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No U.S. arms to Israel!

Condensation of the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear power plant continues to mount. Even the governments of Britain and France have joined in.

Speaking at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and Arab League spokesman Sabah al-Abdul-Abdul-Jaber al-Sabah asked, "For how long will the United States continue to supply Israel with advanced weapons?"

Cobalt uranium: Nations Ambassador Raul Ros-Kouri raised the question, "Who is the power behind this aggression? Who is the ventriloquist working this dummy?"

The demand to cut off U.S. arms aid to Israel makes sense.

The permanent war that Israel has been waging against the Arab people would not be possible without U.S. military aid. It was U.S. imperialism that created Israel in the first place, as a bulwark against Arab struggles against imperialist domination of oil resources. And it is U.S. military aid which fuels each new escalation in the Israeli rulers' war drive.

Further evidence of this came from the June 15 edition of the Israeli newspaper Maariv. It reports that Israeli and American officials exchanged information on Iraq's nuclear program. According to Maariv, "The Americans shared with the Israelis an assessment that the Iraqis were striving to produce a nuclear bomb as soon as possible." —a claim denied by French, Israeli, and other sources.

Continued aid to Israel is not in the interests of the working people of the United States or anywhere else. End all military aid to Israel now!

Terrorist smear against Timerman

Jacobo Timerman is the target of a well-orchestrated smear campaign.

Timerman is an Argentinian Jew. He was publisher of La Opinion, a liberal Buenos Aires daily. In 1977, he was jailed without charges by the military regime and held for two-and-a-half years. During that time he was vilified as a Jew and physically tortured. In 1979, he was stripped of his citizenship and expelled from the country. He wrote a book about his experience, Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number. It is generally agreed to be a powerful indictment of the human rights abuses in Argentina's regime. This book, coupled with Timerman's public statements, have evoked the campaign against him.

Timerman denounces the military regime which rules his country. He points to the thousands who have "disappeared" since it seized power.

In the midst of this general repression, he reports, Jews are the target of special victimization. Anti-Semitism is "systematized" by the regime. At military academies, anti-Semitic literature is studied.

Timerman has blasted the leadership of the Argentine Jewish community for its failure to speak out.

And he has assailed the Reagan administration for its double-talking policy of "quiet diplomacy" in relation to the suppression of human rights by regimes aligned with Washington.

Timerman is no revolutionary. He now describes himself as a left-Zionist, and is an ardent supporter of what he perceives as a genuine human rights policy by the Carter administration. He endorsed the military regime in Argentina when it first took power in 1976. Because he has refused to be silent about Washington's complicity with the crimes of the Argentine regime, Timerman has drawn the fire of supporters of Reagan's foreign policy.

William F. Buckley wrote a column questioning Timerman's "stability." He asserted Timerman had supported "terrorism" and was a leftist not concerned with the truth.

Timerman's quotes attributed to Wiesenthal were taken out of context. What had appeared in the Uruguayan paper, El País, was corrected.

The June 14 New York Times revealed that Wiesenthal said the El País interview included statements he had not made. He said he had not made the terrorism charge against Timerman, and had not discussed Argentine politics.

How did Buckley obtain the El País interview?

An English translation was passed on to him by Carl Gershman, an aide to Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the UN.

Kirkpatrick was tapped for the UN job by Reagan on the basis of a 1979 article she wrote for Commentary magazine, explaining why "authoritarian" regimes were better than "totalitarian" ones.

Carl Gershman is former executive director of Social Democrats USA.

Another participant in the gutter attack on Timerman is Prof. Irving Kristol.

Kristol has difficulty dealing with Timerman's indictment. He is compelled to concede that anti-Semitism is "endemic" in Argentina, especially "in some army circles which can accurately be labeled fascist."

However, Kristol assures, "Though anti-Semitism may be rife in certain segments of Argentinian society, the government has been doing—and is doing—its best to render it ineffective."

But he doesn't offer an iota of evidence to buttress the assertion.

Instead, Kristol levels a red-baiting attack on those opposed to the Reaganite "rights" policy.

Some of the opponents of this policy, Kristol charitably advises, are "simply human rights purists."

But, he adds, "the driving force behind this campaign is supplied by those who have more sophisticated political intentions."

If the Reaganite "human rights" policy were defeated, he continues, the extreme right wing of the Argentine military would take total control.

"One strongly suspects," he adds, "that there are many on the American left who would like to see this happen. . . . One might almost say it is their secret agenda."

Kristol drew a blistering response from New York Times writer Anthony Lewis, in a June 14 column, Lewis responds to the "secret agenda." He asks, "Why would an intellectual write such absurdities?"

Lewis offers an answer: "The intellectual right," he declares, "has been shown itself so insincere, so defensive that it will smear a victor of persecution rather than face a challenge to its doctrines. It has shown itself morally bankrupt."

At a June 14 Washington press conference sponsored by Amnesty International, Timerman responded to his attack. They try to "sow disorder in the public within the United States to have double standards in human rights," he declared. "Not only in human rights, but also in journalism."

Blanco badly beaten

LIMA, Peru—Hugo Blanco, an elected member of the Peruvian congress and a veteran leader of workers' and peasants' struggles, was badly beaten by civil guards June 11. The attack came during a demonstration by street vendors here, where police sought to attack the general secretary of the vendors' union and Blanco intervened to stop them.

Blanco is a leader of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) of Peru.

He suffered contusions, a minor skull fracture, and injuries to one arm. He was released from the hospital June 17.

Víctor Ríos, municipal council member for Villa Maria del Triunfo and a PRT member, was also beaten.
El Salvador guerrillas make gains

By Arnold Weissberg

MANAGUA—A major antiguerilla offensive by El Salvador's military-Christian Democratic government in early June failed to achieve its goal. The military build-up to drive units of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) from long-held positions around the San Vicente volcano, sixty kilometers from the capital, San Salvador.

The battle, begun June 1 with 1,500 troops, the offensive included the use of U.S.-provided UH11 "Huey" helicopters and 105-millimeter howitzers. Armed forces spokesmen described the attack as the largest antiguerilla action yet.

The guerrillas were driven from the village of Tehuacán on the first day of the attack, but were able to hold their positions in nearby Los Laureles and Colina. Government losses for the first day were put at forty by the FMLN, which announced fifteen losses of its own.

The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported June 9 that the army had suffered fifty-three casualties in the previous forty-eight hours alone. And the FMLN said June 8 that the army had already suffered eighty casualties.

The revolutionaries also reported that the army was killing peasants and counting the bodies as guerrillas in order to "prove" it was "winning the war." Hundreds of civilians—many of whom were Salvadoran and Honduran—were reportedly to have fled the area the government attacked. Many were without food or water.

The FMLN warned of the possibility of another government massacre of refugees—recalling the March 1981 slaughter of refugees by the Salvadorean and Honduran armies.

Far from being "cleaned out" of the area, as the government had announced, the guerrillas were said to have launched a counter-attack on June 8. Fighting was continuing June 11.

The FMLN also announced June 9 that it had opened new fronts in the Guazapa-Suchitoto zone in Chalatenango province, long a guerrilla stronghold; and in the Aguilaríes-Quezaltepequeno area in the provinces of La Libertad and San Salvador, north of the capital.

Thirteen hundred guerrillas were reported May 29 to have taken up positions in the hills around the Fifth of November hydro-electric plant, El Salvador's largest. Another 500 rebels were said to have encircled the Cerrón Grande power plant. The guerrillas were described by an ACAN-EFE news agency dispatch as "digging in" against attacks.

Also on May 29, guerrillas attacked the National Police barracks in the center of San Salvador. This raid resulted in an intense forty-five-minute shootout.

The San Salvador daily El Diario del Mundo reported May 28 on "heavy fighting" in Teesba, Verapaz, Guadalupe, San Cayetano, Iatepeque, and Apastepeque. However, the progovernment paper assured its readers, "the army is in full control of the situation."

Meanwhile, the junta's bloody repression of El Salvador's civilian population continues. The legal aid office of the Catholic archdiocese of San Salvador announced June 5 that government soldiers had killed civilians in May and 8,236 in 1981, the majority of them after curfew. It said that 18,800 civilians had been killed by security forces in the previous nineteen months.

In a sharp increase in government bloodletting, 208 bodies—most of them decapitated, mutilated, or completely unrecognized—were found during the week ending June 3. Among the victims were six young people, all under twenty years old, grabbed from their homes in the San Salvador suburb of Mejicanos on the night of June 8 and found headless the next day.

Also included in the toll were two leaders of the high school student movement. Their mutilated bodies were discovered June 5 in a village thirty kilometers northeast of San Salvador. Rogelio Sierra, twenty, and Pansina Teresa Vasquez, seventeen, had been kidnapped on a downtown capital street May 14.

A one-day strike by bus operators paralyzed service in San Salvador June 1, forcing the government to declare a state of emergency. The owners were seeking changes in the government subsidies they receive for fuel. Their organization, the Asociación de Empresarios de Autobuses Salvadoreños, insisted that only a labor issue was involved. But the government charged they were really revolutionaries.

Nonetheless, the regime gave in to the AESA demands almost at once. "The failure of the government's economic programs is forcing workers and small and medium entrepreneurs into struggle to defend their interests," the Revolutionary Democratic Front explained in a statement urging support, for the strike.

Tax plan: workers pay more, rich rake it in

By William Gottlieb

The Reagan administration has been arguing that it has a formula for controlling inflation and reducing unemployment. The trick, they claim, is an across-the-board reduction in income taxes. Five percent this year, and 10 percent each in 1982 and 1983.

Initially, they wanted 10 percent for each year. But Congress balked, so Reagan said he would compromise on the first year.

Nobody who works for a living will argue against cutting income taxes. Or reducing inflation and creating more jobs.

Will Reagan's program mean less taxes for working people? Will it really slow the rate of price increase? Will it speed up the recovery?

By simply insisting that the percentage of tax reduction be the same for all income levels, Reagan assures that the lion's share of the benefit goes to the rich. The smaller your income, the smaller your share of the tax reduction. Meanwhile, it looks like Congress will raise the minimum wage to 14 percent over the next year, to a whopping 15 percent in 1986.

The Journal comments, "To many economists, however, this projection smacks of fantasy."

The article explains that while the administration and big business agree that a huge investment incentive is needed to spur the rate of economic growth, whether there will in fact be an investment boom depends on whether the administration can actually lower inflation and interest rates.

High prices and high interest rates limit the ability of people to buy what's produced. The increasingly limited buying power of the population is the real source of stagnation of the U.S. economy. This is true for the world market as well as the domestic one.

To this problem, the Reagan proposals are no solution at all.

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14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014
Can tax hike save Detroit?

By Bill Arth

DETROIT—For the past few weeks, people here have witnessed a bipartisan farce in the state legislature. This farce took place in the guise of debate around a bill to “save” Detroit from bankruptcy.

Detroit is to be “saved” by allowing its residents to vote themselves a hefty increase in the city income tax—from the current 4 percent to 15 percent for residents; and from 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent for non-residents.

The tax referendum, to be held on June 23, is backed by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and local business leaders. A recent editorial in the Detroit Free Press stated, “leaders in Detroit ... pleaded with the Legislature to simply let them go on to get its finances straight. They are not asking for a bailout but for a chance to let Detroit voters and city employees bite the bullet.”

Business-stacked panel

The referendum is just one part of a three-part “hit the bullet” package designed for Detroit by a special panel of business executives appointed by Mayor Young. This panel includes Felix Rohatyn, one of the people who helped “save” New York through massive layoffs and cutbacks, former General Motors chairman Thomas Murphy; and retired Ford executive Fred Secret.

For window dressing, the panel also includes a number of union representatives such as Tom Turner, of the Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO, a representative of the United Auto Workers.

Not surprisingly, the panel’s program calls for some serious bullet-biting on the part of working people, while the corporations in Detroit are to dine on tax abatements and other more palatable items.

According to the bill just passed by the state legislature, the income tax increase can only be implemented if the other parts of the panel’s program are as well. They are: a complete freeze on wages and other concessions totaling $76 million by city workers, and the sale of $109 million in bonds by the city (to be financed by an increase in the city property tax).

The state senate is threatening that if Detroit can’t balance its budget, they’ll appoint an outside administrator who would then have veto power to rip up city workers’ contracts.

AFSCME says: vote ‘no’ on referendum

By Bill Arth

AFSCME says: vote ‘no’ on referendum

Detroit is a majority Black city surrounded by white suburbs. Opposition to the tax increase in the legislature was led by representatives from the suburban areas and focused only on the increase for non-residents. Funds are being raised to oppose the increase in suburban areas, with special emphasis on white voters.

But the fact is that most of those who would be affected by the non-resident tax are auto workers and other working people. The increase is part of a plan to make all working people pick up the tab for a financial crisis made by the banks and corporations.

An income tax increase will not benefit Black or white workers. The charge of racism is an attempt to convince Detroit’s Black majority to vote for something that is obviously not in its interest. The call by unionists for a “no” vote helps further the mayor’s takeover campaign.

Phil Shannon, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, is using his campaign to offer an alternative solution to the city financial crisis.

According to Shannon, “The tax increase proposal is just one more part of the pro-capitalist program carried out by the Young administration, just like the wage cuts. While we are being asked to pay higher taxes, the city government has granted tax abatements and other

aid to General Motors for bulldozing houses in Poletown.

“Most people don’t know about this rip-off,” says Shannon, “is that the Poletown plant will replace two other plants at a net loss of $100 million.”

Give-aways to big business

“But Poletown is just the tip of the iceberg. An even more disgusting example is the Riverfront West project. Detroit's Downtown Development Authority has announced that it will sell $50 million in tax-free bonds to finance this private venture for financiers Al Taubman and Max Fisher.

“But that’s just the start. It is also proposing a 100 percent property tax break for this $60 million project. And who will the project benefit? The agreements in the complex will rent for $460 a month and up. And the condominiums will sell for $100,000 a unit.

“I call the program of the Young administration ADC—Aid to Dependent Capitalists. This program calls for an end to this welfare for the rich. No more tax abatements. The corporations should pay the taxes—not working people.

“That’s why I am campaigning for a ‘no’ vote on June 23.”

Shannon also expresses skepticism about the real state of city finances. “We demand that the city open its books for public inspection. How many more Riverfront West boogalooes are there? We know somebody is getting rich and we have a right to know who.

“Last year, more than $936 million in Detroit tax money went to the Pentagon. This is eight times the city’s supposed deficit. We continue to mortgage our future to raise not freeze city workers’ wages and make sure they can keep us with inflation. We continue to expand social services and give decent jobs at union wages to the tens of thousands of unemploy Black workers whom Young has nothing to offer.”

Shannon says that while campaigning he has met with city workers and others to discuss these proposals. “People have been bombarded with propaganda that there are no choices but massive layoffs and higher taxes. They are delighted to hear a proposal that offers an alternative to hitting the bullet.

“But to make that alternative a reality we must develop a new political strategy. This pro-capitalist policies of Coleman Young and the Democratic Party are a dead end for Blacks and all working people. We have a right to know who the Democratic Party is racist. So why does he stay in it?”

Labor political action

“We need a party of our own,” says Shannon. “We can’t be in the same party with those who are trying to keep us down. Detroit’s unions back Young and the Democratic Party, and then we get these giveback demands as our reward. Calling for a ‘no’ vote on this tax referendum is an important first step in having our unions fight for us in the political arena as well as at the bargaining table. In short, we need a labor party.”

Shannon calls on Detroit’s unions to unite and run an independent candidate on a program against the cuts. He predicts: “They could win the election. In the absence of such action, my campaign offers the only real alternative.”

International Political Prisoners Solidarity Forum

Speaker: Political Prisoners of the Sandinista National Congress of South America, Casa El Salvador, Civic Committee for Peace, No to Imperialist War, H-Block/Armagh Committee, and Ali Shukar, former Panther 21 defendant

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Anti-busing bill passes in House

By Suzanne Haig

Anti-busing forces have stepped up their offensive against the right of Black and Latino youth to have an equal education. Their ultimate aim is a de jure rollback of the twenty-seven-year-old U.S. Supreme Court decision, outlawing segregation in public schools.

On June 9, the House of Representatives voted 265 to 122 to prohibit the Justice Department from pursuing court cases that could lead to the busing of school children to achieve desegregation. The measure is expected to pass in the Senate.

The Justice Department is currently the only federal agency that has the legal right to pursue such cases. Federal education officials are already banned from the Reagan administration's use of government pressure to achieve desegregation by busing. They cannot, for example, withdraw federal aid from school districts refusing to comply with the law.

The Collins amendment, as the bill is named (after its sponsor, Rep. James Collins, D-Mass.), prohibits private individuals or groups like the NAACP from bringing desegregation cases to court if federal money is tied up in busing programs or prevented federal courts from ordering racist school boards to implement desegregation plans.

But it is aimed at denying the money, legal services, and political pressure needed to take a powerful school board and win.

Page 7 of the bill will certainly encourage racist forces fighting to ban all busing.

There is currently considerable support in Congress for a constitutional amendment to ban busing. Reagan campaigned for this last year. Opponents of desegregation are building a coalition of conservatives to bring such an amendment to the House for a vote.

Racist foes of busing are also operating on a local level.

In California, the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of dismantling the three-year busing program in Los Angeles, the second-largest school district in the country, with at least 300,000 students attending segregated schools.

The racist majority on the L.A. school board plans to totally resegment the schools. The move, moreover, will affect the entire state.

In St. Louis, the U.S. Justice Department, in an attempt to get around "forced" busing, came up with a plan whereby the state would pay a portion of college tuition costs for St. Louis students who agreed to attend high schools of their choice.

This plan is nothing but an attempt to create the illusion that something is being done.

In Chicago, which has the most segregated school system in the country, a federal judge has been effectively silencing the city's busing program.

The law which keeps transit workers from being bused was upheld, and they are dead set against implementing any major busing plan.

In Dallas, a busing plan was implemented in 1976 that left a whole sub-district totally Black.

That section of the plan was contested in court and a ruling is expected by next month.

The school board, the Dallas rulers, and a coalition of former and current Black school administrators are keeping the subdistrict Black, claiming that this is benefiting the youth.

If such a plan is upheld, it can be used in other areas, bringing back the old argument of separate, but equal, social systems.

The Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment is holding a national meeting Sunday, June 28, in New York City.

The Labor Committee organized the anti-nuclear demonstration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, March 29. That demonstration, which was sponsored by the United Mine Workers, International Association of Machinists, United Auto Workers, and other unions, marked an important step in the fight against nuclear power.

It was also a demonstration of solidarity with the United Mine Workers, whose contract expired the previous day.

The main point on the agenda of the June 28 meeting will be a discussion of plans for the National Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment, to be held in Gary, Indiana, July 18-20.

According to a June 8 mailing from the Labor Committee's coordinator, Jerry Gordon, the national conference is already cosponsored by the Mine Workers, Machinists, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), Graphic Arts, Furniture Workers, and International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Speakers at the June 28 meeting include Walter Muller, United Mine Coal Mining Political Action Committee, and Den Sweitzer, legislative representative of BRAC.

The mailing also points out that the Labor Committee is updating its list of union negotiations concerning nuclear power and would like to receive copies of such resolutions.


The national meeting on June 28 will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fourth Wall Theater, 79 East Fourth Street (between Second and Third Avenues), New York City.

Black party to send commission to Atlanta

By Malik Miah

ATLANTA - A fact-finding commission is going to Atlanta, Georgia, in early July to investigate the disorders of twenty-eight Black youth. The commission was established at a June 12-14 joint meeting of the National Black Independent Political Party's National Organizing Committee (NPOC) and Charter Review Commission (CRC).

The commission to Atlanta will be composed of seven people—Black party leaders and prominent individuals active in independent Black politics. They will include a youth leader of the party.

The recommendation for the fact-finding commission came from the party's development committee.

Brother Hubert James, a member of the committee and a leader of the Washington, D.C., chapter, explained to the meeting that the purpose of the commission is threefold: to look into the over one-year investigation conducted by the city; to have people who have not been allowed to find the killers; to look at the role the news media have played in reporting the racist murders; and to have twenty-six leaders of the Atlanta chapter of the party, mothers of the slain youth, and other community organizations.

After the trip is made a report will be prepared. This report will be circulated to party chapters and local organizing committees prior to the next joint meeting of the NPOC/CRC on July 31.

By Mark Friedman

NEW YORK—A series of public hearings are being held in the metropolitan New York area as a prelude to increasing transit fares and possibly instituting new taxes.

The hearings, discussed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority include: increasing bus and subway fares as much as 50 cents, eliminating senior citizen and handicapped reduced fares, increasing in-city railroad fares 50 percent, and eliminating all free transfers.

The hearings are held at times when most people are working—and it takes hours of waiting to be able to testify.

In addition, transit workers, who are in the best position to testify about the need for better conditions and service, and long working hours in poor management, are not officially being represented, even though representatives are legally permitted to speak out publicly against the MTA.

The hearings are projected to release the 14,000-member Transportation Workers Union against a fare increase, or against fare at all.

People from different community and service groups came to a June 8 hearing to oppose the increases. What was striking was that most all the Democrats and Republicans favored increasing the fare one way or another, either through some new tax or "only" a fifteen-cent increase.

Socialist Workers Party candidates Raul Gonzalez and Wills Todd were the only candidates to call for taxing the corporations and not working people to pay for the transit system.

"The MTA board is run and controlled by the Democrats and Republicans, who in turn are told what to do by the rich of this city," said mayoral candidate Todd.

"I propose that we eliminate the war budget and fund mass transit, thus creating more jobs and revamping the city system. All the interest payments that go to the banks for this dilapidated transit system should be stopped," said Todd.

Raul Gonzalez, SWP candidate for comptroller, introduced himself as a transit worker who was fired after a "gag law" was passed that prevents transit workers from telling the public the truth.

"The law should be stricken from the books," he said. "The MTA board should be replaced by a publicly-elected board responsible to the people. The transit workers themselves should determine the working conditions on the job. All the financial books of the Transit Authority [currently secret] should be opened for public scrutiny."
Grenada gov't blocks imperialist blackmail  

By Diane Wang

Grenada’s People’s Revolutionary Government took over majority control and management of the island’s electrical power company, Grenlec, on May 24. The move thwarted an attempt by the British Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) and Esso Standard Oil Company to cut off electricity to the island, sabotage equipment, and plunge the government into a financial crisis. On May 21, an Esso ship pulled into Grenada’s harbor to fill the island’s near-empty tanks. Grenada had only enough oil left to continue electricity until 8:00 p.m. that night. But before it would deliver the fuel, Esso demanded payment of $475,000 (EC dollars—a bout US$184,000) by 4 p.m. that day. Moreover, Esso threatened, all future deliveries would have to be paid for in advance and even those deliveries would not be guaranteed.

Why had Grenlec fallen behind in its fuel payments? Because customers had not been billed for a month, creating a debt of some half-million dollars. By Diane Wang

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop referring to Standard Oil maneuver. 'This is the most classical example of what we mean by imperialism...times are changing and the people will no longer take orders from imperialists.'

Catholic youth hear Nicaraguan priest

Over 700 Catholic youths from every parish in Grenada, and guests from Puerto Rico and Dominica, attended the sixth annual convention of the Catholic Youth Congress (CYC) in Grenada, reports the May 23 issue of the Free West Indian.

A highlight of the congress was a talk given by special guest Father Fernando Cenfuegos, a Nicaraguan priest and coordinator of the Revolutionary Christian Youth in Nicaragua. He is also a member of the People’s Militia.

"The construction of a new society is part of a Christian obligation," he declared.

Referring to the poverty of the masses in Latin America as a result of the exploitation by the rich, he said, "People were obliged to live as slaves for the benefit of the few. Certainly, priests and other Christians did not pass by the wounded...we took up the struggle.

According the the Free West Indian, Olivia “explained that unless one was involved in the revolutionary struggle and the process of reconstruction, one cannot consider himself to be a real Christian, since the Church, like the Revolution is for the poor and oppressed.”

Lengthy cheering and applause followed Father Olivia’s speech.

Record shops make junta’s hit list

The Washington Post reports that, "The Salvadoran military put a new spin on its propaganda war against guerrillas recently when the national police fanned out to record shops and seized hundreds of what they considered communist-inspired albums.

"International communism in its zeal for massive infiltration at all levels," said an armed forces statement in the local papers, 'is making use of the guerrillas by 'propagating doctrines contrary to democracy,' because some of these protest records have a coded message, which have been interpreted by military leaders of the clandestine organizations. The statement did not indicate what these messages might be.

During the record raids, the Salvadoran junta’s albums escaped; but the British group "Traffic" was almost snatched from the shelves when a young police officer caught sight of the long-haired subversive types on the dust jacket. An employee said, "The records consistently confiscated were by such artists as Nicaragua’s cultural hero Carlos Mejia Godoy...and Chile’s Victor Jara, who was killed in the military coup of 1973."

Over 100 such records have been confiscated.

"They gave us a receipt for the records they took," said a young woman, "but we’re a little afraid that if we go down to claim compensation they’ll think we’re with the guerrillas or something..."

Electrical workers on El Salvador

Kip Hedge reports a rally in solidarity with the people of El Salvador will take place in Lynn, Massachusetts on June 27 at St. Mary’s Church!

Speakers at the rally will include Americo Duran, representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Reverend John McAward of the Unitarian Universalist Church; and Jack Clements, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2321; a representative from the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 201; and others.

The rally is sponsored by St. Joseph’s Church of Lynn, Lynn Fair Share, IUE Local 201, and other civic and church organizations.

Recently IUE Local 201, the third largest local in the international, unanimously passed the following resolution:

"IUE Local 201 stands in solidarity with our fellow workers and trade unionists in El Salvador by opposing any U.S. funds, military advisors, or armed intervention on behalf of the Salvadoran junta.

—Nelson Gonzalez

Please send information on activities in your area to Nelson Gonzalez, 1 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.
POLITICAL POLICE ON TRIAL

Ex-SWP member testifies for FBI

By Michael Baumann

NEW YORK—In the eleventh week of the socialist trial against government spying attorneys for the FBI reverted to a classic move, used in past frame-ups of the labor movement.

The prosecution, as a star witness a former member of the Socialist Workers Party, in this case Hedda Garza, who they had revealed had collaborated with them.

At two secret meetings held off the record, without counsel for the plaintiffs present, she discussed her cocked-up story with Edward Williams, the head attorney for the government.

The story, told on the witness stand June 12 by Garza, is part of government efforts to frame a Bolivian revolutionary and SWP leaders as participants in an illegal transfer of funds to aid the Bolivian guerrilla movement.

This false charge of illegal activity—although never clearly and openly stated—had been central to the FBI's attempts to justify in court more than four decades of spying on the SWP. (The government has been unable to come up with any real evidence of a single illegal act, or a single incident since 1941, despite the years of spying.)

Through Garza's testimony, the government hopes to link the socialists to the illegal funding of a foreign guerrilla movement. And to undermine the credibility of five SWP leaders who had consistently denied the charge, on the stand and off.

However, the government's only witness on this destroyed her own credibility when she was revealed during the testimony itself to have perjured herself on the witness stand.

Secret meetings

It was only with Garza's appearance on the stand that her role in manufacturing those charges became clear.

Hints of the charges suddenly appeared, for the first time, in FBI lawyers' questioning of SWP leaders in March pretrial depositions. This came after years of depositions, during which there was no mention of the charges.

The accusations first emerged in the trial shortly after it opened, when Assistant U.S. Attorney Williams cross-examined Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary.

It is now established that Garza met secretly with FBI lawyers February 23, following pretrial testimony she gave at government request. Another secret meeting occurred "in a nearby restaurant" April 1, the day before the trial opened.

Her allegations against the Bolivian revolutionary leader were not in her pretrial deposition. The topic wasn't even raised. At pretrial depositions the witness is under oath, a public transcript is made, and both sides can have their lawyers present.

Instead, the allegations were discussed with the FBI lawyer off the record, depriving the socialists of the opportunity of answering them until she appeared on the stand.

Following the first secret meeting with Garza, government lawyers began to ask SWP leaders an unusual and almost bizarre series of questions during pretrial testimony.

The questions focused on a visit to the United States in the late 1960s by Hugo Gonzalez Moscoso, a leader of the Bolivian section of the Fourth International.

Gonzalez Moscoso was in poor health at the time, the result of treatment at the hands of the Bolivian dictatorship. He had come to the United States in 1967 to seek medical care.

In pretrial testimony March 5, SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters was asked if she had met Gonzalez Moscoso when he came to the United States "in 1968." The following day, Jack Barnes was asked the same question, as well as whether he had planned to see the movie "Battle of Algiers" with Gonzalez Moscoso "in 1968."

Confusion over dates

To be noted is the date. Williams kept insisting that Gonzalez Moscoso's visit must have occurred "in 1968." He did so even though Barnes said Gonzalez Moscoso had come to the U.S. only one time, in 1967, and was a guest observing the SWP convention that was held that year. Thus, his visit was public knowledge.

During cross-examination of Barnes at the trial, Williams asked again: Did Gonzalez Moscoso attend the SWP's 1967 convention? Did Barnes, Gonzalez Moscoso, and others go to see the movie "Battle of Algiers" at this time?

The series of questions seemed clearly to imply an allegation that at the movie Barnes slipped Gonzalez Moscoso a substantial sum of money.

Barnes answered that most of this was true. Except for one thing: The SWP gave no money to Gonzalez Moscoso.

In an interview with the Militant, published April 24, Barnes denounced Garza's innuendos as a lie.

"In pro-trial testimony I told the government lawyers that when Gonzalez Moscoso came to this country there was deep repression in Bolivia," Barnes said.

"It was not long after the murder of Che Guevara in that country.

"The left wing of the labor movement was hit hard. Many miners were in jail. And in a poor country like that, when the widow/winner goes to jail, a family of five or six finds it difficult to even survive," Barnes said.

"So it's entirely possible that people in this country would have raised money to help their families. Gonzalez Moscoso may have gotten money from some of them."

"But the SWP did not give him any money, and he did not ask us for any," Barnes said.

When Hedda Garza took the witness stand, she gave a much different version of the purpose of Gonzalez Moscoso's visit. In a series of carefully prepared leading questions, based on what they had already worked out—on matters that were never touched on in Garza's pretrial deposition—Williams asked:

"Isn't it true, Ms. Garza, that Hugo Gonzalez Moscoso stayed at your home at 252 West 50th Street for a number of days?"

"Isn't it true he 'only briefly left the apartment?"

"And isn't it true, Ms. Garza, that you had a conversation with Hugo Gonzalez Moscoso about the situation in Bolivia and what he planned there?"

Garza answered yes each time.

Source of confusion

"When was it that Mr. Moscoso stayed in your apartment with you and your husband?"

"I don't recall the exact date on that," Garza replied.

Her next statement explained the government's confusion on the dates since their first meeting with her in February:

"I believe it was in the spring of 1968..."

"And didn't Hugo Gonzalez Moscoso tell you that he had gotten what he wanted during his visit—and that was financing to carry out revolutionary activities in Bolivia?"

"He didn't use those words," Garza said. "He said that he had come to get aid for his struggle there, yes, and that he had also come for medical attention.

Williams continued: "And did he say to you or indicate that he had obtained the aid that he sought?"

"Yes, he said that he had gotten what he came for."

"Did he indicate what the aid was?"

"Presumably financial. He said he had come for financial aid.

"Did he indicate to you that it was obtained from the SWP?" Williams asked.

"No, he didn't say he obtained anything from the SWP," Garza replied.

"Did you understand it to mean that he had obtained it from the SWP?"

"Well, that would be conjecture on my part. I don't know what he did after he left my home, I don't know where he went or who he saw in the street or what he did. I didn't go with him to see people or anything like that, so I don't know.

"Did Mr. Moscoso indicate to you in these words or words to this effect, 'Everything is fine, I got what we wanted, meaning the money?'"

"Well, he didn't speak like a street

Continued on next page

Chief government attorney Edward Williams

HEDDA GARZA: Collaborated with FBI attempt to frame-up SWP.

Militant/Michael Baumann
Klan harasses San Jose socialists

By Priscilla Schenk

The Ku Klux Klan reared its ugly head again on June 10. This time at the offices of the Socialist Workers Party.

After seeing a postcard, inside copies of the Klan newspaper were shoved into the mailbox, on put windows of cars, and hung on a street light. When the socialists discovered this, they immediately filed a complaint with the police.

On June 9, the Klan attempted to hold a "recruitment rally" in downtown San Jose. A counter-demonstration was in progress. Nearly 2,000 people came to the counter-action, including many auto workers who had leafleted at nearby plants to build the anticapitalist protest. The SWP was among those who supported the counter-action.

The Klan rally was shut down in three minutes, as robed Klan members fled under police escort. In the newspaper, "leader" of the picketing socialists was an article on the Klan’s response to the April 11 event.

On June 9 the offices of the SWP in Kansas City were burglarized during the night. When socialists arrived, they found a brick had been thrown through a front window. The back door was standing open and a screen was cut. The back room had been ransacked. Newspapers and political literature were strewn around, and about fifty dollars worth of Militant newspapers were discovered. A small calculator was missing but other equipment, an air conditioner, and money were left untouched.

When police arrived, they declared it "an inside job.

At a news conference, SWP spokesperson Martha Pettitt rejected the police claim and demanded that the police make the immediate action to find the attackers.

Socialists arriving at the Oakland headquarters of the SWP on May 29 found that a lock on a window in the back had been broken and a small amount of money had been stolen. A fire set in a trash can in the bookstore had damaged books on one of the shelves. The socialists arrived to find a member of the party must have done it. They said they would file a report.

But the socialists found no further marks on the windows, they notified the burglary and arson division of the police department. They were then told that no report had been filed and, furthermore, there were "no suspects."

But I also had another conversation with her about that, which included in the conversation of the testimony she gave here today.

On pain of placing himself in the position of knowingly allowing perjured testimony to enter the record—for which he could be found in contempt of court—Williams was forced to disavow the FBI's own star witness of the day.

Hedda Garza’s view of FBI

"She was lying on the stand," he said after reviewing a copy of the transcript.

"I spent hours with González Moscoso when he stayed at our apartment, and he never mentioned or implied getting money from the SWP." González Moscoso was a veteran of the revolutionary movement, Catarino Garza said. "He knew how irresponsible it would be even to joke about such a thing."

Garza said Hedda Garza had spoken to him by phone around the time she gave government lawyers her pretrial testimony. "I warned her not to collaborate with the police," he told the Militant. "I reminded her it was the FBI who had murdered the Rosenbergs."

"I also further reemphasized that she 'knew the party' but that she 'did not know the FBI.'"

Gov’t admits meetings

In the courtroom, as Williams began reviewing Garza, an obvious question arose: How was the government able to ask such detailed, leading questions about conversations that never occurred?

The truth is that the SWP has demanded that the police department back up FBI frame-up of charges that it funneled money to a Bolivian revolutionary. FBI agent McMahon admits that after SWP offices were destroyed in San Francisco, informers could remain inside SWP. Andrew O’Neill, former of army intelligence, claims that he told socialists in 1943 that SWP wants to run a world through a central committee. FBI agent Thomas Turns testifies on behalf of SWP leader José Pérez eleven years ago.

Repeats FBI slanders

Garza also rebuffed a slander, made the day before in court by an FBI witness. FBI agent Joseph McMahon had said in reference to the IT, "I was suspicious that the party might be trying to recruit some of its more radical members to enhance its position in the lawsuit."

Garza echoed this view. "My own feeling," she said, "is that we were thrown out of the party precisely so the SWP would not be tainted with terrorism."

The truth is that the SWP has consistently opposed the IT, explaining that its separate status was recognized not because of its ideas, but because it had broken the party discipline in organization matters.

Testifying in court April 7, Jack Barlow swore that the IT not only reject s socialists as members, but added that they might add that it was the FBI who had sanctioned the Rosenbergs.

The SWP has demanded that the police clean any break in the law, "never broke a law themselves," and "never planned to break one either."

WHAT HAPPENED IN COURT

DAY 44: THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Thomas Finkel, army intelligence analyst, tells how GIs were pressurized to inform on antiwar movement. Kim J. Allison, stenographer, describes FBI's role in tampering with testimony. FBI agents testify that army photographed another demonstrator.

The next meeting will be on rec his record FBI documents on SWP. Earliest is 1929 memo by J. Edgar Hoover.

Retired FBI agent Joseph A. Sizzo testifies that "surprisingly enough, we have been used against 'subversives' at least since 1942. Joseph McMahon, FBI specialist on International Tendency, a grouping that left SWP in 1974, charges that SWP engineered "to enhance its position in lawsuits."

DAY 45: FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Former SWP member Hedda Garza takes the stand. Despite her denial under oath, she is cross-examined and rated with FBI lawyers to back up FBI frame-up of charges that it funneled money to a Bolivian revolutionary. FBI agent McMahon admits that after SWP offices were destroyed in San Francisco, informers could remain inside SWP. Andrew O’Neill, formerly of army intelligence, claims that he told socialists in 1943 that SWP wants to run a world through a central committee. FBI agent Thomas Turns testifies on behalf of SWP leader José Pérez eleven years ago.

DAY 46: MONDAY, JUNE 15


Retired FBI agent George Buxton breaks in as SWP headquarters uncovered SWP’s support for Bolivian revolutionary. SWP attorney Margaret Winter points out that SWP-sponsored solidarity meetings were reported in the ‘Militant.’

DAY 47: TUESDAY, JUNE 16

FBI agent Tim Dorch testifies that a review of FBI files reveals 105 break-ins of SWP headquarters. Patricia Lewis testifies that a Newsday article falsely attributed SWP names to out of secret police hands.

George Breitman, a longtime leader of the ICP, is retested on his 1942 Smith Act trial. SWP leader Larry Seigel testifies that the party discards political records to keep members' and contributors' names out of secret police hands.

DAY 48: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

FBI informant Edward Heiseler testifies that court he was arrested in 1966 to 1971 to ‘Infiltrate’ the FBI and help the FBI. Admits he turned over names of party members to FBI. He also turned over names of others to FBI. During the night, he said, he entered the Chicago SWP office to copy documents. Says he used illegal drugs, in violation of SWP policy, while working as an FBI informant.
By Vivian Sahné

NEW YORK—Opposition continues to grow to the proposed out-of-court settlement of a lawsuit against the New York City Police Red Squad.

Nat Hentoff, a widely-known civil libertarian, critic, and writer for the Village Voice, blasted the settlement in a page-long article, "NYPD Red Squad goes legit," in the newswEEK's June 3-9 issue.

"This is the story of a crucial Constitutional lawsuit that directly affects most readers of the Village Voice—even though you are not likely to have ever heard of it," Hentoff began.

"This settlement, whose details are going to be rather dismaying to you, sets up 'guidelines' for this city's secret police—a group that has 'habitually and contemptuously acted as if the Constitution itself were the subversive product of foreign agitators.'"

The suit, Handschu, et al. v. Special Service Division, et al., was filed in 1971, shortly after a police frame-up against the New York Black Panther Party fell apart in court. It is a class action suit, representing all New Yorkers that was filed in the name of Barbara Handschu, then president of the National Lawyers Guild.

The settlement was agreed to by the police, and unfortunately, several lawyers in the New York Civil Liberties Union. The National Lawyers Guild opposes the proposal.

Hentoff describes how the Red Squad operates: "During the 1960s and early 1970s, for instance, the Red Squad surveilled and kept dossiers on all kinds of lawful individuals and organizations. It also used a lot of undercover infiltrators."

Calling the settlement in the Handschu case a "dangerous hoax," Hentoff zeroes in on one of its key stipulations. The "guidelines" claim to "articulate a balance between political expression and police responsibility for investigation of criminal conduct."

"Remember," Hentoff says, "the plaintiffs—and the huge class they represent—were all engaged in lawful First Amendment-protected activities. The unlawful actions charged in this suit were all committed by the police, who, in the settlement, admit to no wrongdoing at all."

He quotes from objections filed in court by the National Lawyers Guild: "Any 'balancing' would be inappropriate in this case. It is bad enough that the police balance lawful political activities against their own misconduct. It is bizarre that class members should be asked to negotiate away their liberties and those of future generations by sanctioning such a balancing act."

The settlement contains a host of loopholes for the police. For example, it says the police have to get "specific information" of "criminal" activity before unleashing spics on a political group.

Hentoff says he read that part of the settlement to a Chicago lawyer who replied, "Let me give you an example of 'specific information.' An anonymous caller tells the Red Squad: 'This peace group on West Street is also running guns on the side.' Now that's 'specific information'...it may be the worst-quality information, but it sure is specific."

"When the winds of dissent run strong—as they surely will under Reagan and Haig—lots of folks make all kinds of bellwether noises. Which of those roars constitutes an actionable threat?" Hentoff asks. "When in doubt, which is always, the Red Squad can infiltrate..."

"Here's another example of the plums handed to the police spies in the Handschu settlement," he adds later in the article. "Undercover agents can be used against political 'criminal' suspects if there is 'good cause' for an investigation."

"When," he asks, "has a cop ever defined having good cause for something he wanted to do?"

Hentoff also takes up the settlement's proposal for an "Authority" to oversee Red Squad operations—a review board to be composed of two cops and a civilian chosen by the mayor with the approval of the cops.

One lawyer, said Hentoff, told him, "Looks like you people in New York are going to have Dracula watching the blood bank."

"No wonder that Barbara Handschu herself is quite disturbed at what has been wrought in her name," Hentoff concludes.

"She's afraid these guidelines could legitimate unconstitutional police practices. And, she told me, I don't have much hope in that one civilian on The Authority."

"Do you?"

Political Rights Defense Fund rallies planned

Supporters of the Political Rights Defense Fund are planning rallies across the country during June and July. Up-to-the-minute trial news on the Socialist Workers Party $40 million lawsuit against the government will be a main attraction.

Victims of the government’s political police—trade unionists, Black rights activists, participants in the women’s movement, and others—will be featured speakers. For more information on the rally nearest you, call the numbers listed below.

June 20  Birmingham  (205) 323-3079
June 20  San Antonio  (512) 222-8398
June 21  Cincinnati  (513) 751-2636
June 25  Lincoln, Neb.  (308) 333-3507
June 26  Bloomington, Ind.  (812) 333-3507
June 27  Newark  (201) 643-3341
June 27  Morgantown  (304) 296-055
June 27  Phoenix  (602) 255-0450
June 27  Newport News, Va.  (804) 380-0133
POLITICAL POLICE ON TRIAL

By Chris Horner
CHARLESTON, W. Va.—On the evening of May 30 forty people gathered in the auditorium of St. John’s Episcopal Church here for a “Rally for Democratic Rights.” A significant portion of those in attendance were miners entering the third month of their contract strike.

A panel of speakers discussed the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance $40 million lawsuit against government spying and their own experiences at the hands of the government’s secret police.

One speaker was led off by Marian Bustin, a twenty-six-year-old Scottish-born coal miner and member of United Mine Workers Local 2056 in Phillippi, West Virginia. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has attempted to deport Bustin because of her membership in the SWP and YSA.

Bustin pointed out that the socialists had been blackballed from labor acting in the labor movement. “Organized labor has every reason to support the case because in the past they have been the target of secret police crimes,” Bustin said.

She cited the long history of government and employer attempts to crush union organizing and the history of FBI operations against the Miners for Democracy and Black Lung Association in West Virginia.

She also pointed to AFL-CIO studies that report there are more than 1,000 “labor relations” firms selling their services to management today. They offer everything from trained informers to electronic eavesdropping equipment for bagging union meetings.

“I think if the government can succeed in deporting me it will be a blow to everyone in the United States,” Bustin said. “If people like me have no Bill of Rights then it naturally follows that citizens could be denied these rights too.”

Target of KKK

The next speaker was Rev. Jim Lewis, a widely respected figure in the Charleston area. He was the central figure in the struggle here six years ago when white-rag, racist forces attempted to ban books in the public schools and libraries of the Kanawha valley region. He was the target of several Ku Klux Klan death threats and bombing attempts.

Lewis told the rally that he was also subject to a naval intelligence investigation because of his draft counseling activities in the early period of the Vietnam War.

Lewis described his recent visit with eleven Puerto Rican nationalists, who are now serving lengthy sentences in Chicago on “seditionary conspiracy” charges. They are accused of being in the FALN.

He related what one of the five women prisoners told him as they talked about the administration’s new “anti-terrorist” campaign. “How can this man Bush stand up and talk about terrorism? This man has been the head of an agency that is the epitome of which is the epitome of terrorism around the world.”

Lewis told the audience that one of the eleven, Alfredo Mendez, had been taken from his cell by FBI agents a month earlier and even his lawyer has not been able to find out where he is, or whether he is alive.

Lewis told the rally, “I’m here to night to share the story because if it can happen to Alfredo—and it has—it can happen to you and it can happen to me. And I personally don’t want to sit around and wait for them to come for me.”

Bettijane Burger, president of the Charleston National Organization for Women, spoke about a lawsuit that she and two other officers of NOW are fighting. They are being sued for $50,000 for slander by a radio station because they documented evidence of women prisoners told him as they talked about the administration’s new “anti-terrorist” campaign. “How can this man Bush stand up and talk about terrorism? This man has been the head of an agency that is the epitome of which is the epitome of terrorism around the world.”

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“When I think about the FBI,” Burger said, “I think about how they spied on Earth Day. I think about what they did to me. I think about what they did to Jean Seberg. I think about the LSD experiments on army officers. And I think—is this the 1960s?”

Remember Eugene Debs

Burger also talked about labor figures like Eugene V. Debs. “Eugene Debs, who served prison time in Moundville, West Virginia” and “Mother Jones.”

Bostick, who attended school in West Virginia for sixteen years and I had never heard of her.

Rev. John Price, executive director of the West Virginia Council of Churches, told the rally, “I can remember my father being questioned about his involvement in the 1920s and 1930s with the United Mine Workers, and I can remember attacks being made on his life.”

“I also remember the total shock that I experienced when I realized my phone was tapped in the 1960s,” Price said, “and it is said about any government that thought I was a threat.”

Faith Holsetaard was the speaker for People Against War Preparations, an endorser of the SWP-YSA lawsuit.

Slaying in 1960s

Holsetaard had a story of her own to tell about FBI operations against civil rights movement in the early 1960s, when she was a nineteen-year-old member of the National Coordination Committee in Albany, New York.

“People should look at the civil rights movement in particular, if you want to see how destroyed movements, put people in jail, and more particularly turned people against organizations,” Holsetaard said.

Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers 1980 presidential candidate, gave an eyewitness account of the socialists’ trial in New York City. Pulley was a key witness in the case.

In addition to the panelists, statements of support were read from the West Virginia chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and publisher of the Charleston Gazette, one of the newspapers in the state.

Television cameras were carried highlights of the rally on the eleven o'clock news the same evening.

Schenectady: witch-hunt victims honored

By Mike Fitzsimmons
SCHENECTADY—Sixty-five people attended a May 30 rally here organized by the Political Rights Defense Fund and dedicated to all the victims of the McCarthy era.

Schenectady was a base for organizing the United Electrical Workers in the 1930s at the giant General Electric plant here. The union membership was hit hard by the witch-hunt in the 1950s.

Bob Cohen, of the Capital District Anti-Nuclear Alliance, reminded listeners of the frame-up of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Cohen urged everyone to support the Socialist Workers Party suit as a way of fighting against similar repression today.

Vicki Buchanan-Willig, on behalf of the Saratoga National Organization for Women chapter, endorsed the suit and explained the importance of fighting political rights in the struggle for legal, safe abortion.

Expressing the sentiment of all the speakers, Leon Van Dyke, a leader of the Capital District Anti-Klan Network, called for unity in the fight against the secret police. He ended his remarks with the slogan made famous by Joe Hill, “Don't mourn, organize!”

Cindy Jaquith, editor of the Militant, was a featured speaker of the evening. She described the history of the suit against the U.S. government and told everyone of the most recent events of the trial.

Gene Stiglitz, of the Capital District Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, expressed solidarity with the Political Rights Defense Fund.

Greetings were read from the Schenectady NAACP, the Albany Citizens Party, and the Albany New York Action Coalition, among others.

The rally raised $1,000 for PRDF, and several people signed up for a car caravan to the trial in New York City.
Iran-born socialist: 'Shah wasn't deported, why me?'

By Linda Mohrbarer

Baltimore—The battle against the deportation of Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh took a big stride forward last week. The Iran-born socialist faces a deportation hearing July 7.

A nineteen-year-old Morgan State student, Hariri-Vijeh was visited by the Immigration and Naturalization Service shortly after she joined the Young Socialist Alliance here. The INS denies it wanted to deport her for political reasons, claiming her "crime" is failure to file income tax in time.

More than 100 people attended a June 7 rally in her support, sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund. Classmates and teachers of Hariri-Vijeh, activists from Maryland Committee Against Registration and the Draft and Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, steelworkers and shipyard workers turned out.

Defenders of political rights were invited to the event by a letter from Philip Berrigan; Sister Mary Louise Lynch, the director of the Alliance for Justice; Joe Stewart, a member of the National Lawyers' Guild; Lisa Fieldman of Baltimore Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; steelworkers and shipyard workers turned out.

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BROWN LUNG INTERVIEW

Interview with leaders of North Carolina

By Lisa Potash

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—Brown lung, known in medical circles as fibrosis, is crippling. There is no cure. Unless a victim leaves the textile mill completely while the disease is at a very early stage, he or she dies from it.

It begins with breathing difficulties and coughing. One particularly the first day on the job after some time away from work. The illness progresses to a point where not only work is impossible, but even carrying out the most basic daily activity, such as washing dishes playing with a grandchild, or climbing a flight of stairs is prohibited by a total lack of energy.

In its worst stage, the disease requires the individual to remain on oxygen for almost all waking hours.

An in-depth study printed in February 1980 by a major North Carolina daily, the Charlotte Observer, documented that an estimated 250,000 people work in North Carolina’s textile industry; 70,000 are routinely exposed to cotton dust, the cause of brown lung, on the job.

Experts, according to the Charlotte Observer, say that approximately 18,000 active and retired textile workers in North and South Carolina are disabled by brown lung; their disease is now at an irreversible stage.

No gov’t compensation

There is no government-funded compensation for brown lung victims. In North Carolina, state officials contend that a worker can receive compensation from the employer and its insurance carrier —if he cooperates. But even carrying out the most simple tasks that you’ve got a cold and can’t get rid of. It break s down the lung. Florence: It’s almost the same prob lem. It’s a lung problem. Black lung is caused by coal dust, and brown lung is caused by cotton dust. But the symptoms are very much the same.

Awards of compensation to the miners are paid by the government. We want the mills to pay for damages. We will not tax our children for something that the mills and textile industry have done. That’s the reason we are fighting so hard, because it’s something that these people have given their lives for, and they’re crippled for the rest of their lives.

Militant: Tell us about the May 4 rally in Washington, D.C.

Florence: There were 300 people there, all the way from Georgia, to Danville, Virginia. We also had a service on May 3 in Washington, D.C., for the victims of brown lung. That was wonderful. We each lit a candle and that was a very impressive sight.

We don’t know whether the Cotton Dust Standard will be weakened or lifted. The government supports it. They want to send it back to committee for further study. So that’s where we are now. And that’s why we went to Washington, for the purpose of letting them know that we need guidelines, for the workers’ protection.

Militant: I noticed that the television coverage of the May 4 rally showed the participation of a number of younger...

Florence: [To Militant reporters]: I noticed that the television coverage of the May 4 rally showed the participation of a number of younger...

Florence: It started in 1975. Some of the injured people out of the mills began to have coffee with one another and they’d remember so and so passed away. They could remember then back in the mill when they had a hard time breathing. They got together then and began to talk about organizing, to help the people who had a breathing problem.

The first chapter was started in Greensboro, about the same time that one was started in Columbus, South Carolina. It was started mainly for the purpose of helping the sick textile workers who had damaged lungs to file for compensation and to seek laws to clean up the mills.

Black lung

Militant: Are there similarities between black lung and brown lung?

Florence: It’s almost the same problem. It’s a lung problem. Black lung is caused by coal dust, and brown lung is caused by cotton dust. But the symptoms are very much the same.

Awards of compensation to the miners are paid by the government. We want the mills to pay for damages. We will not tax our children for something that the mills and textile industry have done. That’s the reason we are fighting so hard, because it’s something that these people have given their lives for, and they’re crippled for the rest of their lives.

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Florence: It started in 1975. Some of the injured people out of the mills began to have coffee with one another and they’d remember so and so passed away. They could remember then back in the mill when they had a hard time breathing. They got together then and began to talk about organizing, to help the people who had a breathing problem.

The first chapter was started in Greensboro, about the same time that one was started in Columbus, South Carolina. It was started mainly for the purpose of helping the sick textile workers who had damaged lungs to file for compensation and to seek laws to clean up the mills.

Black lung

Militant: Are there similarities between black lung and brown lung?

Florence: It’s almost the same problem. It’s a lung problem. Black lung is caused by coal dust, and brown lung is caused by cotton dust. But the symptoms are very much the same.

Awards of compensation to the miners are paid by the government. We want the mills to pay for damages. We will not tax our children for something that the mills and textile industry have done. That’s the reason we are fighting so hard, because it’s something that these people have given their lives for, and they’re crippled for the rest of their lives.

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The first phase was four years. The last phase was to test people's breathing and tell them if they were abnormal. This went into effect, I believe, last fall. Right now, this is what the workers are working under. This is administered under OSHA.

Militant: What is the relationship between the Brown Lung Association and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union?

Florence: Well, up until this trip for the Washington May 4 rally we had not worked together. But the thing we did work together on was the Cotton Dust Standard.

The union is working inside the plants to see that these regulations are carried out, while we on the outside are working for compensation for those who have gone out of the mills. And that was the reason we combined with them in the May 4 rally, because we are both working for the Cotton Dust Standard. As I said, their work is mostly in the mills and ours has been on the outside with the retired.

Militant: What are the future plans of the Brown Lung Association?

Florence: Well, we're still working mighty hard to get laws into effect in Raleigh, the state capital of North Carolina, pertaining to workers who came out of the mills before 1963. These people are not covered by compensation. We pushed and pushed in Raleigh and last year we got a bill through, but it passed just for one year. Now it's back in on the floor of the state assembly.

Compensation fights

Militant: What happens now when a brown lung victim who left the mills before 1963 files a claim today for compensation?

Florence: He can file, but that's as far as he could go. That's why we have a bill in for these people again.

We also did go to Raleigh last month and got cleared through committee that when a person is given an award that the industry and insurance carrier pay interest on that award from the day that it is given until it is paid. It passed last month and is now law.

We asked for this because when a person is given an award naturally the industry and their lawyers appeal it --there's not a case that goes to court that they don't appeal.

Militant: How do workers fight these appeals?

Florence: We have lawyers who will take these cases, and they do not charge anything until you get a settlement or an award. Of course they fight the appeal for you. And that's kind of hard to put across to an ordinary working person, because we don't deal with lawyers. We're just kind of aEpiaa.

But you know, the lawyers are wonderful in fighting these cases. Sometimes an out-of-court settlement is not acceptable, and the lawyer has to go in and say it's not acceptable and we want a higher settlement, and sometimes the companies won't back down and give a higher settlement. Most of the time, if it's left up to the company, it's very little.

Militant: Is there anything you'd like to add?

Florence: Things are worse in the mills now, for two reasons. One, there used to be windows you could open and some of the cotton dust could escape. Two, they used to pick cotton by hand, and now they pick it by machine, and they clean everything, including the stems and the leaves. The air conditioning blows all this dust around even more. I've seen workers carried out on a stretcher and never seen them again.

Militant: We're going to keep on fighting.

The growing radicalization of southern workers today.

The growing radicalization of southern workers today. Miners remember it was another Rockefeller, John Jr., who massacred miners and their families in Ludlow, Colorado, in 1914.

In most areas of southern West Virginia, there is no choice but to be a coal miner to make your living. That is part of the reason coal miners understand the importance of a strong union. This, along with their militant history and tradition, is why a strong, united union is a life-and-death question for coal miners in America.

Down the road, on the outskirts of Delbarton, a retired miner had a "Davy" Rockefeller (the governor) poster on his house. He said his electric bills have tripled over the past six years, in spite of John D. Rockefeller IV's promises in the 1976 and 1980 elections to keep down the price of electricity.

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Letter from rail worker: ‘all railroads are dis-investing’

The 'Militant' received the following letter from a member of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Lodge 1474 in New York. Along with the letter he sent some other material. One was an article written by a rail worker, Charles Fox, which appeared in the business section of the May 19 ‘New York Times.’ Another was the statement by Signalmen’s union President Tom Bates, which was printed in the June 5 'Militant.'

May 19, 1981

Enclosed are copies of some comments on Fred Kroll’s agreement and on Conrail in general. Along with photocopies of the agreement, they circulated among block operators and clerks in Grand Central Terminal, on Conrail’s Metropolitan Region.

Charles J. Fox explains, among other things, the new notorious process of “dis-investment” that took place under Conrail’s predecessor management. The Militant should explain this process, which affects all railroads...

Another Reagan ‘fact’ falls apart

Reagan’s attempt to prove that on-the-job sexual harassment of women workers comes from fellow workers than from bosses backfired badly. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) told the Senate Labor Committee that, of 118 corroborated charges, “106 were perpetrated by supervisors and others in management, only twelve by co-workers.”

-Vivian Sahner

Cartoon from rail unions newspaper ‘Labor’ for building the April 29 demonstration in Washington.

Workers, not just those on Conrail. From the beginnings, railroads were involved in non-traditional business, like mining and real estate, which grew out of the need for downtown terminals, supplies of coal for their locomotives, hotels for riders, etc. The New York Central, for instance, owned large blocks of real estate on Park Avenue; western railroads were granted blocks of land as inducements to build transcontinental lines (many of the latter have valuable mineral deposits, especially coal). As the profitability of railroads in general declined after the First World War, because of highway and air competition for passenger and freight and because of the wasteful duplication of services characteristic of capitalism’s anarchic development, investment in non-rail activities became more profitable. (The most striking early examples were the trolley companies that abandoned transit in exchange for electric power production, like Public Service in New Jersey.)

First railroads ceased investing in passenger services. This process began with trolley and interurban services and local steam trains in the twenties; it ended in the fifties, when the last long distance passenger equipment was bought. Note that it was enough for the railroads that passenger service brought lower rates of return on invested capital to divert investment to freight or non-transportation activities.

After World War II, dis-investment spread to large steam railroads. Some lines, like the Ontario & Western and the Rutland, for instance, were scrapped. Most carriers began branch line closures, and mergers resulted in closing of parallel competing services that the anarchy of competition had caused to be built in the first place. Investment was focused on heavily used freight lines, and some profits were diverted to new, non-rail uses, like real estate speculation, manufacturing, and larceny. At present, all railroads are engaging in dis-investment, as available capital is invested where it will bring the highest return. From time to time, workers and taxpayers will be asked to sacrifice so the wreck of the latest gutted and abandoned railroad—the Milwaukee, the Illinois Central, the Burlington Northern—can be rehabilitated and then turned back to “private enterprise,” which was responsible for their decay to begin with. "Opening the books" of the railroads to examination by workers is a good answer to this threat, but it should be the books of all the railroads, not just the cripples of today.

In the Metropolitan Region of Conrail, which serves commuters primarily, a lot of discussion centers on takeovers by the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) or some other agency. Changes in work rules (taking off freemen, most notably) are threatened, but some workers look forward to better pensions and early retirement as state employees. Long Island Railroad workers are widely regarded as having made a good deal with the MTA.

Bates in the Signalmen’s Journal makes a good point about the thirty-five rail workers then took cuts in pay, but later still lost their jobs.
Workers in the large Conrail yards, shops, and offices in Altoona, Pennsylvania, anticipate layoffs and shutdowns that will devastate the economy of that old railroad center.

Many rail workers are angry that their union officials would make those concessions. The leaders of the two unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, have refused to sign the Reagan plan.

Signalmen's Union President Tom Bates wrote, "I am surprised they have shown such lack of desire that all rail workers not in total agreement with it...will be placed in chains and reduced to slavery."

Fiorio and Lewis

Congressman Fiorio is supposed to be pushing the Conrail management plan through Congress. The Reagan plan is being pushed by Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis. But Lewis and Fiorio are in increasing agreement.

Fiorio now says the Reagan administration may be willing to delay plans for an immediate sale of Conrail.

And the Reagan administration has gone along with a $125 million increase in Amtrak, and has sold Conrail and is denegating the most concessions from the unions.

Whether Conrail is sold in one year or three years, sold in one piece or several, whether the common stock is sold or whether the road and equipment is given to other railroads to cannibalize, rail workers will lose out.

The struggle is not over.

Rail workers throughout the country, especially on Conrail, are discussing the attacks and how to respond to them.

What next?

The questions coming up in these discussions include, what kind of shape are the unions in to conduct a fight?

Should the railroads be run for private profit or be nationalized?

How can rail workers get a political voice?

Who are the allies and who are the opponents of labor?

Rail workers' experiences recently point toward answers to these questions:

1. Miners' example

A serious takeoff effort against the railroads was launched recently in New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority or to subsidiaries of Amtrak. Either way, the affected workers will lose basic rights. The commuter agencies are running the railroad and the transportation requirements like New York's Taylor Law. And Congressman Fiorio is pushing to get their hands on the largest railroads and further restrict the rights of rail workers.

When union officials agreed to a contract worse than the miners thought they could get, they voted it down and stayed on strike for over two weeks until a better one.

After they voted to accept a better contract, mine construction workers who are members of the United Mine Workers remained on strike without a contract. So in solidarity, the majority of the 300 UMW coal miners remained on strike.

The ability of the UMW to stop takeovers from the union demonstration won by a mass movement of miners in the 1960s and 1970s. They exercised their rights to read and study the full text of the contract, vote on it, and go on strike if they do not have a contract.

2. Nationalize the railroads

These are the problems of railroads. Railroads are private ownership. All decisions about rail transportation are made on the basis of profit.

Passenger service is ended and vital freight lines abandoned when the railroad owners feel they are not profitable enough. Equipment and track is allowed to run down, safety is ignored. Commuters are ignored. The owners are only after profits.

Amtrak and Conrail are not nationalized. Railroads are run at public expense to benefit private owners and creditors.

If there is any doubt about who profits from the railroad industry, ask any railroad operations, their books should be opened to public scrutiny.

Nationalized railroads would be run under the control of rail workers, managed by publicly elected boards.

3. For a labor party based on the unions

In exchange for Congressman Fiorio pushing the Conrail management proposal through Congress, rail union leaders have touted him as a friend of labor. Union backing won him the Democratic Party nomination for governor in the June 2 New Jersey primary.

Railroad workers need candidates from their own ranks, who represent the needs of workers, not the bosses. It is becoming increasingly clear that there are no such candidates in the Democratic or Republican parties.

A labor party exists in Canada—the New Democratic Party—and the Canadian affiliates of the railroad unions support it.

4. Allies

In preparation for the April 29 demonstrations in Washington, the Conrail agencies have printed and distributed leaflets to commuters explaining the issues. This was a big step toward mobilizing allies.

In agricultural areas, small farmers have been driven out of business by rail road rate hikes and dropping of service.

Miners back UMWA

construction workers: tentative pact reached

By Michael Baumann

On June 17, union and company negotiators announced a tentative contract agreement for United Mine Workers of America construction workers.

The construction workers, who numbered 17,000, went out on strike last March with the rest of the union. But they bargain separately.

The miners returned to work before the June 6 expiration of a new contract after a seventy-two-day national strike. Then most were beaten out against Democrates in West Virginia, Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia—because construction workers had won a contract.

Traditionally a settlement for construction workers is quickly reached after the contract for miners has been settled.

This time the contractors tried to block a settlement. They are driving to weakening both the miners and the unions' shop stewards, opening new job openings, the way to increased hiring of nonunion labor.

UMWA construction workers, like UMWA miners, have the right to vote on their contract.

Pittsburgh miner Mary Zins explained why support for the construction workers is solid: "To me, the miners issue is they don't have a contract, so of course they have to pull out. That's their only strength. Everybody respects their pickets."

Miners back UMWA
Longshore leaders murdered in Seattle

Two militant trade union leaders were shot to death in Seattle on June 1. George Viernes and Silme Domingo were leaders of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 37. They were murdered while they worked alone in the union headquarters.

Domingo–the local's secretary-treasurer–came to the union about 8 a.m. to collect the money that discriminated against Filipinos, and to check the mail. He was an active participant in the anti-Vietnam war movement.

Both were outspoken critics of the Marcos regime in the Philippines. They were members of the Union of Democratic Parties (UDP) and the Communist Party of the Philippines. Viernes–a DSP member–was a DSP member.

More than 450 people attended a memorial service for them June 9 in Seattle. "They were killed because of what they were doing," ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClain told the crowd. "There was someone or some group that did not want to see Local 37 strong and united. There was someone or some group that did not want to see the organization of oppressed workers."

"We will continue to work, continue to build as a monument to them." Constantine Baruso, president of Local 37, read telegrams from labor leaders in the state of Washington and on the West Coast, including condolences from the ILWU executive board.

Baruso described the two as "hardworking and honest trade union officers, highly respected in the community and among their coworkers. This tragic shooting is an unwarranted attack on the union. Two suspect killers are being held on $75,000 bail.

Socialist hits ripoff by N.Y. landlords

NEW YORK—Mayor Koch's truant officers have hiked the rent subsidy of this area. None of these can go anywhere; we'll have to stay at home. Now another one of Koch's boards considers allowing landlords to raise our rent; we won't even be allowed to afford to stay at home!

So protested Diane Wang, Socialists Workers Party candidate for city council at-large, at a June 10 hearing of the New York City Tenants' Development Board. About 60,000 apartments in New York City are under rent stabilization, which allows landlords to raise tenants' rents by a specific amount. Landlords are urging that increases as high as 32 percent be allowed.

Speaking before the rent board, about whom a hundred tenants and a handful of landlords had gathered, Wang called authorization of any rent increase "preposterous to any working person in this city who already ponders about one-third of her or his paycheck to rent payments.

"The socialist candidate pointed out that in one rent-by-law—cannot be any more than 10 percent of any Cuban workers, who have been through a program that in the same way would result in a reduction of New York City landlords' profits in New York City.

"All these landlords who are being paid to open their books to the public," Wang urged.

"Second, we should take a good chunk of that budget surplus plus Mayor Koch gloats over, along with the millions of dollars of bond payments, and devote it to building low-cost housing.

Further funds for housing could come from the military budget, Wang pointed out—in stead of "funding dictatorship in El Salvador and Guatemala or financing nuclear holocaust in the Middle East." At this point loud applause interrupted her testimony: "The nation's largest—are angry.

Not only would such a large-scale housing program provide desperately needed safe apartments, said Wang, " it would provide hundreds of thousands of jobs.

In New York about 30,000 30,000 30,000 of housing tenancy, landlords have threatened that unless rent-stabilization laws are changed, one-third of them would abandon buildings in the next five years, bringing the number of abandoned apartments to more than half a million.

Wang urged that rather than giving in to the landlords' extortion, all buildings abandoned or inadequately maintained be taken from the owners. These, as well as new housing units, should be managed by tenants' councils.

The entire program, Wang said, "would be a super- vised by a board elected by and accountable to working people, not one appointed by Mayor Koch, who himself was appointed by the state, landlords and bosses of this city."

On June 15 about fifty people picketed the Department of City Housing where Koch was attending a breakfast with the landlords' organization. Where Koch was attending a breakfast with the landlords' organization.

"Koch, you bum, you make housing a sham!"

Federal, state gov'ts back drive to bring back the death penalty

By Harry Ring

A reactionary drive to fully re-establish the death penalty is under way.

In 1972, the Supreme Court struck down the various death penalty statutes as unconstitutional.

Since that time, thirty-five states have re-enacted capital punishment statutes intended to meet the high court objections.

A new amendment-endorse measure has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee to re-enact the death penalty for such federal offenses as treason, espionage and presidential assassination.

The execution laws are wielded against the poor in this country, especially Blacks.

According to the June 14 New York Times, the federal government has established that Blacks convicted of murdering whites are sentenced to death eighteen times as often as whites convicted of murdering whites.

In April, Supreme Court Justice William Brennan complained that court rulings have provided "procedural protections for victims of the death penalty, "unheard of for other crimes."

It didn't occur to the justices that the finales of this particular sentence is not matched by any other.

It has long been established that executions are no deterrent to crime, although this remains the principal argument of proponents of legalized murder. The American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, and others have produced studies establishing this.

The simple fact is that the death penalty is intended to be exactly what it is—a weapon of intimidation, of class and race victimization.

The move to reinstate the penalty for such ambiguously defined offenses as "treason" and "espionage" is particularly ominous in this respect.

Up to now, nearly two people have been executed for espionage in peacetime by a civil court.

Last year, in 1972, the Supreme Court took a step towards the re-instatement of the death penalty that was answered by a general strike in San Francisco.

The ferry workers, backed by organized labor across the state, are adamant that no solution is acceptable that takes away their right to belong to their union or to bargain collectively.

State AFL-CIO President Marvin Williams said, "As long as I have a podium to speak from, I will defend the ferry workers and their right to collective bargaining... The labor movement of this state will stand foursquare behind you all the way."

Ferry workers continue protest

By John Volova

SEATTLE—Workers in the state's ferry system marched in the rain yesterday in defiance of a federal judge's ruling.

The Marine Engineers Benevolent Association (MEBA) walked off the job for three days in May. Governor Spiegelman passed a bill that puts the ferry workers under civil service status. Volunteer Justice William Rehnquist of the Supreme Court overturned the union's organizing rights.

The thirteen other unions on Inland Boatman's Union.

"The unionists returned to work after a temporary compromise was reached between the state government and the MEBA..." the unionists, highly respected in the community and among their coworkers. This tragic shooting is an unwarranted attack on the union.

Two suspect killers are being held on $75,000 bail.

Support ballplayers' strike

By Stu Singer

The Major League Players Association has threatened a strike, to protest its employers' wage and working conditions. The issue is the right of players to change teams. The owners counter with the same argument as if a little boy had promised the MEBA that he would veto the bill if they would accept a proposed contract.

The engineers signed the contract. The owners then charge the players with assaulting the ferry. Workers under civil service regulations... the MEBA and the Inland Boatman's Union.

They agreed to the organization of a commission to review the situation and make recommendations by July 5.

That date was picked by the MEBA and it tells a lot about their mood.

The players' strike is a test of the national labor relations board. A federal court judge overruled this, precipitating the strike.

The baseball strike is being discussed in every bar, locker room and lunch room in the country. A wave of anti-player propaganda is having an impact because it is hard to identify with people earning as much as baseball players (even though a majority of them only make the big money for a few years).

But the strike concerns straights who throw up their hands over union questions. The news media are pushing the workers' side the same way they accuse union of being greedy.

Whether or not you like baseball, arguing in defense of the players is an argument in defense of unions.

Readers of the Militant should note that, with nothing much left to watch on television, playing softball during the strike would not constitute strike-breaking.
On World news and analysis from.

By Suzanne Haig

As the July 14-18 congress of the Polish United Workers' Party approaches, Moscow is applying maximum pressure on the government of Stanislaw Kania to accede to growing demand in the nation and within the party itself.

On June 5, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party sent a letter to the Central Committee of the PZWP, criticizing the Kania leadership for its "unjustified concessions," and calling on it to halt the growing ferment in the nation for democratic rights. "It attacked the openness of the press and the weakness of security forces, and called for a change of line before the congress." Why is Moscow so worried?

The Polish Communist Party is in the midst of an important transition. Demands have been raised for more democracy within the party, more access to information, the expulsion of corruption and inept leaders, and the separation of party and government. Some 60 percent of the party delegates to the congress are members of the independent Solidarity movement.

As a result of pressure from the ranks, the new Politburo will be elected at the congress. It will be widowed to buttress the ability of the top officials to determine in advance who the new CP leadership will be.

This ferment is a direct threat to the continued rule of the bureaucracy. And it is the Kremlin's belief that "It is no longer unusual for casual people who overtly espouse opportunist political goals to join party organiza­ tions or figure among delegates to conferences and to the congress."

In order to hang on, the Polish leadership, Moscow has backed Jerzy Bafia, who has stalled on naming Solidarity leader Lech Walesa at a March 20 rally.

As another way of pressuring the Kania leadership, Moscow has backed elements in the Polish CP who favor a crackdown on the workers.

Early this month, the Soviet press published documents written by a small group of about 200 Polish CP members to explain themselves to the Krasnaja Forum.

The forum attacked the Kania leadership, and characterized the party as split into two factions "no clear-cut concept, no strategy for overcoming the crisis." The Politburo, local party organizations, and Solidarity all denounced the forum as provocative, dis­ ruptive, and dangerous. They made it clear to everyone, including Moscow, that the majority of Polish people support democratic renewal.

Because of the situation following Moscow's letter, Solidarity postponed a warning strike called to protest government inaction around the Bydgoszcz incident.

Provosions

Solidarity has also denounced attempts to link the union with anti-Soviet acts.

When unidentified vandals poured white paint over a Soviet war memorial in Lublin, June 13, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa called the act a "provocation." Solidarity also sent workers to clean up the statue and to publicaly demonstrate their anger at the defacement.

Is Moscow preparing to invade Poland?

Editorsials like the one June 13 in the Czech CP paper, likening the situation in Poland to the 1968 invasion, seem to back such a move.

The Soviet government, however, faces an escalating dilemma. As the move­ ment for socialist democracy deepens in Poland, and in their plains goes in if spreading to other East European countries and to the Soviet Union, pressure increases on Moscow to do something to crush it—pressure Kania to crack down, remove the present Polish CP leader­ ship, or invade.

Obstacles to invasion

At the same time, the obstacles to such moves are also escalating. Workers, farmers, intellectuals, and party militants have organized themselves and become more deter­ mined to proceed with their struggle at all costs.

Nor is it certain how the Polish army would react to a Soviet invasion. In order to hang on, the Polish bu­ reaucracy has had to make concessions and adopt some of the anti-So­ viet acts. It has also said to Moscow that it would hang on the decisions of the Warsaw Pact states, and then spread the word to its forces in the Warsaw Pact states.

Its approach is to appeal to the senti­ ment for a united, independent Poland. In this way, it hopes to get the workers and farmers under its control and move toward demobilizing them. But this course is increasing strains between Ka­ nia and the Krasnaja Forum.

The workers and farmers are using this rift to strengthen their organiza­ tions, deepen their movement in the party, and unify the whole population against the threaten­ ing noises from the Kremlin.

Kremlin tells Polish CP: 'Crack down'

By Will Reissner

In Reagan administration's drive to increase the Pentagon's arsenal of new weapons, received two boosts in May and June. On May 21, Congress appropriat­ ed $20 million to build a new nerve-gas factory in Arkansas, and in early June the Pentagon reported that it had begun producing neutron bombs and war­ heads.

Neutron bombs are enhanced radia­ tion weapons that produce higher levels of radiation and less blast and heat than conventional nuclear weapons. They have sometimes been described as the ultimate capitalist weapon because they kill people with minimal lasting damage to property.

The appropriation to build the chemi­ cal warfare plant is actually only a tiny part of the huge Pentagon increase in its stocks of nerve-gas weapons. The U.S. government already plans to spend $6.47 billion on chemical weapons over the next five years. And the May 24 New York Times reports that "in a secret study for the [Defense] department, the panel of the Defense Science Board recom­ mend that this figure be increased by a factor of three or four."

Estimates of present U.S. chemical warfare stocks run as high as 300,000 shells. About one-third of that is con­ tained in chemical land mines, artillery shells, rockets, and bombs, while the re­ mainder is in bulk storage.

The Pentagon stopped producing nerve gas following an executive order by President Nixon in 1969. That deci­ sion was forced by the public outcry af­ ter the 1968 death of some 3,000 sheep in Utah, killed by a cloud of poison gas released thirty miles from the U.S. Army's Dugway testing site.

In 1975, the United States govern­ ment finally got around to signing the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which bans the first use of gas or germ warfare wea­ pons. But when President Ford signed the measure, he stipulated that Wash­ ington, unlike the other signatories, in­ tended to use "riot control agents," both of which were widely used by U.S. forces in Vietnam, were not covered by the agreement.

Experience with chemical warfare in World War I, when poison gas was ex­ tensively used and caused 1.3 million military casualties, showed that after the first surprise attacks, it was largely ineffective against protected troops. In subsequent gas attacks unprotected ci­ vilians suffered the greatest casualties and were the most vulnerable targets.

On June 1, the U.S. Department of Energy, which oversees the U.S. stocks of nerve gas, announced to Congress that production had begun on a new Lance missile neutron warhead, and that production of an eight-inch neutron artillery shell would begin in July.

This announcement indicates that the Pentagon is moving forward with the production of neutron weapons despite the massive opposition to those weapons in Western Europe, where most of the neutron bombs would be placed and used.

In fact, in 1978 the intense opposition to neutron bombs in Europe, and the fact that the United States forced President Carter to withdraw his plan to deploy the weapon in Europe. But Carter went ahead with a decision to produce all the components of the neutron weapons, and to stockpile those parts for later quick assembly into shells and bombs.

The Pentagon has not given up its hope of placing the neutron bomb in Eu­ rope, despite European opposition. In January, Reagan's Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger told a news confer­ ence that he favored both production of the neutron warhead for the Euro­ pean conflict and against Weinberger's plans to place nu­ clear missiles aimed at the Soviet Union in Western European bases. These deci­ sions will make it even harder for the NATO governments to convince their people that the current NATO arms build up is a defensive response to So­ viet military strength.

From Intercontinental Press

U.S. to build nerve-gas factory in Arkansas

By Will Reissner

The Reagan administration's drive to increase the Pentagon's arsenal of new weapons received two boosts in May and June. On May 21, Congress appropriat­ ed $20 million to build a new nerve-gas factory in Arkansas, and in early June the Pentagon reported that it had begun producing neutron bombs and war­ heads.

Neutron bombs are enhanced radia­ tion weapons that produce higher levels of radiation and less blast and heat than conventional nuclear weapons. They have sometimes been described as the ultimate capitalist weapon because they kill people with minimal lasting damage to property.

The appropriation to build the chemi­ cal warfare plant is actually only a tiny part of the huge Pentagon increase in its stocks of nerve-gas weapons. The U.S. government already plans to spend $6.47 billion on chemical weapons over the next five years. And the May 24 New York Times reports that "in a secret study for the [Defense] department, the panel of the Defense Science Board recom­ mend that this figure be increased by a factor of three or four."

Estimates of present U.S. chemical warfare stocks run as high as 300,000 shells. About one-third of that is con­ tained in chemical land mines, artillery shells, rockets, and bombs, while the re­ mainder is in bulk storage.

The Pentagon stopped producing nerve gas following an executive order by President Nixon in 1969. That deci­ sion was forced by the public outcry af­ ter the 1968 death of some 3,000 sheep in Utah, killed by a cloud of poison gas released thirty miles from the U.S. Army's Dugway testing site.

In 1975, the United States govern­ ment finally got around to signing the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which bans the first use of gas or germ warfare wea­ pons. But when President Ford signed the measure, he stipulated that Wash­ ington, unlike the other signatories, in­ tended to use "riot control agents," both of which were widely used by U.S. forces in Vietnam, were not covered by the agreement.

Experience with chemical warfare in World War I, when poison gas was ex­ tensively used and caused 1.3 million military casualties, showed that after the first surprise attacks, it was largely ineffective against protected troops. In subsequent gas attacks unprotected ci­ vilians suffered the greatest casualties and were the most vulnerable targets.

On June 1, the U.S. Department of Energy, which oversees the U.S. stocks of nerve gas, announced to Congress that production had begun on a new Lance missile neutron warhead, and that production of an eight-inch neutron artillery shell would begin in July.

This announcement indicates that the Pentagon is moving forward with the production of neutron weapons despite the massive opposition to those weapons in Western Europe, where most of the neutron bombs would be placed and used.

In fact, in 1978 the intense opposition to neutron bombs in Europe, and the fact that the United States forced President Carter to withdraw his plan to deploy the weapon in Europe. But Carter went ahead with a decision to produce all the components of the neutron weapons, and to stockpile those parts for later quick assembly into shells and bombs.

The Pentagon has not given up its hope of placing the neutron bomb in Eu­
Mexico: police linked to right-wing threats

By Aníbal Yáñez

Terrorism against progressive and revolutionary movements new fronts in Mexico. A so-called National Patriot Anti-communist Front (FPAN) has threatened to kill Rossario Barra de Piedra, leader of the National Front Against Repression (FNCR), and several other leaders of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), the Mexican section of the PRT.

PRT WINS BALLOT RIGHTS—On June 11 the Federal Electoral Commission of Mexico granted the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) the right to be on the ballot in the 1982 elections.

Fourth International

Barra de Piedra has been nominated by the PRT as its candidate for the presidency of Mexico. The members of the PRT now have been threatened with death are Edgar García Carmona, national leader of the PRT in Chiapas, and Rafael Torres, Zulemita, was captured by the Sandinista women in Nicaragua with the rank of Guerrilla Commander and was on the move her son's body, and gave it to the Sandinista revolution came from Nicaragua's many of the women brought photos of their children died and were not registered as a party. Overwhelmingly, they came to the March 22, 1979. At the beginning of April, in a leaflet distributed in the FPAN assembly, there is going to win, you'll see that some day the Barra de Piedra, was killed by Somoza's National Guard based in Honduras. In chants and individual remarks, theollipop an active of the Francoist regime. A PRT spokesperson explained in a telephone interview from Mexico City, "Everything points to the fact that there is a strong link between the FPAN and the BARAPEM." The naming of these workplaces and the threats against Ugalde aroused suspicion that the Mexican police are involved in the FPAN provocations. Who are the agents of the PRT are and where they are, is not something that needs to be necessarily in the public domain.

Moreover, these threats took place in the context of the everyday repression and provocations that affect the industrial workers of Mexico in particular. One of the main instruments for the creation of this climate of repression has been the Battalion of Radio Patrols of the State of Mexico (BARAPEM), whose activities range from the breaking of strikes, to extermination and robbery of workers on payday, to the indoctrination of trade union and political activists.

On May 1, the international workers holocaust, a total of 100,000 workers marched in the industrial suburbs of Mexico City. One of the central demands of the placards and banners of these workers was an end to the BARAPEM's arbitrary actions and repression.

Factory workers threatened

In addition, the FPAN leaflet says that the work of the PRT in factories such as Goodyear Ozo, Mexico de Autobuses, Ford, and Teléfonos de México, and in the electricians union, "will no longer be tolerated.

You missed a lot last week if you missed Intercontinental Press

Mexico: police linked to right-wing threats

By Matilde Zimmermann

MANAGUA—Close to a thousand workers whose brothers and husbands were killed by Somoza's National Guard gathered here Sunday May 22 for the First Assembly of National Front of Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs.

They came in buses from every part of Nicaragua. Derek and Alán, they came from the poorest classes—campesinas, tobacco and textile workers, domestic servants, women working in the bars of Managua and other cities.

A number of the members of the Sandinista revolution came from Nicaragua's wealthiest families, but their mothers took part in the demonstration which their children died and were not in evidence at the conference.

Barra de Piedra represent

These women whose children died fighting against Somoza twenty or more years ago, expressed their feelings that the revolution is less than two years old and many of the National Guard's victims were only children, some of the mothers were young. I talked to one woman, dressed in black for the child she had lost in a street battle in which his companion Thelma was killed. Three hundred National Guard surrounded his mother's house and took him away. Franklin was freed when the FSIN took power July 19, 1979.

Continuing terrorism

"From that moment on," his mother continued, "he worked without stopping, day and night with hardly a moment's sleep. But he worked with great love. Unfortunately he wasn't able to continue, because the morning of January 27, 1980, when he was involved in trying to capture some counterrevolutionaries, an evil son of Nicaragua, a National Guard assasinated the life of my son."

Franklin was a revolutionary fighter, one of the few who were able to resist the Somoza regime. He was one of the few who were able to resist the Somoza regime. He was one of the few who were able to resist the Somoza regime. He was one of the few who were able to resist the Somoza regime.

Margarita Hernández's story

One of the most moving stories was told by Margarita Hernández of Managua, Hernández, who described herself as "only a poor woman, a worker of the people," lost two sons.

First she told the story of "one afternoon in March" when she went to a food stand after work and found out that her youngest son Otto José had been taken by the National Guard. As she told of five days spent going from police station to police station, hospital to hospital, some women in the audience began to cry quietly as if remembering their own losses.

Finally Hernández found Otto José's body, but he was already gone. Then the National Guard captain gave her the name of man who should take her to move her son's body, and gave it to her "on the condition that I bury him immediately and not say anything to anybody."

Hernández's other son was named Franklin. "Franklin was always a very serious boy," she said. "He would always say to me, 'Mama, one day we are going to win, you'll see that some day the Revolution is going to win,' and I was sure that made me sad because I knew that my son might be killed. I didn't want to accept what he was, but in the end you have to accept, you take on the ideals of your children."

Franklin was arrested four times, the final time on a Holy Thursday, after a street battle in which his companion Thelma was killed. Three hundred National Guard surrounded his mother's house and took him away. Franklin was freed when the FSIN took power July 19, 1979.

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Two H-Block prisoners win seats in election

By Gerry Foley

DUBLIN—The growing instability in Ireland was pointed up by the June 11 election for the Dublin parliament (the Dail). The seats were divided up almost evenly between the incumbent party and the opposition coalition.

The incumbent Fianna Fail party won 78 seats in the 166-member parliament, while the opposition coalition of the Fine Gael Party and the Labour Party holds 80. Six independents held the balance of power.

Two H-Block prisoners—hunger striker Kieran Doherty and Patrick Agnew—voted, effectively denying the Fianna Fail party any possibility of assembling a stable majority. The H-Block campaign ran on a platform of ending economic policy.

At the same time, the Labour Party suffered such heavy losses that its very survival is threatened by a continuation of its coalition policy. It may be forced to rejoin the imperialist banks and financial institutions in order to continue business as usual.

Rising pressures

Whatever kind of weak government emerges from the intense parliamentary wheeling and dealing that has now begun, it will be much more vulnerable than the previous one to the pressures of rising economic problems. Imperialism and racism focused on the H-Block issue and the economic disaster that is visible to all observers. The economic development of the past years was fueled and sustained by foreign borrowing, and a day of reckoning to the imperialist banks and financial institutions is fast approaching.

At the same time, the relative economic prosperity of the last years and the closing off of the traditional outlets for emigration has produced an exploitive growth in the number of youth who are beginning to flood into an increasingly sluggish job market. Unemployment now stands at 10 percent, and inflation is at 21 percent.

In this situation, the Irish people are desperately looking for political alternatives. That was reflected by the wild fluctuations in the opinion polls during the election period as well as by the erratic pattern of the results. The Irish voters were caught between a rock and a hard place, and there was little opportunity for the working people to express their anger.

The national coalition of Fine Gael and Labour, which governed the country from 1973 to 1977, left an evil memory of repression and open capitulation to imperialism.

A repeat of such a government was not a very attractive alternative. But the incumbent Fianna Fail regime has done nothing to deal with the increasing economic problems. And its traditional anti-imperialism did not go beyond a little verbiage and some dubious publicity gimmicks such as the Dublin-London summit talks with a vague agenda and even vaguer promises. In some respects, collaboration with British repression even increased under Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail government.

The Cabinet, presided over by Haughey, has let four Irish political prisoners in Northern Ireland be driven to their deaths by the British government, without any official protest, or even an official display of concern.

Since the Irish government failed to take the republican prisoners under its protection, the Irish people did this directly by electing two of them to membership in the parliament that is supposed to represent the entire nation.

The H-Block prisoners have now received recognition as political prisoners, as representatives of the oppressed Irish people, by the Irish people themselves.

Thatcher lies undercut

When Bobby Sands was elected to the British parliament and Doherty and Agnew to the Irish parliament, it becomes even more difficult for the Thatcher government to continue to claim that the Irish prisoners are criminals. It also undercuts the Irish government's claim that it is not the government's responsibility to defend them.

In a whirlwind tour in support of the H-Block candidates, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey stressed:

"When one-half of the population is under thirty, any government or party that says that young people between the ages of twenty and thirty, starving themselves to death to uphold the dignity of our people, is not a matter of national concern, has no moral right to rule."

The attendance at her rallies was largely youthful, especially in the city of Dundalk, in Louth, where the H-Block prisoner Agnew was later elected. McAliskey stated:

"The press is talking about the cynicism of youth toward the big parties. That's not cynicism, that's common sense. They're not about to be fooled. There's no shortage of youth at the H-Block rallies."

She also appealed to workers, getting an enthusiastic response in industrial cities. "Take the trade unions back from those who betray them," McAliskey said. "Put them back in the forefront. The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland."

People's Democracy, the Irish Trotskyist group, stood two candidates on a revolutionary anti-imperialist program—Vincent Dougherty in the pre-emptive constituency, and Joe Harrington in Limerick city.

Against a powerful machine, Dougherty rolled up 1,500 votes out of 55,000, in a five seat constituency.

The likelihood is that the incoming parliament will be unable to elect a stable government and that new general elections will be held in a relatively short time. The anti-imperialist movement will have a chance to consider the lessons of this experience and reorient itself so it can take fuller advantage of future opportunities. It already has greatly increased possibilities for bringing pressure to bear on behalf of the prisoners.

From Intercontinental Press

Puerto Rico: U.S. Colony In the Caribbean

Jose G. Perez

U.S. Colony In the Caribbean

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Socialist: Atlanta killings stem from racist society

The May 21 'Intown Extra' section of the 'Atlanta Constitution,' the biggest Atlanta paper, published an extensive interview with Andrée Kahlmorgan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta. Here are excerpts from what she said about the child murders there.

I think that the major issue in this campaign is the child murders, and they stem from the fact that we live in a racist society and an economy that perpetuates racism.

I think the whole issue of the child murders is not just a Black issue. Racism and the child murders are very important to the white workers as well.

Some of us are more oppressed than others, but we all have the common goal: to live in a free society where racism and sexism and war and poverty and all of these things don't exist. Here in Atlanta ... there's a lot of confusion and disorder about the issue. But outside of Atlanta, people are very clear that this is another racist attack. They connect it with Buffalo, Miami, Chattanooga, Mobile and so forth.

The racist nature of these stems not necessarily from who is behind the killings. It stems from the fact we live in a racist society, a society that makes Black life cheap. And it's primarily the Black community that's being terrorized by these [killings].

I think that if these were 27 young white students from Ashford-Dunwoody it would be a totally different situation. We would never see these kinds of attacks on the mothers and the children themselves.

The children have been called streetwise hustlers and homosexual prostitutes. The mothers have been called uncaring and been accused of killing their own children by the FBI. This is turning the victims into the criminals. I don't think many people will quibble with the fact that police have dragged their feet around this child murders issue. It was a year before they even established the task force, and that was only at the insistence of the mothers and the pressure that they brought to bear. And it's only because of the mothers that this issue has become a national and an international one.

...police cover-up

Continued from back page

[Wayne Williams] is still a suspect according to sources in the investigation, she said. "Our client is in fact the defendant. He has in fact been convicted by the unfavorable media coverage. By the time he had returned home after having been questioned by Atlanta police, just about the whole world thought the person responsible was caught."

"The contrast between the way the government treats Wayne Williams and the way they treat the discovery of the police uniform shows that a big cover-up is going on. A whole number of questions are raised.

Are they investigating the uniform? Why won't they tell the public what they have found? Why has the media blacked out the story? A full and clear answer to these questions should be given by the Atlanta police and FBI. They should open up the files of their investigation to public scrutiny.

Working people, Black and white, need to demand: Stop the harassment of Wayne Williams. Stop the cover-up. Open the files on the investigation. Stop the murders of Atlanta's Black youth.

JUNE 26, 1981 THE MILITANT 19
The following article by Barbara Garson appeared in the June 3 issue of New York City's weekly "Village Voice."

Last week I watched the transit police carry what appeared to be the body of a human right off the A train at 125th Street. The man—the only other white on the platform—was gray-haired, well dressed, and well groomed. He seemed dignified, handsome, between contorted grinaces and stray tares of "I am in control! I am in control!"

As they carried the stairs a slim black note-book dropped from his pocket. It was labeled "Documentation of data for White Paper on INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST URBANIZATION." The inside pages seemed to be a journal, printed in precise black letters.

How I wish I had never opened it. I have no idea what I am to do now. In the hope of advice, I reprint the contents in full.

12:02 p.m.: I Alexander M. Haig have been dispatched on the highest authority to gather incontrovertible evidence of Soviet expansionism in this distant corner of the United States. I am prepared to certify that this assignment, bringing me many miles from the Oval Office, has been pervertly misconstrued by my detractors as a demoticization in proximity to the presidential person. Yet, as I stand at the strategic intersect locus of 59th Street and Columbus Circle, I am conscious only of my Commander's closeness and of the immense trust he places upon me by his direct order to descend into the heart of the International Terrorist Urbanization.

12:04 p.m.: I perceive immediately that the terrorist cadres are split into three factions! IND, the so-called Independentistas; the so-called Revolutionary Terrorists; third and most dangerous of all, the BMT. None of my informants can state categorically where this third line originates but it is clearly Marxist Leninstin inspired.

12:35 p.m.: After an unconscionable delay, due to Russian trained sabotage agents, I boarded the pass-

enger vehicle which is covered with encoded terrorist slogans.

12:37 p.m.: Aboard the convene and approaching a seat I am deliberately cut off and physically touched by a dark woman wearing a green ribbon insignia on her lapel. The absence of her approach indicates that she mistakes me for a member of her secret cell.

12:39 p.m.: On all sides I now note the proliferation of this cryptic green insignia. The color of the ribbon and the distinctive signifiers enables us to construe categorically that they are Irish terrorists, smuggled in via the Cuban proxy in the hundreds of thousands to undermine the legitimate and so forth. (Here the writing breaks off.)

12:58 p.m.: I have just been directly assaulted by a fierce-smelling individual who placed his hands threateningly on my shoulder and demanded that I spurn him $2 for a cup of coffee.

"What did you say?" I questioned him shrewdly with the intent of recording his illegitimate demand on my tip-in tape recorder.

"Okay, $1.50," he replied, apparently testing my will. At this point in time chronologically I whipped out my revolver and informed him that we do not negotiate with terrorists.

He-backed off the train disappearing into a crowd of his confederates including covert pretzel sellers and blind nuns peddling Marxist literature under the banner of Christ.

1:13 p.m.: The lights have blinked out.

1:13% p.m.: The vehicle has suddenly stopped.

1:14 p.m.: Lights returned but no movement.

1:15 p.m.: The motor cut off.

1:16 p.m.: NOTE: at 1:16 p.m. Soviet sabotage has achieved the destabilization of the entire internal transport network.

1:22 p.m.: One of the green-insigniaed passengers attempts to transmit a call through, saying, "Hey, man, how long we gonna sit here?"

1:23 p.m.: The suicide is snapped at the front by the voice of the head of the government over the loudspeaker. "This train will continue on the express track. Next stop 125th Street." 125th Street Hijacked! This vehicle is being hijacked! I am hurting against my will toward the center of the terrorist underground. I remain calm and in command. Through my two-way radio I request immediate air strikes to level all territory between 125th and 160th.

Are you there? Are you there? Oh my God, the radio is dead. They don't come in. There's no way out. There's no light at the end of the tunnel.

At this point the block letters begin to give way to a less and less readable scrawl. I believe I can make out the words paramilitary, no ransom, and finally We Do Not Negotiate with Terrorists. A black block must indicate where the pen broke. This could not have been long before the time I saw him carried off and then picked the notebook up.

I must have some second advice. In the interests of our national security I shall hand over this notebook to the FBI, the CIA, the State Department, or Bellevue Mental Ward.

Alfred Jackson is dead, but it's 'nobody's fault'

The following editorial appeared in the June 8 'Charleston Gazette,' Charleston, West Virginia.

Alfred Jackson, 53, a Florida resident without family or friends, was arraigned at Rand and charged with attempted murder. He stayed in the county jail from March 17 until May 22 when he committed suicide by hanging himself.

During the more than two months he was a prisoner, his case was mishandled by the Kanawha County judicial system. "I charged with invading private property," Jackson said. "They won't let me out. They have never given me any time and they won't give me any money," he wrote despairingly to the New York office of the American Jewish Congress for the Advancement of Colored People.

Jackson was charged with attempted burglary. MagistratePauley made the first mistake. He wrote a warrant saying the charge was a felony. It isn't.

Then what happened? Nobody seems to know why. The only detail that those involved are clear on is that Jackson's death wasn't their fault.

On March 23, the case was assigned to Magistrate Burt Holbrook. He said he didn't see a hearing because Jackson's lawyer had not asked for one. The

percent of those polled said they opposed "economic and military aid for anti-Communist allies like South Korea if it continues to violate human rights." The statement was originally made in response to the U.S. human rights policy.

During the Senate confirmation hearings, Lefever was only able to cite three violations of human rights by the U.S. government. These violations were publicly condemned by the U.S. government: the taking of the hostages in Iran, the imprisonment of Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky, and the shooting of the pope.

When U.S. senators asked Lefever to mention some of the countries with records of human rights abuses, Lefever replied, "It's not in good taste for me to identify friendly and allied nations."

Nori Dor Lefever have any criticism of the apartheid regime in South Africa. In fact, the conservative policy center led Lefever-headed—the Ethics and Public Policy Center—was under investigation for its connections with the South African government.

The Washington-based center was also being investigated for the $9,000 it had received from the Nestle Corp. in order to campaign for Nestle's sale of baby formula in underdeveloped countries. Millions of infants die from the use of such baby formula.

Lefever's two brothers were among his outspoken opponents. They announced that their brother was a supporter of the racist theories of William Shockley, who holds that Blacks are genetically inferior.

The whole Lefever controversy reflected the objective difficulties presently facing the U.S. ruling class over the human rights question.

The U.S. rulers face the contradiction that a credible human rights policy means that the repressive regimes of "friendly" dictators will be undermined and opposition currents encouraged. But abandoning any human rights pretense at all means increasing the distrust and anger of working people in the U.S. and around the world.

With the Lefever nomination, Reagan was trying to bury the human rights question. But he ran smack into the sentiments of the American people.

From Intercontinental Press
Ernest Harsch's *South Africa* tells the story of the origin and development of white rule and Black revolt from the early days of the Dutch settlers of 300 years ago to the present.

The long history of struggle is given vividness and color by his powers of description, manifest in his opening pages on Soweto and his eyewitness accounts of life under the apartheid regime.

Basic in Harsch's analysis is the fact that South Africa is a colonial-settler state that—thanks to its great resources and the super-exploitation of its Black population—has achieved a high degree of industrialization.

The history of South Africa, therefore, is not only the history of a colonized country, it is the history of an industrializing capitalist country. The colonial-settler state has now developed into a junior imperialist power that exploits the Black masses of its own and other African countries in conjunction with powers such as Britain and the United States.

**Land question**

It was apparent early to the white ruling class that in order to gain cheap labor, it had to forbid Black ownership of the land. As the president of the Chamber of Mines stated in 1912, "The ownership of land must be in the hands of the white race" so that "the surplus of young men," instead of "spreading out over unlimited areas, must earn their living by working for a wage...."

South Africa was accordingly divided into "native areas," consisting of 13 percent of the country, and "white" South Africa, the rest of the country, in which Blacks could not own land. Even in the "native areas," now known as Bantustans, the amount of land a Black could own was limited. These restrictions led to exhaustion of the land, and the majority of the men in the Bantustans had to find work in "white" South Africa.

At the same time the ten small, poor, scattered Bantustans—which the South African government claimed were the means for Africans to achieve "national self-determination"—were used as a divisive device to prop up collapsing tribalism and deflect the demand for Black majority rule of the entire country.

As a result of their having been thus driven off the land, there are today 7 million African workers, who make up 70 percent of the work force. The total number of Black workers, including one million Coloureds (those of mixed race) and 221,000 Asians, constitutes 81 percent of this work force.

The apartheid system exists for the purpose of controlling this powerful Black working class: "The police and prisons, the pass laws, the labor bureaus, influx control, the Bantustans, the migratory labor system, segregated townships, even education—all are aimed, in one way or another, at ensuring that Blacks fulfill their assigned role as underpaid and super-exploited laborers," Harsch explains.

European countries use foreign "guest workers" for super-exploited labor; Black workers in "white" South Africa are foreign "guest workers" in their native country.

There is an idea that apartheid stems not from the needs of South African capitalism but from the backwardness of Afrikaner farmers clinging with Dutch stubbornness to the past. This idea is popular among foreign liberal critics of apartheid. And it's a myth.

Afrikaner plantation owners invested in industry, and Afrikaner capitalists now are a major sector of the bourgeoisie, along with the English-speaking capitalists.

The idea that the effect of foreign capital is to mitigate racial oppression is another myth. Foreign capital shares in the profits from the super-exploitation of the Blacks. In the decade of the 1960s, the profit rate of American businesses in South Africa was 18.6 percent, as against 11 percent throughout the world.

Foreign capital is well aware of what it has to gain by the maintenance of the status quo and is, despite what it says, careful not to disturb it. It is welcomed by the South African government as a means of building key sectors of the economy.

The paradox of the system is that it requires a massive Black working class and yet this working class is a growing threat to it. As a leading Afrikaans newspaper warned, "Increasing dependence on Black labour carries its own germs of destruction." Never has Marx's famous statement about capitalism producing its own grave-diggers been more clearly illustrated.

This contradiction, which was sharpened by the recession of the mid-1970s and the Soweto uprisings of 1976, has caused the authorities to try to redesign apartheid in order the better to preserve white supremacy. Basically, what they are seeking to do is to divide the Black urban and the migrant workers, the employed and the unemployed, the Afrikaners and the Coloured, and to suppress militant unionism while permitting house-broken unions.

Their "reforms" are just that: new forms for white ruling-class dominance. The new "moderation" is belied by intensified political repression, which goes hand in hand with the much advertised reforms.

The liberation struggle has come a long way from the time of the early 1880s, when the first Black political groups appeared. In the second half of the book, Harsch analyzes its development in detail, from the first mass actions of the turn of the century through the urban explosions of the 1970s.

What emerges clearly from this history is the high level of combativity of the Black population, despite the fierce repression that it has always been subjected to. Not a decade passed without some major upsurge or development in the liberation struggle. Not a decade passed without some new lessons being learned.

**Black organizations**

Harsch examines the campaigns and activities of all the major Black organizations, the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Black Consciousness movement, and others.

His treatment of the Black Consciousness movement—which emerged as a significant force in the early 1970s and which inspired the student rebels of 1976—is particularly detailed, relying on numerous original documents, as well as interviews with some of the key participants in the movement.

Over the course of this long liberation struggle, there are two political trends that stand out in particular: the role of Black nationalism in mobilizing and uniting the oppressed population (African, Coloured, and Indian), and the growing influence of the Black working class. The latter has been reflected not only in the frequent strike waves and the formation of Black unions, but also in the working class's impact on the political demands and methods of action of the main Black liberation organizations.

Harsch highlights the increasing interaction between these two political factors and shows how they underline the character of the developing South Africa revolution—a revolution by Blacks against their national oppression and by the workers against their class exploitation.

As one activist of the Black Consciousness movement told Harsch in Johannesburg, "Our struggle against apartheid is a struggle against capitalism."

—Paul Siegel

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The Great Society

Harry Ring

Suggestion box—Responding to budget-axing moves to lay most of them off, St. Louis' twelve key suggestions suggested instead that the city lay off their boss and his assistant. A city official responded, "That's like trying to operate a boat without a captain." Better a captain without a boat?

Spiritual view—"Material wealth is God's way of blessing people who put him first," Jerry Falwell of the "Moral Majority."

in Time for Father's Day?—An old friend of ours who's fond of the phrase, "as old as a landlord's heart," should note the news item about Elizabeth and John, property-near eighty-eight, respectively, of Witchita, Kansas. They face eviction from their home of thirty-six years. Their son is the landlord.

Yes and no—"Consumer confidence in the American economy continued to improve in May . . . the Conference Board, a business research organization, said yesterday. But consumers' purchasing plans continued to decline, the group's survey found."—News item.

Canadians show how to fight for steel contract

The large steel mills in the United States organized by the United Steelworkers union negotiate for a scale of what is called a Basic contract. At Canada's largest mill, the Stelco Hilcon Works in Hamilton, USWA Local 1005, organized an impressive contract fight. Local 1005 has 12,600 members. The union printed a four-color pamphlet, "Contract 1981," which was distributed to all the members. It explains the contract proposals in detail and answers some of the company claims of poverty. The union is distributing copies of "Baptism of a Union—Stelco Strike of 1946," which was written by the Labour Studies Program at McMaster University in Hamilton.

The introduction to the 1946 strike history was written by Local 1005 President Cee Taylor. The interviews and pictures of the struggle involved in establishing the union can inspire pictures for steelworkers considering how to win a decent contract today.

In the U.S., steelworkers are excluded by top union officials from even voting on the contract. But the local leaders in Canada are making a serious effort to get the ranks involved in the contract process. And they are fighting for demands to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions; strengthen the rights of women workers; and advance the situation of steelworkers in general. What a difference from the wage concessions and productivity drives pushed in the United States.

Local 1005 organized a mass membership meeting April 20 to discuss and vote on the contract proposals.

Like gross—Researchers have fashioned a new poll, one that purportedly predicts they'll vote "the gross national product." They report a sharp burst of optimism since Reagan came in. Not, however, as high as it was in Carter's first days. We trust the analogy will not make Reagan unduly nervous.

Like knitting a teamwork—The Headquarters of the Congressional Medical Association overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to end its $1.4 million investment in tobacco-related stocks. The minority argued it was an "embarrassment" for doctors to invest in a product that caused death and disease.

The enhancers—The Doublespeak Quarterly bestowed an award on the Pentagon's funding request for a "radiation enhancement device." A reporter's query established it was the neutron warhead.

Recycle them?—The House Ways and Means Committee voted to eliminate from the Social Security program a $250 burial benefit if there are no surviving beneficiaries.

What's Going On

ARIZONA

PHOENIX—RALLY TO DEFEND THE BILL OF RIGHTS. Speakers: Ralph Nader, Marquette; Richard Benjamins, Denver, Colorado. For more information call (602) 255-4150.

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—FREE THE NASSCO THREE! Support Tom, Ono, members of the Naval Steelworkers' Union, who are being held as prisoners of war in South Korea. For more information call (213) 2-2510-3190.

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—RALLY TO SUPPORT CIVIL LIBERTIES. Speaker: Elgin Hardin, advocate of Socialists for Civil Liberties Party, against the government: Lyman T. Johnson, civil rights attorney; George Perry, legal counselor for Kentucky Civil Liberties Union; others. Sun., June 28, 6:30 p.m. reception: 7:30 p.m. at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge 100, E. Jefferson St., Dogwood Room. Donation: $3. Afp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (502) 387-8418.

MICHIGAN

DEtroIT—RACE AND CLASS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE. Speaker: Alan Wald, English Department, University of Michigan, author of James T. Farrell's "The Uproar." Mon., June 29, 7:00 p.m. in Central United Methodist Church, 145 W. Jefferson, Detroit. Donation: $1.50. Afp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA

cınCINNATI—POLITICAL RIGHTS DEFENSE FUND PRESENTS RALLY TO DEFEND THE BILL OF RIGHTS. Speakers: Reverend Bob Landy, Milwaukee; Robert Black, Minneapolis; Byron Treff, Minneapolis; Milt Bowker, Minneapolis; others. Sun., June 28, 7:00 p.m. in Central United Methodist Church, 145 W. Jefferson, Detroit. Donation: $1.50. Afp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (313) 874-1377.

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WEST VIRGINIA


"The introduction to the 1946 strike history was written by Local 1005 President Cee Taylor. The interviews and pictures of the struggle involved in establishing the union can inspire pictures for steelworkers considering how to win a decent contract today."
Abortion poll

A recent call-in poll by the Detroit Free Press asked its readers for their opinions on the latest Senate restrictions on Medicaid funding for abortions. Of the 1600 callers, 87 percent opposed the Senate restrictions on a woman’s right to choose. The callers were asked such comments as, “How many senators have had an unexpected pregnancy?” and “The male Senate should go to the Wizard of Oz and get a heart.”

Footnote on Eastman

I would like to add a footnote to Alan Wald’s review of a new biography of Max Eastman. Wald notes that Eastman was the son of two ministers, then writes: “Letters ‘conventional’... 

A bone to pick

I’ve been both or two to pick pick with the mayor of Burlington, Vermont, Bernard Sanders. I suppose one might call himself a socialist even while supporting a social welfare agency (after all, the ‘socialist’ Mitterrand supports a whole army loaded with nuclear weapons). 

However—first, that really stinks. What I’ve learned about cops—their role in arduous protests; their role in our cities as criminals of Black, Latino, and other oppressed people; their role in society as violators of civil and human rights—makes me object in all ways to them, out of solidarity for the oppressed and out of desire for personal safety. 

Second, a Marxist approach presents a demand to define things in class terms. Cops are not workers, even if they form a “union.” They do not generally perform socially useful labor. They do not produce anything of value. (I really should be able to say anything.)

The police serve the capitalists as an institution which protects private property and profits through force against the workers.

The cops also serve to protect the capitalists’ class rule, by subversion, harassment, burglary, writing, torture, and murder against workers and oppressed people who want social change. The SWP suit shows that clearly.

It’s not a lot of work to real a person’s life—an important one at that. But here’s an example: 

Jeff Stephenson 
New York, New York

Campaigining in N.C.

I thought the readers of the Militant might be interested in an experience I had while campaigning for the Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Betsy Soares. Three other Soares supporters and I were canvassing a large Black housing project. I approached six people on a porch. As I began up the stairs, I asked if they could spare a minute to hear about a candidate for mayor. Before I could go further, one of them said, “You can talk to us, but only if your candidate isn’t a Democrat or Republican.” I let them know they were in luck, and I proceeded to outline Soares’ platform.

What I initially assumed would be a one- or two-minute exchange turned into a longer discussion about Joe Grady, a local Klan leader running as a Republican for mayor; the May 25 rally in D.C. in solidarity with Atlanta’s Black community; and how the Soares campaign is part of the fight against increasing racist attacks and union-busting.

Before I left, three of the six people bought single copies of the Militant, and the group made arrangements for Soares to meet with them.

As I headed down the stairs, one of the six said, “If we don’t change things, the government is going back to being a king and queen.”

Liz Polak
Winston-Salem, N.C.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. We reserve the right to abridge. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.
The Militant

Rail crisis: what’s the way out?

By Stu Singer

Rail workers are facing a severe attack from management and the government. Workers on Conrail and Amtrak are the first targets, but the rest of the rail labor will be next.

Where do the attacks stand? Rail labor contracts expired April 1. As usual, rail workers are working without a contract. Secret negotiations take place behind their back.

The Railroad Retirement Fund, which takes the place of the Social Security system for rail workers, is near bankruptcy. Layoffs are jeopardizing the fund more quickly. All the hard-won benefits by rail workers can be lost or cut back.

The layoffs, especially on Conrail, have already had a serious effect. Poor repair shops have been closed; 25 percent of the Amtrak Washington headquarters—quarters will be occupied by October. Union and management officials estimate cuts of 10,000 of the 70,000 workers on Conrail.

Young workers with low seniority have been hit the worst by the layoffs. Averaged-action gains of the past few years, where Blacks and women were finally hired as firemen and engineers, for example, are being wiped out. Already, virtually all the women infamous on Conrail have lost their jobs. The number of Blacks is drastically reduced.

The Reagan administration calls for “getting the government out of the railroad business.”

This means ending hundreds of millions of dollars a year of federal subsidies to passenger rail transportation through Amtrak and selling the 17,000-mile Conrail system, the main Northeast–Midwest freight line. In this case, billions worth of track, engines, cars, and other equipment paid for with taxpayer money would be sold at rock bottom prices to the private railroads. The purpose is a redistribution of wealth. Welfare for the rich. It is a repeat of the century-old process of the railroads looting the U.S. Treasury.

Customers for the railroads are being offered a big bonus: the power of the federal government is being used to break union-won wages, work rules, job security, and basic union rights.

A few months ago, two plans were floated to attack Conrail and Amtrak workers. Reagan was calling for selling off Conrail as soon as possible and cutting funding for Amtrak. Conrail and Amtrak management opposed these plans.

Continued on page 15

Goons assault Black & Latino construction workers

By Nelson Gonzalez

NEW YORK—On June 15, about sixty members of Black Economic Survival (BES), a Bronx-based group seeking construction jobs for Blacks and Latins, were attacked by racist thugs at a construction site in mid-Manhattan.

The demonstrators were appealing to workers at the Trump Towers construction project to support the demand that management hire more minorities. The attack forced them to retreat to their chartered bus.

When the bus tried to leave, the racist goons attacked it with sledgehammers, polished metal, and thrown garbage and flattened the two front tires.

Two Latino demonstrators and the driver were injured.

The attack ended when police arrived on the scene. No attempt was made to arrest any of the thugs.

The BES and other groups have been demanding that the racist construction industry and the building trades unions adopt affirmative action quotas. The better-paying jobs at construction sites are still white job trusts.

Prior to the racist assault, BES had come under attack from Bronx District Attorney Mario Merola. He claimed the group was engaged in harassment in an effort to “get no-show” jobs for its members, and would “kick back” money to BES.

Of course, for Merola and the construction bosses, any pressure to hire more Blacks and Latinos is “harassment” and “intimidation.”

Five trials in the last two years have exonerated the BES. Now physical violence is being resorted to.

BES attorney Murray Richman pointed out that all members of Black Economic Survival are trained and have union cards. “It is outrageous . . . they’re not given the opportunity to work.”

According to Richman, BES wants 25 to 30 percent minority representation at local construction sites. A Trump company spokesman told the New York Daily News that 20 to 25 percent of the workers at the site are Black.

But Richman pointed out, “How is it then that none of those who attacked our vehicle were minorities? And why have the police done nothing?”

Wells Todd, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, issued a statement protesting the attack on BES.

“If I were mayor, the full weight of city government would be thrown into enforcing affirmative action quotas in the construction trades and other industries.”

“Racist attacks like this should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

Atlanta: new cop cover-up reveals racist double standard

By Tom Fiske

ATLANTA—On Friday, June 12, a plastic bag containing the badge and uniform of a Clayton County Police officer was found floating in the Chattahoochee River by a Spanish television film crew.

The bodies of six of Atlanta’s murdered Blacks youths have been found in the same river.

The police and the media are trying hard to cover the whole thing up. Police from Atlanta’s special task force took possession of the badge and uniform. The cops claim they belong to a Clayton County policeman J.C. Mitchell, and were stolen from his home in April 1980. Investigating police say it has no connection to the child murders.

Since the initial local news reports on Saturday night, June 12, there have been a near blackout on the new information, and police departments involved have also stopped giving information.

The finding of the cop uniform was reported at 6 p.m. on the Atlanta affiliates of ABC and NBC. The 11 o’clock news on these channels on the same night showed nothing.

The major newspapers run nothing on the story the next day. Almost nothing else has shown up in the media since.

A spokesman for the Atlanta Public Safety Department, Chief Jerry Harward, told the Militant, “We won’t give out any information on how we are following up this new information. We don’t want to cast any suspicion on the Clayton County officer or any others.”

This stands in glaring contrast to the way the Atlanta cops and the FBI have treated the parents of the slain youths, claiming at one point that some parents killed their own children. The black community continues to attack the police and the FBI for murder or being guilty of covering up.

The latest incident is in marked contrast to the way the Atlanta cops have treated Wayne Williams, a twenty-three-year-old Black man, who they picked up for questioning on June 3.

For days, the cops released to the press every possible piece of information they could gather on Williams, casting a web of suspicion around him.

No one, however, from the police departments involved would tell the Militant what information they had gathered or what they learned from Clayton County policeman J.C. Mitchell.

An officer at the task force headquarters told the Militant simply, “What’s happening is you’re getting the runaround.”

The last place the cops and media want people to look for the murderer or murderers is in the police department. They have reason for being nervous about this.

A recent poll showed 70 percent of Atlanta’s Blacks believe the killer is “a person in uniform” or someone masquerading as a cop.

Instead, the cops and the media continue to focus on Wayne Williams as a scapegoat. There are always ten cops and a small army of reporters on a stake-out around Williams’s home.

However, the so-called case against Williams continues to unravel. Spokesmen for the cops say that there is now a lot of “confusion” about what really happened when they stopped Williams on May 22 on a bridge over the Chattahoochee River.

They say they are now uncertain whether Williams stopped his car on the bridge. They now say it is uncertain that Williams told the cops he “threw some garbage” in the river.

It has been revealed that one of the two cops who stopped Williams was asleep under the bridge at the time of the alleged “splash.”

The other officer now admits there was no way he could place Williams’s car on the bridge at the time of the alleged “splash,” and he had no clear view of the top of the bridge.

Williams has gone to the U.S. District Court in Atlanta to stop the harassment against him. A brief filed by his attorney, Mary Welcome, seeks to enjoin the Atlanta police and major news media from releasing information about Williams.

At the start of the hearings on Monday, June 15, Welcome told the court the reason for the legal action. “This person

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