New York socialists nominate Andrea González for mayor

By Fred Murphy

New York — At a well-attended rally here January 12, the Socialist Workers Party announced that Andrea González will be its candidate for mayor of New York City in the 1985 municipal elections. González, a 33-year-old Puerto Rican worker who grew up in Brooklyn, was the SWP's presidential candidate in 1984. González pledged that the first phase of her campaign will focus on mobilizing New Yorkers for the April 20 march in Washington, D.C., against U.S. military intervention in Central America.

Build April 20 march

"The campaign for mayor of New York City will be an antiwar campaign," González declared. "Our campaign will be using all our energy, resources, and effort to build the April 20 march."

"Because this is a campaign for working people," she continued, "it will defend working people everywhere in the world." She elaborated by pointing to the "many international positions, all of which are reactionary," taken by her Democratic opponent, incumbent Mayor Edward Koch.

"Koch supports the Zionist regime of Israel. We support the right of Palestinians to a homeland."

"He supports the British government in Ireland. We defend the Irish patriots."

"And he opposes the Cuban revolution, while we stand with the Cuban revolution."

González said her campaign would also champion women's rights and take on the reactionary campaign against abortion rights led by New York's Roman Catholic archbishop, John J. O'Connor. Denouncing the mounting wave of "antiwom an terror," González pointed out that because of his role as "a leader of the ideological campaign against abortion," O'Connor is "as responsible for the bombing of abortion clinics" as those who actually set the explosives.

Another major focus of her mayoral candidacy, González said, will be to counter the reactionary "law and order" drive currently being whipped up in New York and nationally around the racist vigilante Bernard Goetz. The big business media has been portraying Goetz as a hero since he tried to kill four Black youths on a subway car here on December 22. The shootings left one youth paralyzed for life.

Racist cop violence

"The capitalist press' sympathetic approach to Goetz," González said, "amounts to a "green light to go out and blow away any Black or Puerto Rican.""

Continued on Page 4

Castro: Cuba cancels Nicaragua's debt

By José G. Pérez

TIPTAPA-MALACATOYA, Nicaragua — In front of a huge sign reading "July victory, people's victory, symbol of Cuban-Nicaraguan friendship," a new sugar mill was inaugurated here January 11. Called the "Victoria de Julio" (July Victory) mill, the refinery is the largest in all of Central America and the largest single industrial plant in Nicaragua. It was built with extensive aid from Cuba.

Cuba cancels Nicaragua's debt

Present at the inauguration ceremonies was Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro, who gave a two-and-a-half hour speech. He announced that Cuba is cancelling the $73.8 million debt owed by Nicaragua. This represents most of the machinery and much of the construction of the sugar mill, which is of Cuban design and technology. Castro said Cuba is cancelling the debt because of the hundreds of millions of dollars of damage Nicaragua has suffered as a result of the war Washington is waging against the Nicaraguan people.

The Cuban leader was awarded the Order of Augusto César Sandino by Nicaragua's Pres. Daniel Ortega. A speech was also delivered by Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's minister of agrarian reform and agricultural development, who gave a detailed report on the impact the new refinery will have on the country's economic development.

The mill will employ some 2,000 workers and indirectly create another 6,500 jobs. It will generate some $50 million a year in foreign currency earnings and also save the country millions of dollars in energy costs, in part by producing fuel as byproduct of sugar refining.

"Without the contribution of the Cuban revolution, it would have been totally impossible to build this refinery," Wheelock said.

Gathered here for the mill's inauguration were top leaders of Nicaragua's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), army officers, members of the National Assembly, and leaders of the unions and other mass organizations. More than 1,000 Cuban and Nicaraguan workers and technicians who built the plant were present, as were residents of the townships of Tipitapa and Malacatoya, which are about 25 miles northeast of Managua.

Also participating were Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, a vice-president of Cuba; sev.

Continued on Page 9

Gov't refuses to act against antiabortion terrorists

The federal government has told abortion clinic operators to expect violent attacks around the date of January 22, the 12th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

But the government didn't say it would do anything to prevent the attacks. In the face of scores of bombings and arson that have destroyed abortion clinics across the country, this can only be taken as a green light to the violent foes of abortion rights. The warning says, in effect, that the government intends to do nothing to prevent such attacks.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms delivered the notice to abortion clinic operators. It said, "Although we have absolutely no intelligent information concerning planned violent anti-abortion activities on January 22, we believe that the symbolism of this date represents a potential for increased action directed toward abortion clinics and or prochoice offices."

Continued on Page 14
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The Militant

By Mark Curtis

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — After the Wilberg mine disaster in Utah last December, Don Cologie, the former president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) local at Wilberg, came to Alabama. He joined the labor movement's campaign against a bill to limit job injury lawsuits.

This bill — now signed into law by Gov. George Wallace — introduces a worker's right to sue management if they are injured in an accident caused by "simple negligence" under the law, a worker will have to prove "willful" negligence as the cause of injury to be able to sue.

Cogeneity here opposed passage of the law even though it includes a raise in workers' compensation for some.

At a January 3 UMWA news conference here, Cologie spoke about the Wilberg mine, owned by the Emery Mining Corp. He called the fire there "a shameful, needless tragedy."

"Based on my personal experience in Utah and mine injury, an abolition of the rights of Alabama miners now would create the situation that existed at Emery — a disregard for safety at the expense of production," he said.

More production and profits for the companies is why Governor Wallace has pushed so hard for this law, even calling a special session of the legislature to introduce it. The majority of workers in Alabama oppose it, however, and in 1982 voted down a proposed amendment to the state constitution banning job injury laws.

Wallace's argument that giving in to big business will result in more jobs was taken up at the mine disaster by Thomas Youngblood, UMWA District 20 director, who said, "Would you be willing to give up an arm and a leg to draw more industry to Alabama?"

The Militant

By Lee Olson

DALLAS — More than 150 people attended a rally here January 10 in support of three Black teenagers who have been indicted for their testimony in the killing of a Black man by a Dallas cop. January 14 was the scheduled date for the trial of the 10-year-old Victor Franklin, the first of three Blacks to be tried on charges of "aggravated perjury." The rally demanded that all charges be dropped against Franklin and also against Lonnie Lipscomb and Brenda Frost.

The three testified before the Dallas County grand jury that they saw Dallas cop Melvin Coxey shoot Michael Frost in the back in November 1983. Coxey was not a Black man by a Dallas cop.

"In defense of the Black community's struggle against oppression, we can't permit this to happen to anyone else," Geter told the rally. "In any case there were no perjuries, individuals who mistakenly identified me, they were not encouraged to come down to the courthouse. They did not suffer. I am paying that justice will take its course in this case," Geter said.

Also speaking at the event were city council members Diane Ragalla and Al Lipcson and representatives from a dozen community organizations.

A news conference at the interim International Minister Alliance, an organization representing 250 churches. The Alliance voted January 7 to pay the legal fees of the indicted Black youth.

In an outpouring of sentiment at the rally was the result of continued killings and shootings by Dallas police. In 1984 police killed 17 people — nine Blacks, and one white. Already there have been two police shootings of Blacks this year.

"The city always wants peace," city council member Ragalla said the rally. "But as long as there is no justice, there will never be peace." Ragalla led the rally in chants of "The people united will never be defeated!" and "The cops and the Klan go hand in hand!"

Rev. Lenoy Haynes spoke for the Interdenominational Minister Alliance, an organization representing 250 churches. The Alliance voted January 7 to pay the legal fees of the indicted Black youth.

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The Militant

Dallas Blacks face 'perjury' rap in killer-cop case

By Mark Curtis

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Jamaica: protests hit price hikes

BY MICHAEL BAUMAN
Big protests erupted across the largely Black Caribbean island nation of Jamaica January 15, on the heels of a 21 percent increase in the price of gasoline. Thousands blocked roads with cars and burning tires. Schools and most offices and businesses in the capital, Kingston, were closed by the action of angry demonstrators.

The biggest demonstrations took place in the poorest section of the capital. Protests were also held in the northern coastal resort towns of Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, and Negril. At least three demonstrators were killed, according to initial press reports. No figures were released on the number who had been arrested.

A new hike in the price of gasoline came on top of a 1 percent increase last year. It was the latest in what former prime minister Michael Manley called a series of "unwarranted, unjustified, and unbearable" price increases.

Manley, prime minister of Jamaica from 1972 until 1980, was driven from office by the overwhelming majority of Jamaica's workers and small farmers.

Unemployment in this country of two million - the largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean - is officially reported at 25 percent. But even a poll conducted by the Jamaica Daily Gleaner showed the real figure to be closer to 40 percent.

Even before the latest increase in fuel prices - which will affect the cost of electricity, public transportation, and everything purchased in the country - inflation was about 40 percent.

Staples in the diet - such as rice, vegetables, checks, and wages - have increased in price to 30 to 75 percent in the last year. Water bills have been hiked by 50 percent. Electricity bills cost sometimes run higher than rents. This in a country where more than half the population has an income of less than a $2 a week.

This steep decline in the standard of living is the product of imperialist exploitation - both direct and indirect.

Not content to simply strip Jamaica of its mineral and agricultural wealth, the U.S. government took further steps to enrich U.S. investors. Acting through the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington forced the Manley government to curtail a number of food-subsidy, employment, and health-care programs in order to qualify for badly needed loans. Even though these programs only began to scratch the surface of what was needed, they took "too much money out of corporate profits."

Under Seaga, these cuts were intensified with the promise that such sacrifices would help restore "economic stability."

In Jamaica, as in the neighboring Dominican Republic last year, deeply felt frustration has begun to boil over into active protest.

"Every week," one unemployed carpenter in Kingston told reporters a few months before the protest, "another item goes up in price." But he added: You can't draw your belt any tighter.

"Militant" tells truth on mine fire

BY TOM LEONARD

Workers in coal mining areas around the country are reporting a good response to the Militant's coverage of the Wilberg mine fire in Utah that killed 27 people, including 19 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

One important reason for this response is that it was the first opportunity for workers to hear what the UMWA and working miners had to say about the fire. For example, in one mine in the Salt Lake area - prior to the Militant's report - there was only a short film clip on one television station that covered the UMWA press conference reporting the union's intention to pursue an independent investigation of the fire.

Another reason some workers liked the Militant article is that it was written by union members who worked in the Wilberg and nearby Deer Creek mines and could provide some facts about what went on inside Wilberg.

This was true of some workers at a mine-machinery plant in Salt Lake City, which is organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), where there are regular plant-gate sales of the Militant. The sales team sold all 10 Militants they had with them. Later, four workers came up to a member of the sales team and asked to get copies of the paper. Two other IAM members said he was going to try to get the Wilberg fire article put up on the union's bulletin board in the plant.

Six Militants were also sold to members of the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers who work at the Utah Power & Light Co. plant that uses coal from the Wilberg mine.

Some of the best sales in Salt Lake were in a suburb of Magna, where a lot of Kemmerits Copper workers live. So far, sales teams in Salt Lake City have sold 152 copies of the Militant.

Birmingham, Alabama, socialists sold 52 Militants with the Wilberg mine story. Many of them to coal miners who live near the city. One miner in Birmingham bought the Militant after first asking a member of the sales team if he was for a "communist takeover" in Central America. But the miner was interested in the report on Wilberg and said he'd buy the paper to see what it had to say. Birmingham socialists ordered an extra bundle of 50 Militians.

Militant sales teams also got into discussions about a new law in Alabama that restricts the right of workers to sac companies for injuries resulting from industrial accidents. One worker said that it used to be that the government was neutral between the company and the workers, but with this law, the government will be behind the company. Some sales-team members were first asked by workers interested in buying the paper if the sales people were for or against the new law.

St. Louis Militant supporters also were able to talk to coal miners about the Wilberg fire. They sold a dozen papers to miners working in southern Illinois.

Socialist coal miners in Morgantown, West Virginia, report that a number of their coworkers wanted to buy the Militant and discuss the fire.

Despite snow and freezing weather, Pittsburgh sales teams sold 10 Militians at nearby coal-mine portals. In addition they had excellent sales in Washington and Charleroi, Pennsylvania, where a lot of miners and steelworkers live.

A number of wives of miners and steel-workers there told them they wouldn't buy the Militant because they didn't want to read about the disaster. "I just can't handle it," one miner's wife. I have to live with it every day," one woman said.

One miner told the sales team he knew the company was putting up a front - figuring up the truth about the "accident," which was caused by speedup. He said the same kind of speedup is going on in his mine. He went to work every day, he said, "feeling death."

It was very cold on this sale, so a lot of people would get their money out and be ready to buy the Militant before they left the store they were shopping in. Despite the cold, 40 of them stopped to buy a copy of the Militant.

Wanted
Young fighters to change the world

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) of the United States is organizing young fighters with a political program and the determination to change the world.

We are committed to mobilizing opposition to the U.S. aggression against people's liberation movements in Central America and the Caribbean. At the center of our activity this spring is building support for the April 20th demonstration in Washington, D.C., that will call for "No U.S. intervention in Central America."

We believe that the fight for justice and freedom is a worldwide struggle by people to end war, racism, sexism, unemployment, exploitation, and the society that causes them: capitalism. We are convinced that young people today have no future, unless we fight for a new society to meet human needs, not big business profits: socialism.

Participation in politics for us means joining in this struggle here in the U.S. where the worldwide battle for justice and freedom will ultimately be won.

We are young people - Blacks, Latinos, women, workers, students, and unemployed - all joined together in 45 chapters across the U.S. fighting for this common goal.

Write us if you want to join us in fighting for a worthwhile future. Join us on April 20th! Join the YSA!

Join us at the 24th national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance!

Chicago
April 5-8, 1985

- I want to attend the YSA convention. Send me information.
- I would like to join the YSA. Contact me.
- Enclosed is $[ ] for six issues of the Young Socialist, the bimonthly YSA publication.
- Please send me a catalogue of socialist literature.
- Please send me a bundle of [ ] Young Socialists to distribute. (45¢ each for 10 or more.)
- Enclosed is $[ ] for the Organizing the YSA handbook.

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Address: _______________________
City: ___________________________
State: __________________________
Zip: ___________________________
Unions/Club/Organization: _______
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Mailing to: YSA, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone (212) 969-7570

Company greedy killed coal miners in Utah

Emery Mining Corp., which has been accused of mining in unsafe conditions, has been ordered by the Utah Mine Board to pay $300,000 in damages to the families of 12 miners who were killed in an explosion at the company's Lake Creek mine in 1982.

The settlement is the largest in the state's history. The company had been accused of negligence in the explosion, which killed 12 miners and injured several others.

The settlement agreement was reached after a five-day trial in which the company's lawyers denied that they had caused the explosion.

The miners' families had hired a team of lawyers to represent them in the lawsuit. They were represented by the law firm of Boies, Schiller & Flexner.

The settlement includes a provision that the miners' families will be allowed to keep the settlement money for themselves, even if they choose to invest it.

Emery Mining Corp. was acquired by the American Energy Corporation in 1983. The company has been involved in several mine accidents in recent years, including a 1988 explosion at its Liberty Mine that killed 13 miners.

The company has faced numerous lawsuits over mining accidents, including a 1990 lawsuit filed by the families of 10 miners who were killed in an explosion at its Lake Creek mine in 1982. The lawsuit was settled out of court for $4.5 million.

The company has also been accused of violating safety regulations in recent years. In 1991, the company was fined $100,000 for violating safety regulations at its Lake Creek mine.

The company has also been accused of trying to avoid paying workers' compensation benefits to injured miners. In 1992, a judge ruled that the company had to pay $4 million in workers' compensation benefits to a miner who was injured in an explosion at its Lake Creek mine.

The company has also faced criticism for its mining practices, including its use of high explosives and its use of inadequate safety equipment.

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**N.Y. socialists launch campaign**

Continued from front page

Koch and other capitalist politicians have seized on the incident to call for more cops in order to deter crime. This, she said, will mean "organized, legal vigilan­
tism" and more police murders of Blacks, like the recent killings of来源于en and Ronell Bum­
purs, Michael Stewart, and Daryll Dodson.

González described the situation work­
ing people face in this city. The much­
hailed economic recovery has meant an in­
crease in employment for professionals, while unemployment for working people continues to rise.

The city unions face stepped up attacks. In the current round of contract negotia­
tions, said Gonzalez, the city is continuing its attack on the city's chil­
dren live in poverty, and an estimated 45 percent of Hispanics live below the pov­
ty line. The school system has become in­
ferior for a majority of the students — ap­
proximately 51 percent are in special schools.

In the face of this situation, Gonzalez said, union officials and the official leaders of the Black and Latino communities are not organizing a fight to defend the unions and oppose racist attacks. Rather, they prop­
ose going to the polls to elect yet another liberal Democrat for mayor.

**Liberals in disarray**

At present, Gonzalez is the only de­
clared candidate against Mayor Koch. The liberal wing of the Democratic Party in the city has been floundering for weeks in an eff­
sist candidate who can challenge Koch in the primary election. Black liberals such as Reid Pat­
terson and Congressperson Charles Rangel of Harlem have hoped a year ago to ride the cre­
tation of a "real" Democratic Party presiden­tial bid and put together a local "Rainbow Coalition" in order to "damp Koch." But they have since bowed under pressure from the Democratic hierar­
cy, to which they are beholden.

Other liberals such as ex-deputy mayor Herman Badillo, who is Puerto Rican, and City Council President and School Board chairperson Melson, who are black also re­
testing the waters. Neither has aroused much enthusiasm in the Black and Puerto Rican communities nor among working people in general.

Gonzalez noted that Badillo is viewed by many in this city as a "little Yankee" who has participated in volunteer work brigades in Nicaragua. They saw the election of the first black mayor as a sign of the triumph of the Democratic Party.

What has happened since, she said, is not that Koch has changed, but that the entire capitalist class — both in New York City and nationally — has launched an offen­sive against the rights and living standards of working people. "All the capitalist poli­

citicians have moved to the right, as in some of the recent "damp Koch" people are having trouble even finding a liberal politician to damp Koch with."

"Our campaign," Gonzalez concluded, "starts from a totally different perspective. It starts with what workers need and are fighting for. We point to things like the April 20 Washington march, to the independent organi­
zation and mobilization of working people, to demand action on things that affect our lives. This is the road toward real effective political action by our class to defend our rights and our living standards."

**Solidarity with New Caledonia**

González was joined on the rally plat­
form by Mel Mosen, her running mate as the SWP's presidential candidate, and by Teresa Delgadillos, chairperson of the New York chapter of the Young Socialist Al­
moms.

Mason reported on his recent speaking tour of Australia and New Zealand, where he was able to carry out many rich discus­sions with U.S. and international students and with working people. In New Zealand, he met leaders of the oppressed Maori popula­tion, who look to the struggle for Black rights in the United States for lessons and inspiration.

Mason also met representatives of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FNLKS) of New Caledonia while he was in New Zealand. He hailed their fight to liberate their Pacific island nation from French colonization, and underlined the im­portance of silence in honor of FNLKS leader Elio Machoro, murdered in New Caledonia by French police on January 11.

Delgadillos discussed how youth were at­
thecity. "The Militant" supports the social­
campaign of González for mayor. She also read a message of solidarity sent to the rally by the New York chapter of the Blocquean.

"Solidarity with New Caledonia. "

**SWP backs April 20 antiwar action**

**BY HARRY RING**

The demonstration, Ntweng told the demonstration is an important part of building the demonstration. This means uniting action in the local communities coalitions. Help will be needed in staffing coalition offices, with mailings and phone calls, outreach and fund-raising efforts, organizing of transporta­tion, and all the related activity essen­tial to a successful action.

Involving anti-apartheid rights groups in the demonstration is an important part of building the demonstration. All groups will also demand an end to U.S. corporate and government complicity with South Af­

Several Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicanos groups, as well as two major unions, are already sponsoring the action. The SWP convention delegates the national convention to organize coalitions. They have re­
nounced violence, and have agreed to a call for a peaceful march on April 20.

They noted the significant amount of labor activity around Central America this fall. A number of local union officials, as well as rank-and-file members, have been to Nicaragua to see for themselves the ef­

Ariz. activists protest government raids

Continued from back page

Washington is waging war against Nicaragua.

"Four days ago we stood in a room where, on October 28, six children be­tween the ages of 3 and 11 were killed by a mortar round fired by the FDN (Nicara­
guan Democratic Force, a terrorist group), who are supported by our government.

"I arrived here yesterday to find out that the war is not only in Central America, the war is here also. Our country is making war against the poor, against the weak, against those who don't have someone to stand up for them. The war is here, not only in Central America."

The news conference ended with the an­nouncement that the April 24 antiwar rally will be held on Pennsylvania Avenue, at Third Street.

A legal defense fund for the defendants has been set up. Contributions can be sent to Valley Religious Task Force Legal De­
fense Fund, 1226 W Osborn Rd., Phoenix, Ariz. 85013.

**Call is out for march on Washington, D.C.**

Brochure with call for April 20

The Militant January 25, 1985

**April 19-22: 4 protest In Washington, DC**

Continued from front page

**April 14, Tax Day — local activities are planned throughout the country.**

**April 19 — there will be educational and cultural events in Washington, D.C.**

**April 20 — march and rally in Wash­

**April 21 — training sessions for lobby­

**April 22 — lobbying Congress and nonviolent civil disobedience at selected sites throughout Washington, D.C.**

The brochure points out that major activ­

ties are also being planned in San Fran­
sisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle to coincide with the Washington, D.C. mobilization.

Because of the growing opposition to the war in Central America, and the increasingly broad sponsorship for the actions, coalitions are being formed in many cities. Among them are Port­
land, Oregon; Minneapolis; Boston; Cleve­

dland; New York; Pittsburgh; Cincinnati; Baltimore; and Richmond, Virginia.

Copies of the informative brochure can be ordered from Action for Peace, Jobs and Justice, Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598.
Neb. farmers demand end to foreclosures

BY JOE SWANSON
LINCOLN, Neb. — On January 8, the day before the 1985 Nebraska legislature convened, more than 77 banks had closed in Nebraska, farmers and their supporters gathered inside the Nebraska State Capitol Building rotunda.

Many of the farmers were members of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), which had organized a rally at the Nebraska State Capitol in December, to protest against the transfer of nuclear technology from the United States to South Africa.

Corky Jones, Nebraska state president and co-founder of AAM, opened the rotunda rally by asking the governor and the legislature for a state of emergency and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

Jones said that family farmers are pointing the finger of blame at all public officials because the Reagan administration is not doing its job or only one that has failed farmers. The farmers assembled here, he said, are united by the problems they face.

The rally was held in front of the Nebraska State Capitol, the front page of a Lincoln newspaper announced the state had closed the doors of the Dannebrog Bank the previous day.

“Farmers demand an end to foreclosures,” read the headline.

The Nebraska Agriculture Organization, the largest political strike by Blacks in South Africa, is demanding a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

“Farm leaders and church people in Verdigre have set up a food and grain pantry to make donations to the farmers. The farmers are much stronger than they are separate."

Anti-apartheid protests increasing

BY IKE NAHEM
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Public debate on the ties between Washington and the apartheid regime in South Africa is developing. Protests step up at South Africa's embassy in Washington, D.C., and across the country.

As the eighth week of daily anti-apartheid pickets here begins, nearly 1,000 people—the largest turnout for any single day—came to the January 8 embassy picket.

Billed as “Lawyer’s Day,” hundreds of lawyers and law students joined pickets outside the embassy on a day of trial of those arrested at the embassy on the previous day.

The protests, organized by the Free South Africa Movement, have begun to take on a national character, spreading to at least 15 cities.

Organizations from the city’s growing Latin population have joined the protests. The director of the city’s bilingual education program was arrested. A local group of performers, writers, and poets have formed “Artists Against Apartheid.”

They march each Wednesday, often after staging performances. One day a sizable number of librarians came as an organized group.

Nationally, more than 500 people have been arrested at South Africa’s embassies and consulates in the U.S. and Canada. Many of them have been arrested at the South African consulate in Washington, D.C., where the picketing has begun.

The women who went back, the National Women’s News, asked Dorothy Laub, a leader of the U.S. Labor Relations Board, what she thought of the rally.

“Terry Hardy, a member of the women’s movement, said the strike was a hard-fought strike. It was not easy for us to try to force this company to get their orders together, then they went back to work.”

DeBoer pointed out that one reason farmers are losing their farms is because of high interest rates. DeBoer, who helped organize the national AAM protests in 1977 and 1978, said that the situation facing farmers is much worse today than it was before.

The Militant asked Dorothy Laub, a leader of the North American Farm Alliance, what she thought of the rally. “I hear the same thing from this politician, but we need to continue to organize and put pressure on them to get help for farmers,” she said.

A Nebraska union that attended the rally in support of the farmers said farmers and labor are both being attacked by big business and the government. Both need to organize together, he stressed, because together workers and farmers are much stronger than they are separately.

OCAW strikers return to work—fight for contract continues

BY TERRY HARDY
NEW ORLEANS—Eleven fighters for union recognition and women’s rights returned to their jobs after a 10-month strike.

The women have been on strike for five weeks against the Missouri River Grain Elevators, which is owned by the Consolidated Grain and Barge Company.

The women are members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 4-447. These women also worked for the company on the St. Louis, Missouri, waterfront for two years before the ban was lifted.

OCAW and the women have not been recognized as a bargaining unit. They are being represented by the National Labor Relations Board.

In addition to being represented by the women’s movement, the Free South Africa Movement is demanding a “Constitutional Convention” in South Africa that would elect a government based on “one person, one vote.”

The Free South Africa Movement has raised a number of demands, starting with the freeing of political prisoners, including the hundreds of Black political and labor union leaders who were arrested following last November’s general strike—the largest political strike by Blacks in South Africa’s history.

Pressures to free African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie Mandela, also a fighter against apartheid, are being stepped up. Winnie Mandela has been under house arrest for 23 years.

Mandela cannot meet with more than one person, except direct family, at a time.

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Ortega sworn in as Nicaraguan president

By ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We will continue to be for 'Free homeland or death!'... We have sworn it here, in this same plaza where we came together that joyful day of victory, July 19, 1979."

"And we have sworn it before the working people, before the Sandinista National Liberation Front; we have sworn it before our heroes and martyrs. Before Sandino, the eternal president of Nicaragua, we have sworn it and we will keep our promise." "We swear, in the name of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leader Daniel Ortega concluded his inaugural speech as president of Nicaragua on January 10. (Elections took place here last November 4.)

He and Vice-pres. Sergio Ramirez were officially sworn in at an open-air ceremony in front of several thousand guests, including the FSLN National Directorate, the entire National Constituent Assembly, the diplomatic corps, leaders of mass organizations, outstanding FSLN militants, and a broad range of international representatives including Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro. Also present were the foreign ministers of Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico, who make up the Contadora Group, which has been conducting negotiations among an axis of Peace and Cooperation for Central America.

Thousands of residents of Managua were also in attendance at the event, shouting "People's Power!" at various points throughout Ortega's speech. The ceremony, held in front of the tombs of Carlos Fonseca and Santos Lopez, began with Ortega paying his respects to these two founding leaders of the FSLN.

Inheritors of Sandino's program

In the speech Ortega gave after taking the oath of office, he affirmed, "We are inheritors of the historic program of Sandino," referring to Nicaraguan independence fighter Augusto Cesar Sandino, who led the struggle against U.S. Marines here in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Sandino's program, said Ortega, "defended in the first place the sovereignty and self-determination of Nicaragua, the recovery of the natural resources for the people; the end of financial dependency; the turning over of land to the peasants; the development of education, filling the country with schools and raising all workers to at least a level of primary education; the establishment of labor legislation; the emancipation of women; the protection of childhood; the development of the Atlantic Coast; the formation of a new political force with popular content; the formation of a patriotic army; and the guarantee of administrative honesty."

Ortega then reviewed the progress the revolution has made, since it triumphed July 19, 1979, in the areas of land reform, unions and other types of mass organizations, education, and health care. He pointed out that the major obstacle to further progress has been the ongoing counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua being carried out by a mercenary army organized and financed by the U.S. government.

For the thousands of Nicaraguans killed by these mercenaries, he said, "We are ready to accept, for immediate reintegration into society, all those prisoners who have not been involved in armed counterrevolutionary activities," on the sole condition that they "turn over to the Honduran and Costa Rican authorities the arms utilized in those activities." "This would be under the auspices of the governments of Honduras and Costa Rica and of the International Red Cross."

Ortega said Nicaragua will also continue to directly receive those who, laying down their arms, decide to return to the country under amnesty granted also by the revolutionary government. Some 1,500 Nicaraguans have done so thus far.

Thus generosity of the revolution contrasts with the implacable attitude toward Nicaragua held by the U.S. government. Ortega explained, "The war we are suffering is imposed on us by the might of the U.S. military power, and only by definitively defeating that aggression can we persuade the United States that this revolution cannot be vanquished.""Quoting from a poem by the Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario, directed at Spanish imperialists, he said, "Take care; there are 1,000 souls of the Spanish lion loose." The young soldiers of the Patriotic Military Service, Nicaragua's draft, are often called "cubs of Sandino."

Economic program

Ortega briefly outlined some perspectives for 1985. "The Economic Program for 1985," he said, "can be summed up as defense of the real wages of the productive workers with more discipline, with more productivity; incentives for producers; goods and services for the productive workers; struggle against price-hike gougers and profiteers; and above all, we will keep advancing in the agrarian reform, with more land for the peasants, until no more profits can be made in Nicaragua."

Ortega ended his speech and the inauguration ceremony with the slogans, "National unity to gain peace! For peace, everyone against the aggression!" Continued on Page 8

Brooklyn Rivera victim of CIA attack

IN AUSTRALIA, the United States, employers often seek to blunt worker militancy by fostering chauvinist sentiments against foreign-born workers, who are accused of "taking away jobs." Such views are also echoed by top trade union bureaucrats.

In February 4, Intercontinental Press, an article by Andy Jarvis taken from the New Zealand newspaper Socialist Action looks at a campaign carried out by a section of the Australian labor movement against immigrant sheep shearers from New Zealand. Among these shearers are Maoris, New Zealand's oppressed indigenous people.

This campaign has included physical attacks on Maoris and demands that the Australian government restrict immigration.

Jarvis stresses, "Any union fight which has as its axis blaming fellow workers for the ills of capitalism and pitting working people against each other — whether it be a campaign for immigration restrictions, or for protectionist import controls — is a dead end. It undercuts the working class solidarity which is at the heart of unionism, and thereby weakens the labor movement and strengthens the hand of the bosses."

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In Britain, the bitter struggle for miners union

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IFP on Australian anti-immigrant drive

In Australia, like the United States, employers often seek to blunt worker militancy by fostering chauvinist sentiments against foreign-born workers, who are accused of "taking away jobs." Such views are also echoed by top trade union bureaucrats.

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Clip and mail to Intercontinental Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.
Mel Mason, the 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, recently returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand. While there Mason met with striking workers, the rank-and-file members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 189 and their families, as well as other militant fighters in the workers’ and farmers’ movements, including leaders of the France-Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. The FLNKS is leading the struggle to oust the troops and police that occupy New Caledonia.

The French imperialist rulers sent more troops to occupy New Caledonia in response to their defeat in the December 1-2 weekend. Approximately 100 people attended the founding conference. Participants included various representatives of Arab-American, African-American, and socialist organizations, including the November 29 Committee, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Women’s Collective on the Middle East, Palestine Aid Society, the Lumumba Coalition, Workers World Party, and Socialist Workers Party.

The conference noted that the massacres of the Palestinian refugees in the Beirut, Sabra, and Shatila camps in Lebanon must stop. Workers of the world wipe imperialist domination from the face of the earth forever! Long live the FLNKS! Victory to the Kanak people! Long live the People’s Republic of Kanaky.

BY GARY TRABUE

BY ALI El-AMIR

NEW YORK — On January 3 of the new year, a picket to protest the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps in that country was held at the Israeli consulate here. The protest was called by the Committee to Protest Sharon’s War Crimes, which is made up of a variety of organizations including the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the November 29 Committee for Palestine, the Palestinian Workers General Union, and the Socialist Workers Party. This committee grew out of the East Coast National Conference of the November 29 Committee for Palestine held on December 1-2 weekend. Approximately 100 people attended the founding conference. Participants included various representatives of Arab-American, African-American, and socialist organizations, including the November 29 Committee, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Women’s Collective on the Middle East, Palestine Aid Society, the Lumumba Coalition, Workers World Party, and Socialist Workers Party.

The first action proposed by the founding conference was the demonstration to target the continued colonial occupation of Lebanon. Gen. Ariel Sharon, the present minister of industry and former minister of defense during the massacres, is suing time magazine for reporting Israelis, and specifically his, culpability in the deaths of hundreds of people in the camps of Sabra and Shatila in the 48 hours of September 16-18, 1982.

Among the chants at the picket were “Sharon gives arms to U.S. wars, we support the people of El Salvador,” pointing to Israel’s role as a surrogate arms supplier to U.S.-backed rightist regimes. A statement issued by the committee explained: “Sharon assumed control of West Beirut. Internationally low placed him under a direct unconstitutional duty to protect the civilian population. . . . He actively facilitated the armage of the militant groups which entered the camps. . . . We are justice done, Sharon should face charges as a war criminal in an International Court of Law.”

Despite the cold and darkness, 135 people participated to register their opposition to Zionism’s expansion into Lebanon.
**Minn. meat-plant owners attack union**

**BY JIM ALTENBERG**  
**AND MAGGIE MCCRAW**

AUSTIN, Minn. — The motto of this city is "Austin — where the good life is here to stay." But the 1,700 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local P-9 aren't so sure.

On October 8, the George A. Hormel & Co., the largest employer in this city of 21,000, slashed wages by 23 percent, from $10.69 to $8.25 per hour. Local P-9 had rejected smaller pay cuts in negotiations over the previous two months, so Hormel imposed the new wages unilaterally.

**Deep concessions**

Jim Guyette, president of Local P-9, explained the situation to the Militant.

In recent years UFCW workers in the packinghouse industry have come under severe attack from the packers. Despite strikes and other efforts to fight back, deep concessions have been written out of the union.

Companies like Wilson Foods and Iowa Beef Producers have declared bankruptcy as a way to get out of union contracts. Another packing giant, Swift, reorganized — Swift Independent Packing Co. — and merged its former operations into the renamed plants. These packers’ successes have been used against other UFCW workers. Hormel is claiming that it needs wage cuts to compete with these companies.

A system of pattern bargaining exists in the meatpacking industry. Under the master agreement between the UFCW and the other major packers, if a majority of companies reduce wages others can try to do so as well. Hormel, citing the $8.00- to $8.25-per-hour wage paid at Wilson Foods, the JBS Packing Co., and Swift Independent, says it can cut wages to the same level. They also point to the fact that Oscar Mayer imposed an $8.25 rate without the agreement of the union there.

Guyette points out that many of these wage rates are paid at recently "founded" or "reorganized" plants and were not part of the master agreement.

**Hormel**

While other packers have claimed poverty, Hormel has continued to make profits over the past few years. "Hormel is greedily, not needly," says Guyette. Hormel even rejected a union proposal that would tie wage adjustments to how much profits the company made.

"Hormel got absolute power over the speed of the production line and other working conditions. Hormel's flagship, state-of-the-art plant in Austin is run faster than any other U.S. meatpacking plant. The result has been profits of over $28 million for five years running for Hormel, and large numbers of serious injuries, tendinitis, and extremely harsh working conditions for Hormel workers. "There's a lot of guys in there who have been worked up," one worker told the Militant at the plant gate. The next person who came out had his entire forearm and hand bandaged.

**Organizing against wage cuts**

In October union members and townpeople began to organize against the cutbacks. "P-9 won't take a wage cut without a fight," said Guyette.

On October 7 the local voted by a ratio of 14 to 1 against the cuts and to authorize a strike if necessary. Women in town organized a rally and a campaign to put signs reading "Support Local P-9" up in area businesses. Hand-made signs are also visible around town and in car windows with slogans like "High profits, low wages — hugwash."

On October 14 a mass union meeting, open to supporters, drew 3,000 people. The featured speaker was Ray Rogers, founder of Corporate Campaign, Inc. Rogers is creating a nationwide campaign to inform women of the public of the union's grievances against Hormel and First Bank. Phase II, to begin in March, will include demonstrations and mass leafletting in front of First Bank branches throughout Minnesota. Phase III, beginning in mid-April, will coincide with the annual First Bank stockholders meeting in Minneapolis.

If the local decides to go out on strike, it will be two weeks prior to this meeting. The local is planning a 1,000-car caravan from Austin to Minneapolis for the meeting. They also made plans to pack the Hormel plant on November 4.

**Iowa meatpackers' union scores victory**

**BY MAGGIE MCCRAW**

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Local 4-P of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) ratified a three-year contract on November 13, winning its 40th victory in a row as a new company.

The main issues in this strike were Iowa Pork Producers' 15 percent, 40-day, one-month wage freeze (the average wage at IPI is $7.25) and a two-tier wage system that gives IPI’s workers 23 cents. Workers at the Austin plant have accepted 16 major concessions in the last 21 years, according to Guyette. The previous single one in South St. Paul has closed the plant due to increased competition.

Two other union demands were won. IPI's old attendance policy will remain in force. Shortly before the negotiations began, a new policy was unilaterally implemented that did not recognize absences due to personal reasons such as seven absences a worker could be fired.

The union also won its demand that the length of each workday be posted. From 1:00 p.m. IPI had previously informed the workers of overtime or short days on virtually no notice at all.

The union agreed to two concessions in the contract. The probation period for new employees was extended from 45 to 60 workdays. The union also agreed to allow the company to set Tuesday through Saturday workweeks to six times per year, including four weeks with holidays. The original IPI demand was the right to set workweeks at its discretion.

The major factor in winning the strike was the determination and solidarity of Local 4-P members, who stood firm even in the face of the threat of permanent loss of their jobs. Over this period 230 of 230 workers picked the evicted line.

In addition, UFCW butchers in area retail stores refused to handle IPI products, collecting $300,000 in sales. Support from other AFL-CIO unions and the community also played an important part in the strike. "There has been a huge outpouring of support for us," said Guyette.

Local 4-P officials also attribute the victory to the inability of scabs to do the work. By the time the plant shut down in August, production had fallen sharply. IPI owner Harry Weinstein was unable to sell the plant, and if it didn't reopen soon it would go out of business.

"We're not going back to business as usual for the truth about Cuba and Nicaragua. It isn't there. It is, however, in the material on page 2 "Subscription details."
Continued from front page
eral other Cuban cabinet ministers; and many international guests who had attended the presidential inauguration of Ortega the day before.

In his speech, Castro took up the fact that his visit to Nicaragua had not been publicized until his plane landed in Managua on January 10. Referring to the many CIA plots to assassinate him, the Cuban leader said, "If Castro does not announce his visit, who knows better than the United States the reasons why I cannot afford the luxury of announcing many visits."

Nicaragua a Cuban "puppet?"

Castro devoted part of his speech to the accusation by Panama's Somoza regime that Nicaragua is a "puppet" of Cuba and that Nicaragua, in turn, is "exporting" revolution to Salvador.

He pointed out that in the 1930s, long before the triumph of the Nicaraguan and Cuban revolutions, the workers and peasants of El Salvador carried out an uprising in which 7,000 were killed by the military dictatorship there.

Nicaraguan resistance to dictatorship and U.S. domination also began long before the Cuban or Russian revolutions, Castro explained. Nicaraguans fought U.S. occupation forces, he said, when "the October revolution [in Russia] had not yet taken place."

In 1927 — before Castro himself was born — former Nicaraguan leader Augusto Cesar Sandino began a struggle against the U.S. Marines, who were occupying his country.

That struggle finally culminated in victory on July 19, 1929, when the Nicaraguan right-wing forces overthrew Anastasio Somoza, the dictator whose family was installed in power by the U.S. government.

"Collaboration an elementary duty"

On Cuba's help in building the Victoria de Julio sugar mill, Castro said that "we view this cooperation with Nicaragua...as an elementary duty."

"Other countries collaborate with us, cooperate with us, but they don't have," he said, referring to the Soviet Union and other members of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon). "We, in turn, have more resources than other countries of the Third World, and it is the duty of every country to do that."

"That is why we say that to be internationalist is to pay our own debt to humanity."

The Cuban leader pointed out that his country had spent $1 million helping Nicaragua rebuild the Victoria de Julio sugar mill, within the limits of its modest resources, with a wide range of other countries. Cuba also helped Nicaragua to build schools and hospitals, and some 22,000 scholarship students from more than 30 countries are enrolled in Cuban high schools.

Castro then detailed Cuba's collaboration with Nicaragua. The Victoria de Julio sugar mill, worth a little over $100 million, although it was provided to Nicaragua at cost.

"Our collaboration with Nicaragua throughout these five and a half years has been based on providing collaboration absolutely free," Castro noted, "except for this Victoria de Julio sugar mill."

When the idea of building the mill was proposed by the Nicaraguan leaders, he said, "we asked for the money, for construction costs, which Cuba provided at low interest rates.

Washington's "dirty war"

In 1981, Castro recalled, as work began on the Victoria de Julio mill, "the U.S. government began what it called 'cooperation.'"

While the Nicaraguans are making "colossal efforts to increase production and services, which are being cut off against the country. It has cost lives; it has cost hundreds of millions of dollars."

"In addition," the Cuban leader continued, "Nicaragua inherited what Somoza left, an enormous debt, a country destroyed — the first step in a brief period of time, once by the earthquake, then by Somosozism, by Somosozist repression, Somosozist bombing of the cities. Nicaragua suffers from high interest rates, from the fact that it has to get on the world market for its products, and the problem of the international economic terrorist block against the country. It has cost lives; it has cost children; it has cost vices, a dirty war is "the U.S. imperialism that has been based on providing collaboration absolutely free," as a way of cutting off the resources of the countries of the Third World, with a wide range of other countries.

For these reasons, Castro said, the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party and government "made the decision, and I take this opportunity to announce it, to cancel this debt of Nicaragua."

"Thus we do all this equipment, all these materials, the value of the labor, the physical effort and mental effort, to nothing."

He explained, "I am deeply convinced that the solution to the problems of the countries of the Third World, which are presently overwhelmed and suffocated by huge debts and have few resources, is the cancellation of the debt."

"We raised this in the Nonaligned Movement, in the socialist block, to solve these problems, but rather to modestly begin solving the problems of the Third World countries with less development and fewer resources."

"This is the second point Castro stressed was that "we are not going to let this debt be an excuse for the U.S. government to dominate Nicaragua."

"If revolutions can neither be exported nor can they be avoided, then that which is clear is that the security of Nicaragua against direct aggression, to have agreements that guarantees the security of all the countries of Central America is absolutely essential."

Given this, and good faith in the negotiations, "it is possible for there to be in the future...friendly relations between our countries, including good relations, normal relations, between our countries — and it is possible!"

"There might be a capitalist economy. What there won't be, beyond a shadow of a doubt — and I say this because there is power in the hands of the government, that it not sell out to a [foreign] firm."

Unlike Cuba, Nicaragua has a capitalist economy, "but with a will that the task is difficult and complex, but that is also a noble and honorable task that is well worth carrying out."

"To be a revolutionary, in a revolutionary epoch, is a great privilege for any human being."

**Castro awarded medal of Sandino**

TIPITAPA-MALACATOYA, Nicaragua — As part of the inauguration of the Victoria de Julio sugar mill here, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega awarded a medal to Pres. Fidel Castro the Order of Augusto Cesar Sandino in its highest degree, the Sandino National Liberation Front and government of the people of Nicaragua. Sandino led the Nicaraguan liberation struggle in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

In his speech presenting the medal to Castro, Ortega described the Cuban leader as a man "who has faced the people of Nicaragua; who has offered them his example of revolutionary struggle waged to achieve freedom of his own people; who has known how to defend the sovereignty and integrity of Cuba; who has been an example to young fighters of Nicaragua's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSNL) in their battle against the dictator Anastacio Somoza and imperialism. Following the FSLN's victory, Ortega, Castro continued to extend solidarity and collaboration to Nicaragua."

Ortega noted that the "gesture of solidarity by Cuba to Nicaragua is violently attacked by the aggressive policy of the United States, which tries to destroy our revolution."

More than to any other people, Nicaraguans and Cubans know the suffering of those people, he said, "who have joined their blood with our blood." He praised the dozen of Cuban volunteers slain by counterrevolutionary forces in Nicaragua, explaining that these Cubans came "to bring education, to bring health care, to bring services to the people."

Residents of Managua barrel line up for water at communal tap. Income has been restored by exports from new sugar mill will help expand country's antiquated water system. The Sandinistas, Castro said, "did not have the slightest fear" in holding such elections. "They were conscious of their authority and of their morale, but most of all, they were conscious of the revolutionary quality of their people."

"Thus they accepted the challenge. But the enemy did not accept it, imperialism did not accept it, and it tried to sabotage the elections because it was conscious of the popular support of the Sandinista Front."

**Capitalist economy**

The Cuban leader also took up a proposal made the day before by Daniel Ortega that Nicaragua adopt a foreign investment law, under which the country would, under certain conditions, allow for new investments by imperialist-owned companies.

"I do not see this as against our principles," Castro said, reporting that Cuba had also pledged to consider possibilities of implementing Japanese-owned companies, particularly to contribute to the development of sugar, dialogue and political negotiations between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front and the government of El Salvador.

The second point Castro stressed was that "the reason we are in this hemisphere, and that we are fighting against Nicaragua, is that the security of Nicaragua against direct aggression, to have agreements that guarantees the security of all the countries of Central America is absolutely essential.""
What life is like on a Nicaraguan ‘model cooperative’

Introduction

The article reprinted below is from the Oct. 29, 1984, issue of Barricada, the daily paper of the Sandinista Popular Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua. It offers a picture of how the life of peasants in Nicaragua changed since the July 19, 1979, triumph of the revolution in that country.

In the 1979 revolution, Nicaraguan peasants joined together with workers to overthrow the right-wing, US-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza. Under the leadership of the FSLN, the masses installed their own government, a government of workers and peasants.

Peasants are the majority of the population in Nicaragua, yet before the revolution, many had no access to land. Big landowners — who were less than 2 percent of all farmers at that time — owned almost half the farmland. The poorest 50 percent of the peasants owned only 3.4 percent of the land.

Since the revolution, the FSLN-led government has been carrying out its pledge that "Not a single peasant will be left without land." A thoroughgoing land reform has been instituted.

Small and medium peasants have formed their own organization, the National Association of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG). This organization, along with the Sandinista Agricultural Cooperatives (CSD), has been the central means for pushing through agrarian reform.

The work of the FSLN

The FSLN has carried out a campaign to strengthen UNAG. Regional meetings held throughout the country culminated in a national assembly last July. In October, 30,000 farmers and ranchers from all over Nicaragua came together for a National Assembly of Producers in Managua. They demonstrated their support for the revolution and, as those most directly affected by the US-sponsored counterrevolution, their determination to continue to fight and produce for their revolution.

Daniel Núñez, FSLN leader and president of UNAG, spoke at length with national correspondents around the time of the national meeting. He explained the achievements that UNAG [Union of Ranchers and Farmers] has pushed forward in agriculture, always representing the interests of the producers on the land.

In the weeks before the revolutionary triumph, in the midst of a full-blown insurrection, the peasants of Chontales in the north who were leading the revolution were under constant attack, and the Sandinistas were forced to the land in every way possible.

They took abandoned estates and began to sow beans and corn. Somorza’s National Guard then bombarded the cities in the north and when the peasants saw the airplanes approaching, they ran and took refuge in many trenches. Afterwards they would continue plowing the deteriorating fields full of holes and tufts of grass.

This is how in 1979 they began organizing their territorial cooperatives. The cooperatives are an organization of Sandinistas to work the land in every way possible.

In the past the farms that now belong to the Sandinista Agricultural Cooperative — 160 manzanas [1 manzana = ½ acre] of good land granted to them through the agrarian reform of 1981 — belonged to Somozaist landowners. Using subterfuge and deception, these landowners had forced the poor peasants to sell their land at ridiculously low prices.

The agrarian reform

Sėbaco Valley is characterized by its fertility. It was part of the 48 percent of the country’s arable land that was concentrated in the hands of the large property owners, who also had access to valuable credit, machines, supplies, technical assistance, and infrastructural aid.

After five years of revolution, because of changes brought through the agrarian reform, the small and medium farmers now account for 60 percent of the agricultural productive tasks with the defense of the fatherland.

The Leonel Valdivia Cooperative in Sébaco produces vegetables and grains. This cooperative combines many of the advantages that UNAG [Union of Ranchers and Farmers] has pushed forward in agriculture, always representing the interests of the producers on the land.

An irreversible transformation has begun in the conditions of production and lifestyle of the majority of poor peasants, because they make it possible to unify efforts, raise production, and rationalize the use of productive resources. The agrarian reform, the Leonel Valdivia Cooperative received its first bank loan only two months after the Sandinista revolution triumphed. Since its inception, the cooperative has been assisted by an agrarian reform technician, who shares the daily life, productive activities and organization of its members, the level of development and democratic functioning and collective participation.

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Fernando Tenorio, zonal director of UNAG, says qualifies them as an exemplary cooperative because of their level of organization, production, and the way they participate in the tasks of defense and education.

Sandinista Agricultural Cooperatives: alternative development

With obvious pride, Isabel Martínez, the president, showed us the rows where tomatoes were beginning to splash the earth with red, while sprinklers sprayed out water in a circular pattern. “Nothing like this existed before; we built it together and with a great deal of effort.”

Last year and this year, thanks to good yields, they reached their proposed goals. Each member’s earnings for the year totaled about 58,000 córdobas [1 córdoba = US$0.04] — a figure that takes into account advances, payments in the form of loans, payment in kind, and deductions for taxes.

One of the members, 17-year-old Raúl Palacios, approached us carrying a sack of vegetables and his machine: “What advantages do you have working in a cooperative?” we asked him. He answered us smil­ ing, “It’s real nice to work this way, organized, because we know what we are producing. With what I earn I am able to take care of my younger brothers.”

For his part, José Valdivia, Leonel’s father, agrees on the benefits of producing collectively and remembers that this was one of his son’s dreams. “It was for this that he fought, and because he wouldn’t tolerate harassment by Somoza’s guards. His comrades are still here, and for the interest he showed in the well-being of all.”

A legacy of unity

In talking with the members of the cooperatives’ board of directors, one common quality comes through: concern for democratic functioning and collective participation. One can’t help but realize that this collective method embodies the best legacy passed on to them by this fighting peasant that everyone remembers.

Apart from the democratic participation of its members, the level of development reached by the cooperative is explained by the discipline and tenacity coop members have put into building their organization.

Every 15 days the board of directors meets. It is made up of a president, vice president, and the coordinators of finances, production, and education. The board evaluates the progress of the coop’s plans and discusses solutions to its problems.

Once a month all the members meet in a general assembly and consult on major decisions.

The work of the FSLN

The Sandinista Base Committee (CBS), made up of 48 members, is responsible for productive activities and organization of the cooperative, carrying out tasks of political and educational work not only among the coop members, but also among the residents of Chontales. It also tries to persuade members who have a tendency to give up and want to leave when small difficulties arise, not to do so. Pedro Royo, the person responsible for production, recalled that in 1981 several members quit, disillusioned by a bad harvest. “But they returned later, recognizing the advantages of the cooperative, because they came to understand that good results come with time and experience.”

Then he added emphatically: “You can’t think like an employee in a cooperative, waiting for your pay every two weeks. On the contrary, we must like the members of the cooperative, taking into account the weather conditions, the problems with some of the equipment, because these are the situations that confront us.”

If the peasants of Leonel Valdivia have faced many difficulties since they first organized, they have faced them together. They share the joys and the pains, joining their efforts and sacrifices to get to what they have achieved. They are united in their struggle against the enemy, the US-backed regime of Somoza, and for the interest they showed in the well-being of all.”

Even beer we buy collectively

Talking about the collective way of life and work, Moisés Palacios — 55 years old, the father of 21 sons, and the one responsible for the group’s finances — explains that they even decide questions of provision jointly. “If we need meat, we go to the cow and cut it up so it will be cheaper for us...”
The members of the Leonel Valdivia collective, like the peasants belonging to the 3,057 other basic organizations of UNAG, are not only owners of the land they work, but — most importantly — owners of their future as well.

The latter was vividly reflected in the words of Higinio Palacios, also one of the founders. Until recently, he was responsible for education. "I was just one more wage earner, ever since the time they took away my father's land. I worked day and night, eking out a marginal existence on a miserable salary. With the revolution, we have learned to control everything; we go to the banks and if it's necessary, we talk with a government minister."

During Somosa's time, the wage earners of the countryside simply obeyed the orders of the boss and had nothing to do with managing and administering the farm. The new reality has released the creativity and initiative of the peasant that was buried for such a long time.

Higino raised his voice and spoke excitedly. "We are going to do everything that is necessary so that we never return to that terrible yoke; we are going to defend this process that has given us a new life, a new idea!"

Self-defense activity

As a matter of fact, the militia of Leonel Valdivia prepare themselves on a day-to-day basis against any possible counterrevolutionary aggression. Along with their determination to defend their gains, they are motivated by the memory of two comrades who fell in an enemy ambush only a year ago.

In the small house that serves as the director's office hangs a portrait of Benjamin Mairena alongside one of Leonel. The peasants made it by hand, as is the case with all the furnishings in the cooperative. René Mairena, 15 years old, is one of the youngest members of the co-op. He took his brother's place. "They killed him because he was organizing. They want to return to power the same ones who were ruling here before," said the youth, who has a childlike face but a body strengthened by the hard tasks.

Outside, two militias are cleaning their AK-47 rifles that they were given to defend the community and the cooperative. Behind them there is an altar which is prepared for a mass to commemorate the first anniversary of those fallen in battle.

The women too are militia members

The women are also militia members, and their performance merits praise from the political secretary of the CBS, Bernabé Reyes. "Their capacity in production and defense is the same as ours: they don't give any kind of excuses and they are very disciplined."

The militias are made up of a squadron leader and three detachments. They have been involved in operations pursuing counterrevolutionary bands in far-away zones, and each night they defend the town's perimeter. The CBS encourages peasants to participate in the revolutionary vigilance.

Marroquin sends solidarity message to INS victim

Héctor Marroquin and Priscilla Schenk, his wife.

The following telegram by Héctor Marroquin was sent to Rev. John M. Fife, one of the 16 activists recently indicted for allegedly violating immigration laws by assisting refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. Marroquin, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, has been fighting the U.S. government's attempt to deport him because of his political ideas for more than seven years. Reverend Fife is a supporter of Marroquin's struggle to remain in this country.

As an immigrant who has received your support for my fight against deportation, I want to express my profound outrage at the U.S. government's efforts to harass and victimize you and many others for your defense of political refugees from the racist, illegal, and immoral deportations of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In solidarity, Héctor Marroquin

Gov't. arrests refugees, supporters

Continued from back page

Higinio Palacios told us that they've also organized cultural and festive activities for their people. For example, some time ago they formed a musical group called "Los Solidarios de la UNAG." They've won a well-deserved reputation among the regional population for performances at various peasant festivities.

He added that the cooperative's Popular Education Center has 20 students, some of whom have completed primary school and even "give that already got scholarships for the preparatory school in Leon."

The problems of backwardness

The main problems that have affected them most recently, apart from the painful loss of their comrades, have included a damaged irrigation pump and the existing obstacles to marketing the vegetables. "In the wholesale market in Managua, the small producers and consumers are swindled," says the person responsible for the cooperative's finances. According to him, ridiculous things happen in the market. The other members of the co-op are also critical of these things. "We are not only owners of the land but also one of the most efficient cooperatives, land is owned individually but worked collectively.

The members of the Leonel Valdivia collective, like the peasants belonging to the 3,057 other basic organizations of UNAG, are not only owners of the land they work, but — most importantly — owners of their future as well.

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DEFEND women's right to abortion!

ARIZONA
Phoenix
Abortions Under Terrorist Attack. A panel discussion on how best to defend women's rights. Presented by Chiquita Rollins, representative of Right to Choose. Diane Post, attorney; Barbara Greenway, Socialist Workers Party. 7:30 p.m. 3750 N. 20th Ave. Check for more information (602) 722-4026.

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston

MINNESOTA
St. Paul
Defend Abortions Rights: Stop Violence Against the Clinics. Speakers: Diane Underwood, president, National Union for Women's Liberation; Julia Chiesa, president Cleveland Women's liberation; Susan Freeman, member National Abortion Rights Action League; and Peggi Goblet, member of Union of Electronic Workers and Socialist Workers Party. Sat. Jan. 27, 2 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 510 15th Ave. Check for more information (612) 664-4830.

MISSOURI
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CALIFORNIA
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MISSOURI
St. Louis
more than a priori for basketball enthusiasts. It’s a book about a sport that is shaped by racism and the profit system.

When Kareem was born in 1947, his parents were living in Harlem. His mother grew up with the Jim Crow system of legal segregation in the South. His father, who was a Catholic all-boys school in New York City, played basketball. He was stopped in the hallway by one of the brothers from the neighborhood, who had Power’s Disciple of Discipline, asked, “What’s this?” The pin showed a Black fist holding a torch with the words “Freedom Now”. written across it. “It’s from SNCC,” Kareem told him. That stood for Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and, Kareem told him, it meant that “my people want freedom . . . now.”

Kareem attended Power Memorial High School, a Catholic all-boys school in New York City. His parents were divorced when he was young. In 1964 was a turning point for Kareem. He had turned 17, was a two-time All-American, and was still growing. That summer, Kareem worked for the Harlem Youth Ac- tion Project. Working for the Project as a journalist, Kareem’s political awareness took a leap. Afternoons were spent at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. He learned about Harlem’s history and read widely in Black literature. For the first time he read about Malcolm X.

From the Schomburg, Kareem would come to the offices in Harlem. “Black nationalists were hawking newspapers on the avenue. Street-corner speakers were declaiming about white devils and low pay and high taxes. It was something about Malcolm X.” Kareem was on the scoops. James Brown on the radio, and a serious sense of action was in the air. In July, before everything for five days after a white off-duty cop shot and killed an unarmed Black youth. Kareem was there. “The cop was on the force, and the boy was dead. I felt like I was being murdered for too long. That night the streets belonged to the people.”

“Kids were running in the streets shouting, ‘We want Malcolm! We want Malcolm!’ At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Kareem read The Autobiography of Malcolm X. He couldn’t put it down. ‘It was exhilarating, all the things I couldn’t always dare to think. He had lived his life like a primer for me . . .’

“Malcolm’s voice was strong, then young people could build America with the Olympics on its own.” To bolster his point, Kareem related how after the 1960 Olympics a young Cassius Clay, not yet Muhammad Ali, had worn his gold medal in a southern restaurant and had been refused service because he was black.

Kareem opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam. “Any fool,” he said, “could see that the politicians had been lying for years about body counts and ‘winning the hearts and minds,’ and about how and why we were there. ‘It wasn’t my war, wasn’t my cause, and I didn’t want to see any of my guys get shot up in.’ Kareem tells several touching stories of friends from the ghetto who either didn’t make it home or were destroyed psychologically by the war.

Despite his celebrity status, Kareem has borne the brunt of racism throughout his career. As an All-American at UCLA, Kareem lived in virtual poverty.

Kareem talks about the injustice meted out against Black players in the NBA. In nine out of ten brawls, it’s the Black players who are disciplined. Professional basketball is unique in the sense that it is “a black sport run as a white business.” The fact that professional basketball is predicated on the Bau of troops, and the owners, who have serious dollars sunk into the league, are out to protect their investment.

Two books dealing with Kareem can create the athlete from the social and political conditions in which they take place. Giant Steps is different. It is a book that can help change how you view the world.

Books to read by Malcolm X

By Any Means Necessary

Malcolm X on Afro-American History

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

Two Speeches by Malcolm X

Malcolm X Speaks

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 (include $1.50 for postage and handling).

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**BOOK REVIEW**


BY FRANK FORESTAL

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a great basketball player. His skyhook can kill any opposing team. Defensively he is the master of intimidation and the blocked shot. Kareem is the all-time leading scorer in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and has won the Most Valuable Player award more times (six) than any other player in history.

**Kareem and the Juice System of Legal Segregation in the South.** His father, who was a musician, had his own following in New York. Hamaas helped broaden Kareem’s political views. “It was Hamaas who started me thinking about Vietnam, about how and why we were there for no reason; and about how this government supported white racism in South Africa; and about how the government used all the poor people, black and white, to support the upper classes.”

In 1970 Kareem changed his name from Lew Alcindor to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Along with several of his UCLA teammates, Kareem refused to try out for the U.S. Olympic basketball team in 1968. The boycott movement, known as the Project, was organized to "dramatize and protest the war against Blacks in the United States."

"If white morality was going to treat blacks poorly, then white America could win the Olympics on its own.” To bolster his point, Kareem related how after the 1960 Olympics a young Cassius Clay, not yet Muhammad Ali, had worn his gold medal in a southern restaurant and had been refused service because he was black.

Kareem opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam. “Any fool,” he said, “could see that the politicians had been lying for years about body counts and ‘winning the hearts and minds,’ and about how and why we were there. ‘It wasn’t my war, wasn’t my cause, and I didn’t want to see any of my guys get shot up in.’ Kareem tells several touching stories of friends from the ghetto who either didn’t make it home or were destroyed psychologically by the war.

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**January 25, 1985**

**The Militant**
Anti-apartheid fight & April 20

Since November, trade unions, students, community activists, fighters for women's rights, and especially Blacks have been mounting a campaign against South Africa's apartheid regime. More than 100 people have been arrested in Washington, D.C., for protesting outside of the South African embassy there. Hundreds more have been arrested elsewhere. Demonstrations have taken place in cities across the country. In some cases, such as with the Washington picket lines, the actions occur daily. One of the most impressive aspects of the actions has been the breadth of support from trade unions. Many union activists have been among the picketers outside of the South African embassy. Several top trade union officials have been arrested.

These protests are an important show of solidarity with the black freedom struggle in South Africa. The entire labor movement and all supporters of democratic rights should participate in and help to build these picket lines and other educational activities.

Renewed anti-apartheid protest activity in this country comes at a time when South African Blacks have stepped up their struggle. Last November, one million Black workers waged a two-day general strike in South Africa's industrial heartland - the largest political strike in the country's history. The strike itself came after months of massive street demonstrations and actions in Black townships against various aspects of apartheid rule. Following the November general strike South Africa's rulers launched a ferocious counterattack on the Black trade unions and other organizations that organized the protests. Last year's South African cops killed more than 160 Blacks. They arrested thousands of trade unionists, students, and other activists. Thousands of South African troops and cops swept through selected Black townships. The South African regime hopes that its repression will crush the latest upsurge of Black protest against apartheid rule. But the struggle in South Africa cannot be forever held in check - no matter how brutally it is repressed.

The U.S. ruling class fully backs the apartheid regime. U.S. employers invest billions of dollars in South Africa because they make profits off the low-cost labor of Black workers. Moreover, the South African imperialists work with their U.S. and European counterparts to try to back the revolutionary struggles of Black Africans throughout southern Africa, playing the same role in this region as the U.S. ruling class does in the Mideast.

What the U.S. imperialists are doing in southern Africa - they are carrying out far more openly in Central America. There the U.S. government is waging a racist war of terror aimed at overthrowing the workers and peasants government in Nicaragua. The U.S. rulers are also funneling massive amounts of aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship in its war against the insurgent workers and peasants of El Salvador.

The call for an April 20 antiraw demonstration in Washington, D.C., gives Black people a chance to demonstrate the U.S. government's inaction in Central America and Washington's complicity with apartheid. The central demand of the April 20 demonstration is "Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America." Marchers will also demand "Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South Africa's Black regime - resist the eincome racism at home." Among the many groups that have united to organize the action is TransAfrica, the group centrally responsible for initiating April 20 protests.

In approaching trade unions, women's rights groups, Black organizations, and others who wish to join in anti-apartheid activity, activists should urge participation in the April 20 protest. The demonstration already enjoys the support of thousands in the International Association of Machinists and the United Food and Commercial Workers. Big opportunities exist for getting more labor endorsement and participation. Black workers will be especially interested in joining the action.

By building the April 20 protest as broadly as possible, anti-apartheid activists can deal a yet another blow to the racist warmakers in Washington.
Bilingual education: a fight for equal rights

BY ANDREA GONZALEZ

A study recently released by the Hispanic Policy Development Project, which surveyed students in 40 cities across the country, revealed that nearly 90 percent of all Hispanic children do not finish school. Forty percent of those who drop out do so before they even begin school.

The project’s president, Sibgith Oppenheimer, noted that this study reflected the situation of many Hispanic children, who face a crisis of major proportions, neither of which reported any explanation for the staggering drop-out rate.

One possible explanation for why Hispanic students leave school so early and in such large numbers can be seen in the story of Frank Torres. At seven, he was fluent in Spanish but spoke no English. Today, he is still struggling with English.

In the story of Frank Torres, we see the example of a child who understands but cannot speak. He didn’t learn to speak even though he had lived in a Spanish-speaking environment.

Fortunately, the majority of Hispanic children do not end up being diagnosed as retarded. But their experiences in the classroom show how often and how far they have a negative effect on their education.

Memories of my own school days in New York City include stories about kids being pushed out of high school. This took place in the '70s and '80s, and it is still happening today.

In the story of Frank Torres, we see the example of a child who understands but cannot speak. He didn’t learn to speak even though he had lived in a Spanish-speaking environment.

In New York City, the Board of Education and the bureaucratic machinery of the teachers’ union—the United Federation of Teachers—have combined their time and energy to oppose every attempt to improve the education system and make it responsive to the needs of Hispanic children.

In the story of Frank Torres, we see the example of a child who understands but cannot speak. He didn’t learn to speak even though he had lived in a Spanish-speaking environment.

This is an all-too-familiar story. And it’s more than a personal, deplorable setback for the individual student and his/her family. It is a cruel truth that goes beyond the mill gates, such as the struggles for the ERA and for civil rights.

Today, these women have “come full circle. Once again they are themselves, and the other, a receptacle of female brutality.” It continues. It is a renewable energy in society, and the third is just being laid off again.

This is all too-familiar story. And it’s more than a personal, deplorable setback for the individual student and his/her family. It is a cruel truth that goes beyond the mill gates, such as the struggles for the ERA and for civil rights.

As a woman who was laid off from Bethlehem Steel at Sparrows Point, Maryland, I was very interested to read in Steelworker, the story of United Steelworkers of America (USWA), that the union has put out a short story called Women of Steel.

According to the story, the firm has had to lay off 1,000 workers, and at least 1,000 more will be laid off. The story calls for workers to take a stand against the company and fight for their rights.

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As the former director of the East Harlem School District, Alvarado had a reputation for being committed to bilingual education, which helped Blacks and Puerto Ricans stay in school and do better there. After he became chancellor, he initiated some policies that benefited all working people in the city.

Within months of his appointment, the city administration orchestrated a campaign against Alvarado, charging him with corruption. But Alvarado’s real crime, as far as the Koch administration was concerned, was that he tried to make the school system work better.

This was clearly demonstrated by the fact that the first thing Koch’s own man, Nathan Quinnones, did after replacing Alvarado as chancellor was to dismantle almost every one of the progressive education programs that Alvarado had supported.

Koch’s education policies are racist. The policies of his two major opponents for the Democratic Party’s mayoral nomination—Carol Bellamy and Herman Badillo—are not much different.

Carol Bellamy, current president of the city council, refused to support the demands of the Black and Puerto Rican school board chancellor that would be responsive to their needs. And she didn’t lift one finger in defense of Alvarado’s policies during Koch’s campaign against him.

Herman Badillo, who is Puerto Rican, is no better. He was one of Koch’s own deputy mayors. He holds responsibility with Koch for the attacks on the city’s Hispanic community.

This should not surprise us. Badillo, Bellamy, and Koch are all in the capitalist Democratic Party. All three support the class that makes profits off the oppression of Blacks and Puerto Ricans and that benefits from the divisions within the working class.

Puerto Ricans won the democratic right to receive bilingual education in 1980. We will only keep this right, under attack today, by fighting for it. My campaign supports full bilingual education for all Spanish-speaking kids, including Black kids.

Andrés González is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City. González, a Puerto Rican, is 33 years old and was born and raised in New York City.

A Soldier’s Story

‘A Soldier’s Story’ would like to offer a different view of the soldier’s story than that offered by Sam Manuel in his Dec. 7, 1984, review in the Militant.

On top of the long list of racist brutality depicted in the movie that Medora had to endure, there was another layer. He could add an entire column of white people, including his father, who were personally capable of violence toward Blacks, or willing to let such brutality go unchallenged.

The base commander even refuses to grant Howard Rollins permission to marry his White girlfriend (much less take a stand) while the commander eats breakfast at home.

Indeed, the whole basis of the story line is to show the reality where Blacks are so thoroughly terrorized, brutalized, and out of the army that the first announcement made by the army is that a white committed the murder of the Black sergeant.

Given this, how can one conclude, as Manuel does, that the message of the film is: 1. Black soldiers are being killed by Black soldiers; 2. Black soldiers suffer more abuse from Black officers than from other Black soldiers, but to better center his argument.

Manuel’s last comment, “the story of Black soldiers remains unattended,” is that true. But it was not the goal of the film.

‘Women of Steel’

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As the former director of the East Harlem School District, Alvarado had a reputation for being committed to bilingual education, which helped Blacks and Puerto Ricans stay in school and do better there. After he became chancellor, he initiated some policies that benefited all working people in the city.

Within months of his appointment, the city administration orchestrated a campaign against Alvarado, charging him with corruption. But Alvarado’s real crime, as far as the Koch administration was concerned, was that he tried to make the school system work better.

This was clearly demonstrated by the fact that the first thing Koch’s own man, Nathan Quinnones, did after replacing Alvarado as chancellor was to dismantle almost every one of the progressive education programs that Alvarado had supported.

Koch’s education policies are racist. The policies of his two major opponents for the Democratic Party’s mayoral nomination—Carol Bellamy and Herman Badillo—are not much different.

Carol Bellamy, current president of the city council, refused to support the demands of the Black and Puerto Rican school board chancellor that would be responsive to their needs. And she didn’t lift one finger in defense of Alvarado’s policies during Koch’s campaign against him.

Herman Badillo, who is Puerto Rican, is no better. He was one of Koch’s own deputy mayors. He holds responsibility with Koch for the attacks on the city’s Hispanic community.

This should not surprise us. Badillo, Bellamy, and Koch are all in the capitalist Democratic Party. All three support the class that makes profits off the oppression of Blacks and Puerto Ricans and that benefits from the divisions within the working class.

Puerto Ricans won the democratic right to receive bilingual education in 1980. We will only keep this right, under attack today, by fighting for it. My campaign supports full bilingual education for all Spanish-speaking kids, including Black kids.

Andrés González is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City. González, a Puerto Rican, is 33 years old and was born and raised in New York City.

A Soldier’s Story

‘A Soldier’s Story’ would like to offer a different view of the soldier’s story than that offered by Sam Manuel in his Dec. 7, 1984, review in the Militant.

On top of the long list of racist brutality depicted in the movie that Medora had to endure, there was another layer. He could add an entire column of white people, including his father, who were personally capable of violence toward Blacks, or willing to let such brutality go unchallenged.

The base commander even refuses to grant Howard Rollins permission to marry his White girlfriend (much less take a stand) while the commander eats breakfast at home.

Indeed, the whole basis of the story line is to show the reality where Blacks are so thoroughly terrorized, brutalized, and out of the army that the first announcement made by the army is that a white committed the murder of the Black sergeant.

Given this, how can one conclude, as Manuel does, that the message of the film is: 1. Black soldiers are being killed by Black soldiers; 2. Black soldiers suffer more abuse from Black officers than from other Black soldiers, but to better center his argument.

Manuel’s last comment, “the story of Black soldiers remains unattended,” is that true. But it was not the goal of the film.

‘Women of Steel’

As a woman who was laid off from Bethlehem Steel at Sparrows Point, Maryland, I was very interested to read in Steelworker, the story of United Steelworkers of America (USWA), that the union has put out a short story called Women of Steel.

According to the story, the firm has had to lay off 1,000 workers, and at least 1,000 more will be laid off. The story calls for workers to take a stand against the company and fight for their rights.

In the story of Frank Torres, we see the example of a child who understands but cannot speak. He didn’t learn to speak even though he had lived in a Spanish-speaking environment.

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U.S. gov’t launches crackdown on refugees from Central America

60 arrested, 16 indicted in nationwide attack on sanctuary movement

BY MARITZA LEBRON
NEW YORK — The arrests of refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador and the indictments of sanctuary activists is an attempt to intimidate opponents of the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. The April 20 demonstrations in Washington, D.C., provides a chance for all opponents of the war and supporters of democratic rights to protest this attack and to tell the government that we will not be intimidated, said Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

González was responding to the indictment of 16 activists for allegedly “conspiring to smuggle” Central American refugees into the United States and the arrest of 60 refugees. The crackdown was announced by the U.S. Justice Department on January 14. The nationwide movement is a church-sponsored program that provides people fleeing political violence in U.S.-backed war zones in Central America, El Salvador and Guatemala with shelter and helps resettle them. The movement arose in response to Washington’s policy of deporting these people, denying them political asylum.

Among those indicted were a Protestant minister, two Roman Catholic priests, two nun, and several workers. The indictment was handed down in secret by a federal grand jury in Phoenix on January 10. They were charged with helping sanctuary activists get into the churches and helping undercover government agents that had infiltrated church meetings.

Also at the press conference were Rev. Jerry Roseberry, left, one of 16 activists indicted by government for providing sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. Children jailed after indictment cops raided church-sponsored refugee housing.

BY JOHN M. FIFE
PHOENIX — More than 100 people attended a news conference January 15 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist here to protest the indictment of 16 activists in the sanctuary movement and the arrest of 60 Central American refugees that took place the previous weekend.

The Jim Oines of Arizona Lutheran Church read a statement on behalf of the Valley Religious Task Force on Central America. "We stand with our brothers and sisters who have been indicted for their involvement with the refugees from Central America.

In referring to the government’s use of undercover agents to get evidence against the 16 defendants, Oines said, "All of the actions by the sanctuary workers have been done in the open. The government had no need to infiltrate the churches with moles and informers."

Oines defended the sanctuary movement and explained that, "our own 1980 Refugee Act adopted by the U.S. Congress states that people fleeing political violence should not be deported back to their country.

Also at the news conference were Rev. Jerry Roseberry of the Camelback Presbyterian Church, President of the Unitarian Church, Rev. Joedd Miller of the Central Presbyterian Church, Eind Jones of the Arizona Ecumenical Council, and the pastor of St. Catherine’s Roman Catholic Church.

The fact that the news conference was taking place on Martin Luther King’s birthday was a theme of the event. Roseberry explained that the sanctuary movement was following King’s tradition. He quoted from a letter King wrote from a Birmingham jail: “When a law is unjust someone has to break it to prove it is unjust.” That, Roseberry said, “is what we are attempting to do.

In reply to a question on why the government is cracking down on the sanctuary movement Oines said, “I believe that our government is saying that we don’t want the people of the United States to really know what is going on, that we don’t want refugees coming up here and telling people what is happening in these countries.”

Ford Haverly of Witness for Peace and Joe McCawley of the Committee In Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES) also participated in the news conference. They had just returned from a visit to Nicaragua. "We have come at a time when the government is trying to intimidate opponents of the war in Central America.

The current indictments and arrests come at a time when the government is stepping up this war. The Reagan administration is on an extensive campaign to stop the growing Kanak independence movement. The French imperialists propose to grant the Kanaks a ‘treaty of co-management’ that is to be followed by the French colonialists colonization in New Caledonia."

French colonialists colonized New Caledonia in 1853. Throughout the rest of the century, the Kanaks battled the French settlers, who snatched most of the island’s fertile land and put the majority of Kanaks on reservations. The Kanaks are denied equal education and employment by their French colonizers.

Due to the French settlers policy, the percentage of Kanaks in the population has steadily declined. Today, the 64,000 Kanaks make up only 44 percent of the island’s 145,000 inhabitants. About 35 percent are French and the remainder are natives from other French colonies in the South Pacific or people from Indochina.

It’s the national oppression of the Kanak people that is the driving force behind their demand for independence. The FLNKS organized a successful Kanak boycott of the November 18 territorial election and announced on December 1 that it had set up a provisional government of Kanaky. Machado, one of those murdered on January 11, was the provisional government’s minister of national security. Monaro, also killed, was one of his aids.

With its beached up occupation force and the imposition of the state of emergency, the French imperialists hope to squelch the growing Kanak independence movement. The French government plans to hold a referendum in New Caledonia in July to vote on a new so-called independence proposal. The French imperialists propose to grant New Caledonia “sovereignty,” but only if linked to France by a “treaty of association.”

But even this proposal goes too far for the racist French colonists, who have been stepping up their attacks on Kanak activists.

Continued on Page 4

New Caledonia freedom fighters killed

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Government troops in the French colony of New Caledonia murdered two leaders of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) on January 11. In an attack on a farmhouse in La Foa, French military police gunned down Eloi Machoro and Marcel Monaro, both FLNKS activists. The French troops surrounded the farmhouse and fired on the some 34 Kanaks inside.

Following the assault, the territorial government announced a state of emergency. The decree banned public meetings of more than five people, leaflet distribution, and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

The next day, the French government announced that it was sending another 1,000 troops to bolster its occupation forces on the island. There are already 2,500 French imperialist troops on New Caledonia, a nickel-rich island 750 miles east of Australia.

The FLNKS is demanding independence for New Caledonia. The group, a coalition of 10 pro-independence organizations, has called for a nationwide referendum in July to vote on a new so-called independence proposal. The French government plans to hold a referendum in New Caledonia in July to vote on a new so-called independence proposal. The French imperialists propose to grant New Caledonia “sovereignty,” but only if linked to France by a “treaty of association.”

But even this proposal goes too far for the racist French colonists, who have been stepping up their attacks on Kanak activists.