made the proposal.

A rich political discussion went on in the corridors as well. Hostages in Iran, the shooting of Vernion Jordan, the Reagan administration, the U.S. role in the Caribbean, police brutality, and Black education were some of the topics of discussion in the hallways.

Most of all, the majority of those who came to Philadelphia wanted to initiate some political action in defense of Black rights. As convention organizer Ron Daniels put it, "We refuse to say that elections and...public officials is politics. It is not politics. It is only one aspect of politics."

"Malcolm X taught us we must struggle by any means necessary." "If it's demonstratin', that's politics."

"Organizing welfare mothers...tenants unions...economic boycott...that's politics."

"All those things put together equals Black politics by any means necessary."

Pre-convention discussion

The plans for a national congress in July or August, 1981, and the mandate for local chapters of the new party to hold local conventions to build the congress mean that the next several months will be a rich pre-convention discussion period for the National Black Independent Political Party.

It will continue the political discussion that was not completed in Philadelphia.

The party has much to gain by involving as many Blacks as possible in this discussion. Recruiting to the party and its activities in the next period will mean also recruiting to what promises to be an educational discussion.

Challenges ahead

The National Black Independent Political Party and its founding members face important challenges in building the organization.

The task of beginning now to take action to oppose racist attacks and economic injustice is posed for the local chapters. Millions of working people are looking for a leadership that will mobilize such a political action campaign.

This leadership in action will attract even more activists to the ranks of the Black party.

Organizing an open and democratic discussion of the party's program and aims will also be a challenge.

Such a discussion, beginning on the local level, will pose political views that can be thoroughly discussed and a programmatic policy adopted at the party's national congressing.

In launching this independent political party, Black activists have taken a step in leading not only the masses of Black people, but also other oppressed nationalities and the ranks of the labor movement.

These forces will watch the party's development with interest and will be affected by its actions. More on this in a future article.
The story they tried to keep from American people

By Stu Singer

In the following pages the *Militant* reprints the entire text of a document by U.S. government employees called "Dissent Paper on El Salvador and Central America."

We think it represents the most important revelations to date of the secret war the United States is conducting in Central America.

According to this document, the United States has made "operational plans for multilateral and unilateral deployment of military forces in El Salvador and Guatemala."

In addition to preparing to send troops to Central America, the U.S. is playing a major role right now in the El Salvador civil war. The U.S. government is giving surveillance data to the Salvadoran armed forces and increased training for their officers. U.S. military advisers in El Salvador are helping the junta improve military communications and rapid troop deployment.

Like the Pentagon Papers, which blew the lid off the real U.S. policy and decision making in the Vietnam War, this document exposes the lies of the U.S. government about what it is doing in Central America.

Why was such a document released? The authors identify themselves by writing, "The views articulated in this paper are shared in private by current and former analysts and officials at NSC, DOS, DOD and CIA. (See box for what initials represent.)"

"Members of Congress and their staffs...also participated in this effort."

The authors indicate they share the American government's objectives of isolating the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions and preserving imperialist domination in Central America. They say they are afraid the direction of government policy toward military intervention will lead to a defeat for the United States.

They propose what they call a "Zimbabwe option"—a negotiated settlement of the conflict in El Salvador and the establishment of a coalition government. But in order to make their case, the authors are forced to make public extensive information on the current war plans of the U.S. government.

The facts deserve wide circulation in the United States and elsewhere.

Issue number two of El Salvador Alert!, published by the U.S. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), reports on the dissent paper and the importance of stepping up solidarity work in light of its revelations. CISPES has also made copies of the entire document available, with an introduction by Philip Wheaton. (Order from CISPES, Box 129, Washington, D.C. 20005. Enclose $1.50 for the document and $10 for a one-year subscription to El Salvador Alert! It comes out every two weeks.)

The dissent paper has received limited attention in the capitalist news media. The December 1 New York Times ran an Op-Ed column about it by Anthony Lewis. The Boston Globe ran an article by Stephen Kinsler, its Latin American specialist.

The lack of headline news is partially explained in the document itself. One of its revelations is the success in manipulating news coverage about El Salvador.

Key to abbreviations
ARA—American Republics Area, a bureau of the U.S. State Department; CIA—Central Intelligence Agency; COPEI—the ruling Christian Democratic Party in Venezuela; DOD—Department of Defense; DOS—Department of State; FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation; FIDEL—Revolutionary Democratic Front; FNLN—Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua; IBRD—International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; IIEA—Inter-American Development Bank; IMF—International Monetary Fund; INS—U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; NGO—non-governmental organizations; NSC—National Security Council; PFLP—Palestine Liberation Party; PC—institutionalized PFLP, the long-time ruling party of the PLO.

State Dept. reaction

I called the State Department December 3 to ask them about the dissent paper. They knew what I was talking about right away.

"It cannot be accurately described as a dissent paper. We received it in the mail. It is a forgery of a dissent paper," according to Kate Marshall, a press officer.

She informed me it is full of lies. Then she said she had not read it.

Donald Mathes, the Public Affairs Adviser for the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, called me back at the Military Office. He explained there are such things as dissent papers, for employees to express disagreement with a policy. But this was not one. "It was not in the dissent channels and it was not signed," he said.

Why did papers like the New York Times and the Boston Globe run articles on it, I asked.

"Maybe they want to start a discussion on these questions."

—Stu Singer

Why was the media manipulated?

"To avoid Nicaraguan style publicity for opposition insurgents," the dissenters explain.

"A poll conducted in June 1979 found that 2 of every 3 Americans opposed the Somozas regime and about half of those were sympathetic to the Sandinistas insurgents. More pertinent however is a poll in August 1980 which found that the public attitudes of June 1979 had not changed significantly despite critical media coverage of the first anniversary of the Sandinista government."

According to the dissenters, the junta has failed to rally significant support; only a small fraction of the urban middle class is committed to its survival; and domestic and foreign businesses have nearly completely liquidated their assets.

On the other hand, they acknowledge that the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) has widespread support throughout the country and internationally; the military capabilities of the opposition are much more significant than has been revealed by the U.S. news media.

The authors of the dissent memo think this information would trigger the kind of antiwar opposition in the United States that was seen during the Vietnam War.

Some of the ruthlessness of what is going on in El Salvador comes through behind the official jargon of the dissent paper.

For example, it says that while the news media is fed the line about "extremists of the right and the left" opposing the junta, U.S. military advisers are "seeking to bring under unified command the parasitical military units in the country."

This is a reference to the terrorist gangs which have murdered thousands in the past year.

The document also explains that "U.S. intelligence has been in contact with Nicaraguan exile groups in Guatemala and in Miami and it is aware of their relationship with Cuban exile terrorist groups operating in the US....no attempt has been made to restrict their mobility in or out of the US or to interfere with their activities."

The dissent paper reveals more than the authors probably intended. They say the highly touted agrarian reform "failed to neutralize the peasant population and has not succeeded in isolating the guerrilla forces."

The dissent paper says the U.S. intervention and attention to El Salvador "exceed those allocated to any other hemispheric crisis since 1965."

U.S. Marines invaded the Dominican Republic in 1965 to prevent the elected government of Juan Bosch from taking power.

The authors of this dissent paper say that "Reagan's foreign policy advisers have made deeply disturbing statements about their plans for Central America and the Caribbean basin." But they correctly point out that "should President Reagan choose to use military force in El Salvador...the setting for such actions had been prepared in the last year of the Carter Administration."

Getting out the truth about U.S. government policy will help organize opposition to it. Getting out this dissent paper, with its revelations from the horses' mouths, is an important weapon in this campaign.

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State Dept. ‘disse U.S. covert operati

‘Should President Reagan change his policy towards El Salvador...the setting for prepared in the last year of the Carter Administration.‘

12
Full text of memo

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. CURRENT US ROLE IN EL SALVADOR

1. Improving political and economic conditions
2. Protecting international legitimacy
3. Counter-insurgency capabilities
4. Contingency plans
5. Congressional and public opinion support

B. ALTERNATIVE VIEW OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FACTORS

1. El Salvador's domestic situation
2. Regional factors: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador.
3. International perspectives
4. US public opinion

C. IN SEARCH OF A NON-MILITARY OPTION

1. U.S. objectives
2. The context for dialogue
3. The Zimbabwe option
4. Attitudes of regional actors: Mexico, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, others.

D. OPENING MOVES OF AN ALTERNATE POLICY

1. Recognition of the FDR
2. Signal willingness to abandon confrontational track
3. Maintaining a low profile
4. Encouraging pluralistic media coverage

The Reagan Administration's first international crisis may well be in El Salvador. Candidate Reagan's foreign policy advisors have made deeply disturbing statements about their plans for Central America and the Caribbean basin.

However, should President Reagan choose to use military force in El Salvador, historians will be able to show that the setting for such actions had been set last year at the Carter Administration. There may still be time to change course during the transition period. If the effort fails, we will continue to strive for a negotiated resolution of the conflict. We recall, perhaps with unwarred optimism, that it was Mrs. Thatcher-and not her Labor predecessors-who brought the Rhodesian crisis to a peaceful end. We hope that moderation and reason will prevail among President Reagan's appointees.

We see current US activities in El Salvador as leading to increased military engagement with far reaching implications for our strategic interests in the Caribbean basin. Support for our policies is limited and unreliable. Our identification with theVariantmax display of policies that President Clinton has placed us in a collision course with key regional actors with whom we need to maintain friendly and cooperative diplomatic and economic relations.

In this paper, we present the views of three US policy makers who have been closely associated with the Carter Administration. The views articulated in this paper are shared in private by current and former analysts and officials at NSC, DOD, CIA and CIA. Intelligence from other agencies active in El Salvador and Central America-but normally excluded from policy debates—also contributed to these notes.

In this case, their close contact with the situation in the field provided us with valuable insights and uncommon objectivity.

Members of Congress and their staffs, concerned by developments in the region and disturbed by the implications of some aspects of current policy, also participated in this effort.

It is in our intention that this dissenting paper circulate widely among makers and executors of policy in the Carter and Reagan administrations. We trust it will promote open discussion of realistic alternatives to our potential escalated military involvement in Central America and the Caribbean.

Washington D.C., November 6, 1980

Summary and recommendations

The Carter administration has gradually increased US political, diplomatic, economic and military involvement in support of the civilian-military coalition government in El Salvador. This involvement is extensive and growing. The resources invested in this effort exceed those allocated in support of the civilian-military coalition government in El Salvador. This involvement is extensive and growing.

The two principal objectives and arguments presented in this paper may well enjoy broad international support and acceptance. This option is seen as most effective in achieving the two key objectives of US policy in this region: limiting Cuban and Soviet expansion and preventing the emergence of stable and pluralistic governments.

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Media coverage of El Salvador has been responsive to official government policies: greater emphasis on US interests in the region, continuous reference to Cuban involvement, understatement of the ‘human rights’ dimension, effective use of the ‘extremists of the right and the left’ formula.’

prefer to outline the actions of our government agencies which affect developments in El Salvador.

A CURRENT US ROLE IN EL SALVADOR
Policy statements on Central America, whether for internal or external public consumption are inadequate starting points for discussion of our current role in the region. Rather than focusing on the articulation of policy objectives and their rationale, we

1. Improving political and economic conditions to increase viability of peace process through:
   - Accelerating disbursement of bilateral economic aid and providing administrative and technical assistance.
   - Supporting approval and expediting disbursement of US bilateral military aid and pipeline projects and projects under consideration.
   - Making available and providing technical and managerial skill to assist in government planning and administration to prevent economic collapse.
   - Focusing on strategies for expanding internal administration of agrarian reform program to reduce its impact on short term benefit to targeted population.
   - Expanding short-term flow of private sector to discourage current capital outflux and strengthen sectorial confidence.
   - Monitoring and promoting moderate and open differences among members of governing junta and the officers corps.

2. Improving and protecting the international legitimacy and prestige of the peaceful solution to the conflict in El Salvador:
   - Encouraging Salvadoran recruitment of moderate, non-ideological political experts.
   - Providing logistical support and orientation through US embassies and missions.
   - Activating US political and diplomatic support from sympathetic Latin American and other allied governments.
   - Discouraging resolutions and other diplomatic initiatives critical of current government or possibly contributing to the legitimation of opposition forces.
   - Activating mechanisms to disrupt opposition efforts to garner international support and legitimacy and to limit the impact of such efforts.
   - Creating favorable conditions for other countries’ involvement in providing support for US initiatives like the OAS and the UN in relation to the situation in El Salvador.
   - Closely monitoring and feeding media coverage of the region and publicizing widely US initiatives in and support for current process in El Salvador.

3. Strengthening counter-insurgency capabilities of armed forces:
   - Increased training for middle and low ranking officers.
   - Improving military infrastructures for more effective urban and rural combat communications and operations.
   - Setting up adequate supply lines and stockpiling materiel in cooperation with regional and US assets.
   - Providing strategic and tactical command advisory assistance.
   - Increasing cohesion and coordination among various command structures within Salvadorean armed forces.
   - Seeking to bring under unified command the paramilitary units operating in the country.
   - Establishing and/or improving communications and cooperation among armed forces and paramilitary organizations in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.
   - Making available US surveillance data pertinent to military developments in El Salvador to the armed forces.

4. Updating detailed contingency plans for US alternative responses to deterioration of conditions in the region to include:
   - Political and diplomatic initiatives to be taken in the event that military engagement of US forces is required in Central America.
   - Operational plans for multilateral and unilateral deployment of military forces in El Salvador and Guatemala.
   - Cost, casualty and time estimates under favorable ground conditions and incorporating signals to military leaders during the electoral campaign discouraged their interest in the region.

Continued from preceding page

NGO’s.

Continued from preceding page

Producing logistical support and orientation through US embassies and missions.

Continued from preceding page

Closely monitoring and feeding surveillance data pertinent to...
cooperation with El Salvador, tolerates and encourages National Guard units garrisoned in the country, and believes it could impose a semblance of order on Nicaragua.

- A minority moderate faction within the armed forces is seeking closer relations with the civilian democracy, and has a relatively friendly relationship with the Nicaraguan government and with the FSLN. It wants on Honduran involvement in El Salvador. It considers that open conflict with Nicaragua could prove dangerously destabilizing for Honduras and is not convinced of the possibility of defeating the Sandinista army and militia. There has been a marked increase in trade and military assistance during the 1980s. The Sandinistas have developed friendly relations with El Salvador and the US, and have supplied arms to it.

- Rural and urban guerrilla groups have begun to operate in Honduras in the past year. Theircapitalize the Nicaraguan political process. The Sandinistas have developed friendly relations with El Salvador and the US, and have supplied arms to it.

- Despite economic recovery and surprisingly effective planning, administration and management, the Nicaraguan economy remains weak and vulnerable to foreign shocks and the high levels of unemployment would make reported estimates conservative, relatively simple and rapid operation.

- Economic development and recovery in El Salvador in the early 1980s. The Salvadorean government has been working on a recovery program, and the high levels of unemployment would make reported estimates conservative, relatively simple and rapid operation.

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3. International context

In the aftermath of the 10/15/79 military coup, international public opinion was unanimous in its support for the new government and its proposed reform program. That first coalition Junta had the participation and support of Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Commu-
nists and even some sympathy from the “popular organizations.” A fact attainable by critical spokes-
men of our government is that the first, broadly representa-
tive coalition government collapsed in early January 1980. Later on, their organizations felt the "human rights" movement was powerless to implement the reforms and counter-repression. From that moment on, international support for the successor coalitions dwindled rapidly. A year after the October coup the international context has changed drastically.

A brief review is pertinent to assess the support to be found for current policies in El Salvador. The Christian Democratic movement and its members-partners were divided. Its conservative active wing favors continued support for the current govern-
ment and for US policy. The youth sector of the movement—considered by many observers to rep-
resent majority factions in most parties—identifies with the FDJ opposition.

The important diplomatic gains we made since the Sandinista government's vote in Central America and the Caribbean than the US would impose their own terms on the armed forces and the government. The US has considerable leverage in the current drive to attract attention to the conflict in El Salvador.

In this section we propose a new definition of US objectives in Central America and argue that conditions exist for their achievement through a negotiated solution to the conflict in El Salvador.

1. US objectives

A key objective of US policy in Central America is to isolate Cuba and to prevent the Sandinista government from gaining a foothold in the region. The US may not agree with those who believe the threat of Cuban expansionism. But we try to distinguish between Cuban desires and intentions and the actual capacity to ex-
press and implement them. Neither Cuba nor the US want to provoke a full-fledged military confrontation to liquidate or dismantle all gains in leftist regimes. The US would risk the present stalemate. They also feel that such an agreement would not be feasible for the present status quo. The US is advising their Salvadorean counterparts to avoid a direct confrontation with us. For example, an August 1980 poll found that 60% of all Salvadorans interviewed opposed the use of military force in the immediate future. The still to be analyzed reaction to the draft registration drive and the drop in support for intervention in Iran after the rescue attempt support assertions to the effect that we have overcome the “Vietnam Syndrome” may be premature.

The above changes in organized public opinion have had a major impact on US policy in Central America and the Caribbean. The fundamental change has come in the US military sector. The US has acquired an aura of veracity that does not corre-

The FDRL-Junta leadership feels confident about their continuing support. The US is not the only foreign power in the region. Both major military and economic powers have acquired an aura of veracity that does not corre-

The Sandinistas, threatened by what they perceive as the beginning of an offensive against them, would be under enormous pressure to solidify their gains with the Soviet bloc through response mechanisms similar to those that pushed Cuba into the Central American alliance. Regionalization would justify the emergence of “internationalist brigades” that could roam the isthmus from Colombia to Mexico. The Sandinistas have already shown that they might emerge during or after a military confrontation with the US in El Salvador. This would further bolster the protective umbrella of other regional powers. A likely candidate is, obviously, Cuba.

Therefore, to limit opportunities for Soviet-Cuban expan-
sionism, the US should avoid regionalization of armed conflict. The Sandinistas should have their own military conflict. A strategic objective of US policy should be to promote the emergence of stable governments capable of effective management of most needed reform programs while encouraging other hemispheric initiatives and to normalise economic relations with the foreign community.

Clearly the current government of El Salvador is not stable. It can not carry out the reforms it decreed and it can not provide a solution to the Sandinistas' economic objec-
tive to economic normalisation. Growing casualty rates and continued destruction of property make it apparent that the Salvadoran security forces can not gain a military victory on their own. The private business sector and foreign investors have already been severely damaged. Continued warfare will further erode their influence and limit their role in the reconstruction period.

The Sandinistas are more closely coordinated and their arguments applied with equal weight to the Guatemalan situation. We have tried to resolve peacefully for nearly four years the relation between centrist moderate forces in the country and to press the government to limit repression and allow for political participation. Our support for a negotiated solution to the conflict in El Salvador will serve notice to the Guatemalan hardliners that the solution to the conflict is no longer a matter of abstract political theory. The new Sandinista regime is not seen as an immediate threat to US expansionism. But the US must now begin to work on the possibility of a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The US objective is to promote the emergence of stable governments capable of effective management of needed reform programs while encouraging other hemispheric initiatives and normalising economic relations with the foreign business community.

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The threat of disruptions to the peaceful implementation of the Canal treaties would be largely neutralized.

CUBA

Cuban attitudes towards a negotiated settlement in El Salvador would largely depend on the nature of the process itself, on the response of the FDR/DRU and on their perceptions of the chances for adequate representation in a coalition transitional government.

It is pertinent to examine briefly aspects of the Cuban government’s attitudes via-vis the Zimbabwe negotiations. We stress that Cuba was prepared to intervene militarily in support of the Patriotic Front under the following conditions:

- A formal request from the Patriotic Front, a formal request from the front line states, acquiescence from the OAU.
- Accorded Southern African intervention in Zimbabwe: initiating the internationalization of the conflict.
- Formation of a Provisional Revolutionary Government.

From the Cuban point of view, the costs of involvement in El Salvador are much lower than those associated with their intervention in El Salvador. Their actions in El Salvador were surprisingly even less advantageous due to the number of observers who when he gave full support to the negotiations in Washington. We will be focused on the strategic imperatives to reach a political solution in El Salvador that prove that Cuban military assistance is a dispensable factor in the democratization of Central America.

OTHER REGIONAL ACTORS

- The list of likely supporters of a negotiated settlement that would guarantee FDR/DRU participation in new coalition government is extensive. The arguments in each case might become more complex, Costa Rica would follow with relief Venezuela’s lead. President Roldos of Ecuador would see the opportunity to cancel out pressures on his administration. Caribbean countries would perceive US support for such a process as a step away from gun politics. Salvadorean government restrictions on freedom to mobilize their supporters and access to information have weakened the armed forces. Terrorism on both sides became more extensive in the last year of the conflict. Best efforts continued even as the Westminster talks proceeded.
- The threat of Southern African involvement, the Cuban commitment to intervene with troops and the internationalization of a regional war were important factors in favor of reaching a negotiated solution.
- The Mozorewa regime lost prestige and credibility in the eyes of international observers when he gave full support to the negotiations in Washington. We will emphasize again the strategic importance of reaching a resolution in El Salvador that prove that Cuban military assistance is a dispensable factor in the democratization of Central America.

THE MUSEUM/DECEMBER 12, 1980

We believe [public] support would not survive the introduction of US troops... an October 1980 poll found that 60% of all males and 68% of females interviewed oppose the use of US military force in developing countries. The reaction to the draft registration drive and the drop in support for intervention in Iran after the rescue attempt, suggest that assertions to the effect that we have overcome the ‘Vietnam Sydrome’ be premature.

MEXICO

Washington policy makers do not wish to recognize the extent and significance of the changing power relations within and outside the Salvadoran coalition. Yet this change must be reflected in the two countries’ attitudes and actions in Central America and the Caribbean.

Mexico has broadly indicated that it will support any initiative directed at containing the conflict in El Salvador as it seeks to ensure its regional stability and to enhance the chances of a really representative popular government with FDR/DRU participation coming to be in that country.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua’s commitment to the FDR/DRU has been noted. The Nicaraguan Junta and the FSLN are keenly aware that Nicaragua cannot simply continue with the freedom to mobilize their supporters and access to information has weakened the armed forces. Terrorism on both sides became more extensive in the last year of the conflict. Best efforts continued even as the Westminster talks proceeded.

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VENUEZUELA

We already noted President Herrera Campins’ concern regarding the potential implications of US actions in El Salvador. However, the US has been actively involved in the process of negotiations within the Christian Democratic movement on continued support for their Salvadorean colleagues. (COPEI) wants to avoid the appearance of US involvement and abandonment of the Salvadorean junta’s senior partner. A bipartisan consensus wants to support such a process as a step away from gun politics.

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PANAMA

Negotiations in El Salvador would serve conflicting interests. The US and Panamanian policies General Torrijos’ dual allegiance to the referenda wing of the armed forces and to the centrist in the FDR/DRU would allow Panama to play a role in the mediation efforts. The broad based anti-interventionist sentiment now focusing on the use of Panama’s territory for support of counter-insurgency in El Salvador could be diffused through a negotiated disengagement.

ENCOURAGE PLURALISTIC MEDIA COVERAGE

Conditions in El Salvador and our official posture have not encouraged adequate coverage. Influential US journalists have been banned from the country by threats on their lives. Salvadorean government restrictions on visiting reporters have kept a tight lid on many critical events in the present and most previous administrations. Just last week the editors during the electoral campaign discarded serious investigative works.

Appropriate, objective and pluralistic media coverage will make a positive contribution to the search for a peaceful solution to the Salvadorean, and indeed, the Central American conflict.
The following are major excerpts of an article printed in the August 13, 1980, edition of the 'Seaside Post' under the headline quoted above:

The article was written after the election of Socialist Workers candidate Mel Mason to the Seaside, California, City Council.

By Robert Miskimon

Some people were probably disappointed when Mel Mason didn't show up for his swearing-in as a Seaside councilman wearing bandolettes, waving a submachine gun, and smoking a marijuana joint.

And an equal number of people have probably been surprised at the 37-year-old socialist's equanimity on the council and his willingness to work with other councilmen in avoiding ideological clashes.

Mason confesses that many people in Seaside who fear him just don't know him, and have been led to see him as some kind of wild-eyed revolutionary more interested in preaching Marxist doctrine than in serving the community.

In his third attempt at elected office, Mason won a seat on the council last March by getting 859 votes, without the assistance of what has been regarded for years as the black political power structure in Seaside, particularly black ministers.

"I think a significant portion of the votes for me came from black people, but I think I had a lot of white support, too. I had a cross-section of votes from the community, because now the system is starting to impact on people across the color line."

Mason feels that his relative youth and his political orientation, even though the city council is a non-partisan office, indicate that people are searching for some new answers outside the traditional politics.

The revelation that Mason was a member of the Socialist Workers Party was apparently the catalyst which drove off some of his supporters, although a few... stuck with him through the entire battle.

Harassment

Some of the threats and insults directed at him during the campaign are indicative of deep-seated attitudes that have characterized American politics for years, Mason said.

"In addition to a constant flow of letters to the editor denouncing my beliefs, toward the end of the campaign I received numerous threats that I'd be shot and that my house would be burned down."

Mason said, "They constantly referred to me as 'you black nigger bastard communist,' sometimes calling 3 or 4 in the morning."

"At about 3 o'clock one morning, I was sleeping and I heard the sounds of something like a truck pulling up to the front of my house. There was a loud noise, like an engine racing, and a screech of tires, and I went outside and found the front of my car completely destroyed, to the tune of $1,000 in damages."

"A couple of hours later, I received a call saying: 'Next time, it'll be you, nigger.' And the local bank where I did business bounced three of my house payment checks for insufficient funds, when the funds were there. My mortgage was nearly foreclosed on."

"The company I was renting a burglar alarm from asked me if I was behind in my payments to the tune of $40, and said they would take out the equipment if I didn't pay right away. So I came home from work one day and the burglar alarm was gone, but I never even got a bill for the $40 they said I owed them."

Mason believes all of this was "orchestrated by the rulers of this community."

Istanbul

Mel Mason was born in Providence, Kentucky and moved to Seaside with his mother in 1956 at the age of 13, an only child. He entered Monterey High School as a freshman and graduated in 1960. Sports, particularly track and basketball, played a big part in his high school life.

He attended Monterey Peninsula College in 1960-61, where he continued his basketball, until entering the Air Force in 1961. It was during his service in the Air Force that his first political awakening occurred.

"The first time the plight of blacks really had an impact on me was when I was stationed in Istanbul, Turkey in the Air Force. A Turkish officer asked me why blacks in America don't have a revolution because of the way they are being treated."

"I got angry with him and explained that things were getting better for blacks and they were waiting for changes to take place. The officer laughed at me and showed me a picture in a Turkish newspaper of dogs being set loose on Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights demonstrators."

"Just seeing that picture in another country's newspaper was what woke me up. I was horrified and angry."

Mason's Air Force career included two court martials for assault, ending in a bad conduct discharge in 1965.

"Partially, it was a reaction to the second-class treatment that black airmen were getting at the two bases where I was stationed—Carewail Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas and in Turkey—but mostly I was young and wild and rough."

Mason returned to Monterey Peninsula College in 1966 after his Air Force discharge, with a resolve to make good on all counts, becoming the only All-American basketball player in Monterey Peninsula College's history, and gaining admission to Oregon State University with a full athletic scholarship, after earning his A.A. degree.

Mason returned to Monterey Peninsula College in 1966 after his Air Force discharge, with a resolve to change his life. He wrote to former Sen. Thomas0 Kuchel, acknowledging that his bad conduct discharge was his fault, and asking whether it would be possible to have the discharge reviewed and upgraded.

"Senator Kuchel wrote back to me and told me that he would look into it and got my A.A. degree, when I was an All-American basketball player, and when I had been accepted at a four-year college," Mason recalled.

MPC basketball star

Mason made good on all counts, becoming the only All-American basketball player in Monterey Peninsula College's history, and gaining admission to Oregon State University with a full athletic scholarship, after earning his A.A. degree.

The senator from California kept his part of the bargain, and personally worked on Mason's case for more than a year, eventually succeeding in having his discharge upgraded to honorable. Mason still holds all scoring and rebound records for MPC basketball.

"After I'd already signed the scholarship at Oregon State, they told me they had two sets of rules—one for black athletes and one for white athletes," Mason said. "They specified such things as when to be off the streets and other behavior. I didn't know about it until after I got the scholarship.

"I challenged that, but I was the only black athlete who did. The others were blacklisted so I couldn't play at Oregon State or anywhere else." Shortly thereafter, Mason left Oregon State and moved to Seaside where he got a job as an engineer's assistant at Western Electric.

Once again, institutionalized racism confronted him.

"I began to notice that there were some inequities in promotions for the black employees there," Mason recalled. "Some black employees had worked there for six years without a promotion or a step raise. Black employees, especially women, were being verbally abused and harassed on the job."

With his cousin, Joseph Sloan also from Seaside, Mason organized the Black Workers Unity Caucus, to bring the problems of black workers to the attention of the Western Electric management. As a result of their efforts, six black employees who had never received a promotion were promoted, and a new policy was instituted governing treatment of workers on the job by supervisors. Mason also found time to earn his A.B. degree from Golden Gate University while working at Western Electric.

During the organization process, Mason was fired but hired back because of protests by other black workers. It was while involved with the Black Workers Unity Caucus that Mason had his first contacts with the then-infant Black Panther Party.

Black Panther Party

"When I met a few people from the Black Panther Party, that was when I first began to look at the problems affecting black people on a national and international scale, by linking our problems with those of other Third World countries," Mason said.

He joined the Black Panther Party in 1968, but by the time he returned to Seaside in 1969, his affinity for the group had worn off, partly because he questioned the Panther doctrine of guns and violence as a means to bring about progress for blacks.

"I thought it was ultra-left rhetoric, the Panthers had isolated themselves from the very people it was intending to help. J. Edgar Hoover had launched a full-scale offensive against the Panther Party, and it had become nothing more than a series of scattered splinter groups which was no longer effective."

"I still feel the Black Panther Party was the forerunner for the kind of politically independent organization black people need to have," Mason said. "The Panthers were beneficial in showing blacks they could have an organization run and controlled by them, and not by the Ford Foundation and other organizations dependent on the government for their existence."

"We'd had two so-called riots [in Seaside], in 1965 after Watts and another one in 1966. They were mostly the result of pent-up anger. A few stores were firebombed and some windows broken. It hadn't made that much of an impression on me, because at that time I was just running the streets of Seaside like everyone else."

Mason said. "But when I returned to Seaside in 1969, it was with a different awareness and a new political viewpoint, influenced strongly by Malcolm X and his assassination."

Malcolm X

"I knew a little about who he was, but mostly he scared me," Mason said. "The press made him appear as some kind of black monster. When he was assassinated, that was another jolt. It made me aware of how tenuous the situation can be for black
people.  

"When I came back to Sea side, I noticed hard narcotics for the first time in the black community. My feeling is that it wasn't accidental, and that after the 1966 outbreak in Sea side, the rules of this area had seen the potential for an energized movement on the part of young blacks in Sea side, so they sent in narcotics to tranquillize them.  

"The political climate at city hall was best ex- pressed by the police," Mason said. "The air in Sea side was one of repression. Everywhere you looked, there was a cop. No one was speaking out. Community leaders had taken an accommodation­ at­titude like the one they're still taking."  

In his readings about Malcolm X, Mason noticed that the slain black leader had mentioned the Socialist Workers Party favorably several times, and he became curious. The more he learned about the party, the better he liked it, until he became a member.  

Acknowledging that the Socialist Workers Party platform is based on Marxist principles, Mason pointed out that the SWP was "formed in 1939 when it became clear that the Communist Party would not denounce Stalin as a 'murderous dictator.'"  

"The Socialist Workers Party said that Stalin had completely corrupted the communist principles, and it continues to take a position against human rights violations in Russia.  

"The primary objective of the SWP today is the education of people to think for themselves, so that they will be free to make a choice for socialism, if that is what they desire," Mason said.  

"Our main role is to get people to think for themselves," Mason said. "Even though the SWP advocates socialism.  

The closest thing to a Marxist government as envisioned by the Socialist Workers Party is the Castro regime in Cuba, Mason said.  

People seek alternative  

His election to the city council as an avowed Socialist is an affront to the working class of Louisville. We have had the right-wing terror directed at the Black community, socialists, and other antibacist activists are on the rise here. This follows the February 14, 1977 racist violence highlighted by the November 17 acquittal of the Klan and Nazis in the murders of five anti-Klan demonstrators in Greensboro, North Carolina.  

In the latest incident, the front window of the Socialist Workers Party office in Louisville was smashed early Sunday morning, November 25. A Nazi "white power" sticker was placed on the other front window.  

On November 7, Claude McCullom, a well-known Black activist in the Louisville Anti-Klan Coalition was shot at as he was entering his house. A total of six shots were fired. McCullom showed a Militant reporter several bullet holes by his front door, saying that one shot narrowly missed hitting his head.  

The day before the attack, McCullom had been interviewed in the Louisville Times on the crisis facing the Black community.  

In another incident, in the middle of November, a sixty-one-year-old Black man was shot to death in the back room of a bar by an off-duty Louisville cop. The victim, Emmanuel Ballard, was accused of trying to steal a bottle of aspirin.  

The cop, Marion Vertrees, is still employed by the drug store as a night watchman.  

Black community organizations and civil rights groups, such as the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; and Herman Dozier, field director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; have organized an effective boycott of the drug store, demanding that Vertrees be fired.  

A November 26 news conference, initiated by the Socialist Workers Party, condemned police inaction in countering the wave of right-wing violence. Speakers included Chris Raymond, chairman of the Louisville Socialist Workers Party; Anne Braden, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; and Herman Dozier, field director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.  

Raymond charged that police have refused to se- riously investigate a series of attempted slayings in涉案. For example, the cops threw away the Nazi sticker posted near the smashed window instead of checking it for fingerprints.  

When questioned by the Louisville Times, police Captain Carl Lindeman dismissed the harassment of the socialists saying, "We're just one of those things people in that area have to put up with. We have nothing to go on and there was no sign of a break-in. It's just an unexplained act."  

Antibacist organizers are stepping up efforts to counter the campaign of violence here. The Louisville Anti-Klan Coalition planning to take a "people's verdict," Schlosser said, his voice choked with outrage. "I can't understand how people in Greensboro can even sleep with that kind of verdict. They should come in and investigate. I think they should investigate the district attorney."  

A minister from the United Light Church of Christ spoke representing several Black churches: "We have been trying to keep some things under the rug. The time to act is now. It is time for us to stop dragging our feet."  

Ann Welsh of the American Friends Service Committee called on "city, state, and federal officials and agencies to take steps . . . to explain to Greensboro and the wider national and interna­tional community the roles of the informers and agents in the tragic events that have occurred."  

Bobby Hopkins, a student from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (A&T), demanded to know "how can you get an all-white jury when you have a population that is 20 percent Black?"  

The president of the A&T National Organization of Black University and College Students said, "It is amazing that we can only come to the year 1977 and our leaders sit idly by and do nothing. Something should be done about it now that the days of the Klan are over. When I was a student in Louisville, when a cop was killed, that cop was one of those killed, said the verdict gave "a green light to increased attacks and specifically legalizes kil­ling communists, but also Blacks, Latinos, and Chicanos."  

Kate Daher, representing the Socialist Workers Party demanded federal prosecution of all those involved in the attack. She also called for opening the government files on the cop agents in the Klan and Nazi organizations that have been caught in the truth about police complicity in racist violence.  

One speaker summed up the feelings of many at the conference. "I am satisfied by the verdict," he said. "As long as our leaders call for calm and law and order instead of equality and justice we will see November 3 again."
Anticommunist forces have regained the initiative in Iraq since the invasion, many have been executed. The Iraqi rulers have tried to meet this hostile mood with repression. "Hundreds of pro-Iranians have been arrested," reported Youssef M. Ibrahim in the November 30 New York Times, "and, according to diplomatic sources, many have been executed."

According to The New York Times reporter Drew Middleton, fear of dissent always been highly unpopular among the fallen soldiers.

Nor is it just the Shi'ite majority that the Iraqi rulers worried about, although the capitalist media tries to present the class polarization within Iraq and the Middle East as a whole in religious terms.

At the start of the war, there was hope in imperialist circles that quick Iraqi victories might lead to the early restoration in Tehran of a regime like the shah's. Now their main concern is the extension of the Iranian city of Susangerd was repulsed when an attempt to capture the town at the shah's. Now their main concern is the extension of the Iranian economy be reorganized to meet the demands of war. Few working people agree with Ghobadzadeh—he represents a current that favors concluding U.S. imperialism—but his arrest was seen as a threat against the rights of all.

An attempt by a group of self-proclaimed Islamic militants to occupy and shut down Mizan, a newspaper reflecting the views of former Prime Minister Mehid Bazargan, was also rebuffed. The Tudeh Party's newspaper is now publishing again, the socialists say, and the Mujaheddin distribute their press in defiance of the government ban. The regime's police have difficulty stopping them because of the Mujaheddin get for their rights.

The Iranian section of the Fourth International, the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) denounced all the attacks on civil liberties.

Two million march

On November 19, according to Iranian socialists, up to two million people gathered in Iran's main square for a rally celebrating the Shi'ite Muslim faith's most important religious holiday. They responded enthusiastically as Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr denounced violations of democratic rights ranging from the arrest of Ghobadzadeh to the repression of left groups and even incidents of torture. He contrasted these actions to the goals of the anti-shah revolution.

Bani-Sadr is attempting to build a following for his faction in the government by appearing as a supporter of democratic rights. But other positions he holds are unpopular among the workers and farmers. This is particularly true of his defense of the army command—including many holdovers from the shah's regime—who have held their forces back from the defense of Abadan, Khorramshahr, and other oil producing provinces.

Repressive moves unpopular

Such attempts at repression have always been highly unpopular among the Iranian workers, who fought hard against the shah for the rights they have won. Their opposition began to grow when the government took action against some of its bourgeois critics. After a television broadcast where he criticized the government's police, the alleged incriminating evidence, or even permitted to know the name of the presiding judge.

In a gross frame-up, Mohammed Reza Saadati, a leader of the Mujahedeen (an Islamic group proclaiming socialist goals that played an active part in the anti-shah struggle) have been arrested and their paper has been banned.

As in the past, one response of the government to criticism of its actions has been attempts at repression. The offices of the Tudeh Party, a pro-Moscow Stalinist organization, were shut down and its paper was suppressed for a time. Members of the Mujahedeen (an Islamic group proclaiming socialist goals that played an active part in the anti-shah struggle) have been arrested and their paper has been banned.

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Point nuclear plant shut down automatically when a circuit broke. At times the plant entertained the fancy of "an great slosh of water" that shook the control room "like an earthquake." Andrade also disclosed two stuck valves and three faulty welds. Officials dismissed the incident as "just routine" mechanical failure.

Never too proud—Some say it's better to elect rich people because they don't have to steal. We don't know how rich New York's Governor Carey is, but he did recently buy a $5000000 co-op apartment. Meanwhile, he used more than $10000 in state funds to pay household workers who cooked and cleaned for his children, and his friends at his private vacation home.

Like fighting fire with a water pistol—A San Francisco resident returned home inebriated and found a heavier than usual presence of cockroaches. Desperate, he tried incinerating them with a cigarette lighter. The building caught fire. Distraught, he tried cutting his wrists. The roaches, we assume, perspired as he took the chill out of the apartment.

Just making ends meet—Dr. Seymour Cutler, chief medical officer to the New York fire department, also spends three half days a week tending to his private practice. Responding to criticism, the good doctor insisted that his city job had always been consided part time. This is buttressed by the fact that he draws only $37 444.

CLUW backs undocumented workers


The ILGWU has a brochure, which was passed out at the workshop, explaining why unionists should oppose the discrimination against undocumented workers.

It states that "The growth of a 'sweatshop sector' is a reality in today's modern economy. The reason: . . . it is profitable—and almost risk-free—to treat undocumented workers like virtual serfs. They can be cheated of their wages, crowded into unsafe shops and forced work long, grueling hours because sweatshop employers have little to fear. The undocumented workers have learned to live with fear. They are defenseless and tremble at the thought of detection, detention and deportation."

A large majority of garment workers are undocumented, according to Marfa Elena Andrade, also panelist at the workshop, from the Los Angeles ILGWU.

During 1979, ILGWU organizers in New York located more than 500 small, nonunion garment shops in the Bronx and 200 in Manhattan. They estimate that several hundred more operate in Brooklyn and Queens.

"Homework, the source of the garment industry's '70 to 80 years ago, has returned with a vengeance," the ILGWU brochure explains. "A woman brings work to her home or has it delivered. After working 8 or 9 hours in a factory, she then toils for an additional 5 or 6 hours in small, cramped quarters, usually assisted by her small children.

Although homework is illegal, it is big business, with established distribution routes and daily pick-up and delivery. Employers seeking such workers advertise almost daily in foreign-language newspapers.

In an interview Andrade told me that the ILGWU is for amnesty for all undocumented workers who are presently living in the United States. This is opposed by legal permanent residents who fear that undocumented workers, if given amnesty, will apply for citizenship and compete with them for jobs.

The union has also said it will organize, represent, and protect all garment workers without regard to their status.

Andrade is from El Salvador. She talked to me about her concern for events there. She was highly critical of the role of the U.S. government and the current military junta. "They talk about agrarian reform, but they gave the land to the people and then killed them, so no one will take the land now," she said.

"Washington is providing guns and ammunition to the counterrevolutionaries," she believes. She fears this will be stepped up by the incoming Reagan administration, which has also threatened to cut aid off Nicaragua.

Harry Ring
November marked the fourth anniversary of the murder of Carlos Fonseca Amador in Nicaragua. Fonseca was the founder and central leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, which led the workers and peasants to triumph over the dictatorship in July 1979.

The following appreciation of Fonseca is excerpted from the November 16 weekly English-language edition of the Cuban daily 'Granma.' For a longer description of his role in the FSLN, see the article by FSLN leader Tomás Borge in the July 'Internationale Socialist Review,' July 11 'Militant.'

Carlos Fonseca Amador followed the ideas of Sandino, revived Sandino's figure in all its greatness and continued Sandino's struggle.

For him once said, referring to the General of Free Men, "Sandino was not only an anti-imperialist hero and a staunch defender of sovereignty, but he also raised the need for profound social change on behalf of the oppressed and exploited.

Carlos Fonseca Amador dedicated 20 years of his short and fruitful life to achieving such change. He was born in Matagalpa in 1936 and died fighting for the freedom of his country and for the dignity of our America in the mountains of Zinca, Zelaya department, on November 5, 1978.

Fonseca began his revolutionary activity in 1954 as a member of a group of Marxist students. In 1956, following the execution of Anastasio Somoza Garcia, he was sent to prison, although several years later he asserted that he had not been involved in the action carried out by Bigiberto López Pérez.

In 1957 he went to Moscow as delegate to a World Youth Congress and after his return to Nicaragua he wrote a book called Un nicaragüense en Moscu (A Nicaraguan in Moscow) in which he described his experiences in the Soviet Union.

Later, he traveled to Costa Rica, Venezuela and Guatemala and then returned to Nicaragua secretly. He was arrested by Somoza's repressive forces and expelled from the country. A military plane took him to Guatemala, from where he traveled to Mexico.

In 1959 he left Mexico for Honduras to join a guerrilla movement, and in El Chaparral, in Honduran territory, where they were preparing for action, he was wounded in the chest during a clash with the Honduran army and the Nicaraguan National Guard, and was on the verge of death for several weeks.

When he recovered, he left for Costa Rica where he and other Nicaraguan exiles founded an organization called Nicaraguan Revolutionary Youth. In 1960 he made his second clandestine return to Nicaragua, but he was discovered and sent to Guatemala, where he was thrown into prison. He escaped from jail and went to Venezuela and Cuba.

In 1961 he, Silvio Mayorga and Tomás Borge founded the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) to which he devoted his efforts, sacrifices, self-denial, intelligence, ability as organizer and thoughts until the end of his life.

"A Sandinista revolutionary," he proclaimed, "must not devote himself solely to teaching the masses. He must learn and know how to be a disciple of the masses."

Nothing was able to stop him, neither the setbacks at Bocay and Pancasán nor the Somozaist genocide, the attacks and threats by Yankee imperialism, the millions of dollars spent by the enemy of his people on bribery and on distorting the cause of his struggle.

He believed that it's in the difficult moments that the revolutionary mettle of a militant is really put to the test. Collectivist awareness, the awareness that the vanguard is composed of the energy of a group, is an indispensable basis of the spirit of a militant.

The day when a detailed inventory is made of all the heroic episodes carried out by the Nicaraguan people, of all the indelible days of work and sacrifice and of the collective and individual acts of valor and daring, our America will know the full extent of the struggle and dedication of the Nicaraguans and of the role Carlos Fonseca Amador played in that struggle and dedication, and will have one of the greatest books on its own history.

—José A. Benítez

SWP needed here

We wish to offer our thanks and appreciation to the travelling Socialist Workers Party team from Portland, Oregon. This team visited the Eugene area and spent the night with us. Members of the team were impressed at the response they received. They sold 27 subscriptions and 108 single copies of the Militant. The team also distributed campaign literature.

The presence of the Socialist Workers Party is needed here and hopefully a link has been forged in that direction.

Engels & languages

Militant readers who read Trotsky's recent book on Frederick Engels in your November 7 issue might be interested in the following excerpt from a letter from Paul Laffargue, a son-in-law of Karl Marx, to Russian revolutionary Nikolai Bukharin:

"It is quite extraordinary the way he manages the job of getting out [Marx's] works as well as carrying on a comprehensive correspondence with people in almost all the countries of Europe and America. I don't know whether he writes to you in Russian, but he asks me to say he is truly a polyglot [fluent in many languages], and as such a useful person; I've never met a person who is intellectually so knowledgeable.

"And Engels is a wonderful person; I've never met a person who is intellectually so knowledgeable who possesses such encyclopedic knowledge. If you consider that he was in charge of a shipping house in Manchester for twenty years, I urge you ask yourself where he got the time to store up in his head everything he wrote down.

"The letter comes from Volume 37 of the German edition of Marx and Engels' works.

Duncan Williams
New York, New York

Teamsters & elections

Many Teamsters voted for Ronald Reagan for different reasons than their president Frank Fitzsimmons did.

"For 51a and his cronies, it was another chapter in their bid to show the public their leadership of today's union officials. I was loading freight on the second shift of the night of the election. About 6:00 o'clock, the dock foreman announced that Carter was getting trounced, and a cheer went up. As I asked people why they voted for Reagan, I got the same answer every time: "Because I could never vote for Carter after what he did to us."

"I wasn't voting for Reagan, I was voting against Carter," I asked them what they felt about Reagan's anti-labor positions. Many were unfamiliar with his anti-labor record. The break room had Reagan literature in it that hailed Reagan as the first former union official to run for president. In it he denies that he is "right to work" (for less) laws.

With Carter, they knew what they were getting: inflation, unemployment and a drive to weaken the union. Carter signed the bill to derogate the trucking industry. The union members campaigned hard against it because it has the potential of throwing thousands of union members out of work. Many felt that anything would be better than four more years of Carter.

The next night, I was talking with a young worker who was unloading a trailer with me. He said he hadn't voted but leaned toward Reagan. He asked, "Don't you think he'll do some good?" I said no and explained Reagan's real anti-labor aims. I told him Reagan was opposed to Social Security. To that my co-worker answered, "If he messes with Social Security, I'm picking up a sick day."

Reagan and the bankers and
Learning About Socialism

Cuban CP on revolutionary strategy

The following is from an article which sums up some of the conclusions drawn by the Cuban Communist Party in the course of the revolutionary struggles in Latin America and the strategic road forward. It is reprinted from the November 2 English-language weekly edition of the Cuban daily 'Granma.'

BERLIN, October 21—José Miguel Montané, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, said here today that the revolutionary victories in Nicaragua and Grenada were the most important events in Latin America since 1959.

Speaking at the International Scientific Conference on the Struggle of the Working Class against Imperialism, the Cuban leader added that these victories provided a U.S. imperialist counterrevolutionary offensive against the peoples of the hemisphere.

In his paper, Montané, the third speaker during the morning session held at the Palace of the Republic, discussed the movement for national and social liberation in Latin America and the Communist Parties of Grenada and Nicaragua were an expression of the upsurge of the popular and revolutionary movement in the area.

The head of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the Communist Party of Cuba said that these new gains should be viewed in the context of the historical stage which opened up in the hemisphere following the victory of the Cuban Revolution. These new victories, he said, marked the birth of a new, revolutionary situation in the hemisphere, impossible, he added.

Montané said the Nicaraguan process showed that the United States is unable to resort to fascist or repressive measures when faced by a genuine revolution grounded in the armed and united masses.

The enemies of the Revolution will be much less successful than they were in 1959 if they try to have people believe that the victories in Nicaragua and Grenada are isolated and unique cases which do not reflect the realities of the peoples' struggle for genuine liberation in Latin America, he said.

The Cuban leader stated that Nicaragua's victory confirmed the effectiveness and viability of armed struggle as the decisive means to take power in countries where all other roads are closed and the vanguard relies on the masses and achieves firm unity.

He stressed that these countries had shown that only a united and determined armed struggle against imperialism can put an end to the death grip of imperialism.

On referring to the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, Montané said a great historic shift is under way throughout the region.

He said the shift in the balance of forces in favor of socialism and the development of the popular and revolutionary movements in Latin America has been the result of what was formerly the backward U.S. imperialism into an army that the imperialists are finding increasingly difficult to control and to impose political decisions on.

The situation has immediate solutions to ease the economic and social crisis in underdeveloped Latin America. It is having increasing differences with many governments which it is no longer able to manipulate as puppets.

Montané said that the strategic military, economic and political value which Washington attaches to Latin America has been eroded by the ongoing revolutionary movements for national and social liberation in the area.

He added that, following the victory of the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. ideologues realized that the popular revolutionary parties and movements in Latin America are putting their actions on profound ideological and political factors.

This led the imperialist ideologues to chart a course of advancing nationalist and anti-communist strategies and to discard the socialist model as the only alternative which could pave the way for liberation and economic development. They also turned to the racist and fascist forces, he added.

In spite of the Alliance for Progress, the Peace Corps, church, and reformist pipe dreams, he said, they were unable to disrupt the revolutionary forces, he added.

Regarding the forms of struggle in Latin America, he said that at times a false alternative has been posed between armed struggle and reformist parliamentary politics.

"The revolutionary content of any form of struggle is determined by its results, that is, whether or not it leads to liberation or to the perpetuation of the masses' historic suffering," he said.

The Cuban leader said experience in his country showed that political and revolutionary actions adversely affect both.

"Only an integrated political-military concept makes it possible to pass at the right time from one main form of struggle to another depending on the stages and circumstances of each process," he said.

In his speech to the Conference which he entitled "The Stronger of the Workers and National Liberation Movements against Imperialism and for Social Progress," Montané said that with the advent of the '80s new political, economic and social factors have developed, while the revolutionary forces and added to revolutionary potential. In the contemporary revolutionary situation in Latin America, one of the unique features is the growing participation of women in the popular and revolutionary struggles, he remarked.

He said it was very important to grasp the features common to the areas, focused on united efforts to destroy the common enemy, a view shared by the Communist Parties and revolutionary movements in Latin America.

Montané praised the watchful attitude displayed by Latin American revolutionaries toward the Maoist groups, which are bankrupt, he said, adding that they are insignificant in the eyes of the imperialist ideologists.

He added that, following the victory of the Cuban Revolution, it has no structural or intermediate organizations, and Leninist parties are only a minority of the revolutionary movements in Latin America.

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In his speech to the Conference which he entitled "The Stronger of the Workers and National Liberation Movements against Imperialism and for Social Progress," Montané said that with the advent of the '80s new political, economic and social factors have developed, while the revolutionary forces and added to revolutionary potential. In the contemporary revolutionary situation in Latin America, one of the unique features is the growing participation of women in the popular and revolutionary struggles, he remarked.

He said it was very important to grasp the features common to the areas, focused on united efforts to destroy the common enemy, a view shared by the Communist Parties and revolutionary movements in Latin America.

Montané praised the watchful attitude displayed by Latin American revolutionaries toward the Maoist groups, which are bankrupt, he said, adding that they are insignificant in the eyes of the imperialist ideologists.

He added that, following the victory of the Cuban Revolution, it has no structural or intermediate organizations, and Leninist parties are only a minority of the revolutionary movements in Latin America.
By Vivian Sahner

At a November 25 news conference in Detroit, Stevie Wonder, the world famous composer and musician, announced, “I am calling for a rally to take place on January 15, 1981 in Washington, D.C. . . . to respectfully demand that Congress take action so that day, the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., be declared a national holiday.”

This call was featured on the front page of Jet, the Black weekly magazine.

For thousands of Americans the day represents a tribute to the slain civil rights leader as well as an opportunity to speak out about the needs and concerns of Blacks in this country. It is already a legal holiday in fifteen states.

This year’s commemoration activities are particularly important. Referring to the recent murders of Black men and children in Atlanta and Buffalo and the assassination attempt on Vernon Jordan in Indiana, Wonder declared “there is an upsurge of hatred against Blacks in this country. Making King’s birthday a national holiday would “enable us to help those who are unable to express their civil and economic rights,” he said.

“We still have a long road to travel until we reach the world that was his dream. We in the U.S. must not forget either his supreme sacrifice or that dream.”

At the press conference Coretta Scott King delivered a statement in support of PUSH, said, “Black people must once again become very highly visible . . . we must go out and be aggressive in the rights that have been gained over the last twenty-five years.

Marianne Mabuse, a leader of the newly organized National Black Independent Political Party, told the Militant that he strongly encouraged people to participate in the march to commemorate King. “It’s important that there be public activities in defense of Black right” at this time,” he said.

Mac Warren, a national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, explained why he was planning to attend the march in Washington, D.C. “It will serve notice to President-elect Reagan and the rest of the Republicans and Democrats that we are not going to sit back quietly and see the rights of Blacks in this country given away,” he said.

“Dr. King was gunned down in the middle of leading support for striking Memphis city workers,” Warren noted. “He was the target of a vicious FBI campaign. To deny the truth, the truth about the FBI’s role in his murder has not come out.

“We say the attacks by the Nazis, Klansmen, and other racist thugs—as well as the proposed legislation to cripple housing programs, abolish the minimum wage, and draft the young—must be answered.

“I urge everyone—students, unionists, young, and old, to march on January 15.”

The Washington march will begin at 10 a.m. at First and Louisiana N.W., near the Capitol. The rally will take place near the base of the Washington Monument.

The following night, Stevie Wonder will hold a benefit concert to cover the costs of the march and rally at Capitol Center in Washington.

Klan suspected in fire bombing of unionist’s car

By Linda Nordquist

PITTSBURGH—In the early morning hours of December 1, Linda Mohrbacher’s car was fire bombed in the parking lot area at U.S. Steel’s Edgar Thompson Works in Braddock, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Mohrbacher, who was at work on the midnight shift at the mill, is a member of United Steelworkers Local 1219. In her three years at the mill she has become well known as a union activist, especially in organizing for the Equal Rights Amendment and against racist attacks.

Mohrbacher ran for U.S. Senate on the Socialist Workers Party ticket this fall. She is also active in USWA District 10’s civil rights committee, one of the organizers of an October 25 rally to protest against the Ku Klux Klan in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Five cars sustained heavy damage from the fire bomb. But North Braddock police say Mohrbacher’s car was the obvious target of the attack. The fire bomb had been broken into and set on fire. The license plates were removed. Flames melted the engine and gutted the car parked next to it. The fire spread to a third car in the half hour or more before it was reported. All the cars were parked seventy-five yards from the guard shanty.

“This violent attack is aimed not only at me, but is an attack on the civil rights of all members of my union,” Mohrbacher stated. “Attacks like this encourage an atmosphere of intimidation that weakens the union’s ability to defend its members in all areas.”

The USWA District 15 civil rights committee is investigating the firebombing.

Earlier, Mohrbacher was the target of harassment on her job in the slab mill at Edgar Thomson, Oct. 30. A cross was burned at her workplace in November 1979 and racist graffiti was scrawled on the walls and doors.

A little over a month ago, on October 31, a man identifying himself as a member of the KKK entered Mohrbacher’s campaign headquarters, threatening to return with his buddies to disrupt an advertised socialist election night gathering.

This occurred only a few days after the anti-Klan rally in Uniontown, which socialist campaign supporters helped to build along with the steelworkers. National Organization for Women, the NAACP and others.

The man wore a Klan lapel pin and had his Klan robe dry-cleaned at the cleaners next door to the campaign office.

Early on the morning of October 31, campaign workers had found “KKK” as an abbreviation for “Keep Klansman” scrawled across the sidewalk on either side of the campaign headquarters and on a garbage can across the street.

The socialists responded with a news conference protesting the threat and demanding that the city administration provide full protection to ensure that no disruption of the election night rally occurred.

The threatening took place without incident.

Another threat came shortly after the verdict exonerating the KKK murderers in Greensboro, North Carolina.

On November 18 the SWP office received a long-distance call from someone identifying himself as “Jim White” from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. “You have all had any trouble with the Klan?” The caller then said, “I have the Knights of KKK, and I can come up here and get you some.”

Mohrbacher said that “the racist verdict in Greensboro was like a green light to right-wing terrorists across the country to threaten, intimidate, and even murder those who oppose their KKK-Nazi bigotry.”

“My union has been in the forefront of organizing against Klan attacks, both on the job and in the community,” Mohrbacher explained.

The fire bombing of Mohrbacher’s car was an attack on her as a socialist, an anti-Klan fighter, and as a socialist. Mohrbacher is demanding an investigation by the North Braddock and Allegheny authorities and that U.S. Steel take responsibility for the safety of its employees and their property while at work.

Rash of threats against SWP

DEC. 3—Socialist Workers Party campaign offices around the country report an increase in right-wing vandalism and threats in recent weeks.

On December 2, the Minneapolis SWP headquarters received a bomb threat by phone. The police refused to do anything but a superficial check of the premises.

On election eve, someone threw a cow’s head on to the stairwell of the headquarters.

Rocks and other objects were thrown through the windows of campaign offices in Morgantown, Virginia; Gary, Indiana; and Louisville, Kentucky in the past two weeks. (For story on Louisville attack, see page 19).

Many offices report threatening phone calls. The Newport News, Virginia, headquarters received a call almost identical to that made to Pittsburgh socialists (see story above). The caller said, “I’m Jim White from Atlanta. Have you had any trouble from the Klan?” When the socialists answered no, the caller said, “I’m with the KKK and I can see that you get some.”

In Birmingham an SWP member got a call at home, at his unlisted phone number. The caller said, “You’re going to die before you see your Mama.” The socialist was planning to visit his family in the next few days.

In Indianapolis, the socialists got a call December 2 from someone identifying himself as a Nazi, saying, “you better get out of here, you nigger lovers.”

Socialists also reported racist, right-wing incidents on the job. In Kansas City, for example, leaflets were given out to railroad clerks saying “Hunting season is over, except for jungle bunnies.”