Philippine gov’t stages Manila roundup

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — In a coordinated sweep February 2-3, military units raided several Manila-area houses, arresting 15 people alleged to be leaders of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the allied National Democratic Front (NDF) and New People’s Army (NPA). The CPP has been leading a 20-year guerrilla campaign against the Philippine landlord-capitalist regime. This insurgency has won significant support among the landless peasantry in many parts of the country.

Those arrested included three people who publicly represented the NDF in the Visayas Region in negotiations during the 60-day cease-fire between the government and the guerrilla movement that began in December 1986. Also on February 3 soldiers burst into a Manila hospital and arrested six people, including a doctor and a patient undergoing surgery, whom the military alleged were involved with the urban units of the NPA known as the “Sparrrows.” In all, 29 alleged CPP and NPA members were arrested in Manila in the space of three days.

Some of those arrested had to be released for lack of evidence. Others were allowed bail by the courts. That provided a pretext for the military high command to demand further limits on the democratic process and the guerrilla campaign, as well as a pretext for the military high command to demand further limits on the democratic guarantees in the constitution, which he said were only meant for “peace time conditions.”

The army claimed that CPP documents captured in the raids showed that the NPA was planning to launch a major campaign of assassination of government and military officials here in the capital. They alleged that more than 70 military and government officials were shot down by NPA Sparrrows in the Manila metropolitan area alone during 1987.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, former army chief of staff, called for the government to reintroduce the death penalty for “insurgents” and for the “limited suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.”

Congress and the press have generally opposed the military’s call for emergency measures. Opposition leaders have been held in jail without being brought to trial. They have been able to seriously narrow down the military’s list of suspects.

Brig. Gen. Honorato Isleta, an armed forces deputy chief of staff, demanded the withdrawal of the cease-fire and the launching of a total campaign of assassination of government and military officials here in the capital. They alleged that more than 70 military and government officials were shot down by NPA Sparrrows in the Manila metropolitan area alone during 1987.

Senate hearings press attack on Panama

BY SAM MANUEL

A Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee has added its efforts to the most recent stage of a year-and-a-half campaign by the U.S. administration to destabilize and bring down the Panamanian government and its leader, President Manuel Noriega, by violating Panama’s sovereignty. The Committee held hearings February 15 and charges that Panamanian military, business, and government officials are at the center of international drug trafficking.

The hearings were chaired by Democrat John Kerry. What’s actually been exposed in the course of the testimony, however, is the degree to which the CIA and its allies are engaged in drug dealing.

Washington’s main form has been aired at the case against the U.S. agents, Noriega’s right-hand man, Gen. Gerardo Mejia, and several other individuals in a court in Panama. The hearings have also uncovered further revelations about the administration’s role in the contra war against Nicaragua, including the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency often worked with drug traffickers in order to supply arms to the contras.

Noriega has also been linked to a shipment of weapons to El Salvador from the United States and has been accused of accepting funds from Nicaragua. This case involves the Central Intelligence Agency and its allies, who have participated in the sale of arms to the contras.

Testimony surrounding the indictments and hearings has also uncovered further revelations about the administration’s role in the contra war against Nicaragua, including the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency often worked with drug traffickers in order to supply arms to the contras.

Milan Rodriguez testified that he had channeled funds gained from illicit narcotraffic to the United States and had secretly provided funds to the CIA for operations against the Cuban government. Rodriguez introduced his testimony with a letter to the president of the United States, expressing his desire to return to the United States. Rodriguez is now being held in the United States for drug trafficking.

Poisonous leaks spur call to shut struck Maine paper plant

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Nearly 300 residents of Jay, along with environmental activists from around Maine, temporarily blocked traffic to International Paper Co.’s Androscoggin mill here on February 15 in the wake of the second chlorine leak in the plant in nine days.

About 80 of the angry demonstrators were arrested before the Senate hearings in Washington. Demonstrators are expected to take part in the protests against the mill, which is located in the town. Ramon Millan Rodriguez, a convicted drug trafficker and money launderer, and Fordy Carlson, a convicted drug trafficker, were also arrested.

The protests, most of whom were women, were demanding a meeting with management to protest this latest chemical accident. On February 14 the leak hospital seven employees of I & E, K, the skid car loading firm contracted by international Paper (IP). They were rushed by ambulance past picketing members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14, which has been on strike since the last June along with Remens and Oliers Local 246. The leak occurred when a sewer line into a pipe in which chlorine had backed up.

Clifford Kelley, a 25-year-old scab, was overcome by fumes and narrowly escaped death. “He stopped breathing twice,” said Dale Buckingham, assistant chief of Community Emergency Services of neighboring Livermore Falls. Local 14 President Bill Meserve told the Militant that this chlorine leak confirms the locals’ demand that the plant, which is operating with a scab force of 1,000, be

Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 2

Continued on Page 7
‘Militant’ sales team discusses politics with Appalachia miners

BY NORTON SANDLER

“Our first step, we sold 11 copies of the Militant in a working-class housing project in Williamson, West Virginia. In a telephone interview, Cecelia Moriarity was describing the visit by a Militant sales and reporting team to coal-mining communities, and on campuses. They are encouraging miners and others who bought Militant subscriptions last fall to re-new them. They are also selling the paper at mine portals, in working-class communities, and on campuses.

Moriarity reported that the team spent February 12–14 in the area along the West Virginia-Kentucky border near Williamson.

Miners and others they talked to have been affected by the 1984–85 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co.

Massey prevented some miners from getting their jobs back at the end of the strike. Union members who returned to the Massey mines have been working without a contract for more than two years.

Five UMWA members are fighting a company-government frame-up on charges stemming from the death of a scab coal hauler during the strike. Massey and federal and state officials are using this case to strike further blows against the union.

There has been a campaign against the five miners in the big-business press. "People here," Moriarity said, "are not surprised that A.T. Massey would try to do something like this, but a lot of people didn’t know the facts about the case.

The team went door to door in a number of towns and hollows where miners and their families live. Five subscriptions and seven singles were sold in Matewan, West Virginia. Four more copies were sold in Red Jacket, a nearby Black community.

They spent part of Sunday selling in Huddly and Stone, Kentucky. "We had some trouble finding concentrations of miners," Moriarity said, "so we asked for suggestions on where to sell.

They were steered to a Williamson shopping center. "That’s where we hit pay dirt," she said. "We met working UMWA members, laid-off UMWA members, nonunion miners, miners’ wives, and retired miners.

Moriarity said they would point out the Militant’s coverage of the recent coal miners’ struggle. They emphasized that this paper takes the side of workers and farmers and that during the A.T. Massey strike, it took the side of the miners.

“We also said this paper is against the contras, it’s opposed to giving them any money, and it’s for the U.S. government getting out of Nicaragua.” Moriarity emphasized.

“They then would respond. They didn’t say much, but they were receptive. Nine copies of the Militant and five subscriptions were sold in about an hour.

The team then traveled to New Virgin­­ia. That’s where some mines owned by the Pintson Coal Group are located. Two thousand UMWA members at these mines are working without a contract.

Distributed by the Militant, the Spanish-language monthly Perspective Mundial from Salt Lake City and Price, Utah, have also been organizing trips to mining areas in the West. They recently sent teams to Sheridan, Wyoming, and to Oak Creek and Trinidad in Colorado. These efforts resulted in three renewals, three new subscriptions, and a number of individual copies being sold.

U.S. Senate hearings target Panama

BY JIM LITTLE

LEXINGTON, Ky.—"When labor disputes result in violence, then none of us are safe and we cannot live in a free society." These pompous words were spoken by federal Judge Henry Wilhite as he sentenced four Kentucky coal miners to long prison terms on February 4.

Ignoring the facts that had emerged in the three-week frame-up trial late last year, Wilhite handed out brutal sentences to the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members.

Arnold Heightland was slapped with 45 years in jail; Dicky Thorstena 30 years; and James Darryl Smith and David Thoms­­burn each received 35.

The four men stood proud in the court­room, saying they were guilty, in David Thoms­­­burn, president of UMWA Local 7704, said, "I love my God and my family and I am not guilty." The other miners also proclaimed their innocence.

The frame-up was constructed after the shooting death of scab coal hauler Hayes West during the UMWA’s 1984–85 strike at Samsoy Energy and A.T. Massey Coal Co. mines.

Union member Paul Smith was arrested on the same charges but acquitted in a separate trial in federal court last month. After the acquittal, he was immediately rearrested by the Kentucky cops and now faces an additional charge. That trial will be held in Pikeville, Kent­­ucky, in June. Paul Smith is out of jail now, after posting $10,000 bail.

Much of the prosecution’s case in both trials revolved around the testimony of Ervin Smith. Ervin was told in the case but accepted a plea bargain. Wil­­­­­hite rewarded him with only a six-month jail sentence for testifying against the others.

Ervin Smith had trouble keeping his story straight during the two trials. In the second trial, he admitted that federal offic­ials had threatened him with the death penalty if he refused to cooperate on the frame-up. He testified that he was under such threats made.

Without ignoring this. Instead he declared that Ervin Smith was “the only man” among the miners.

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—Cindy Bennett

Cindy Bennett
striking member of United Paperworkers International Local 14 in Jai, Maine

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Puerto Rican frame-up victim, detained 2 1/2 yrs., wins bail

By Susan Apstein

After spending almost two and a half years in jail — the longest pretrial detention in U.S. history — Puerto Rican independence activist Juan Segarra Palmer won his fight to be released on bail.

Bailing defense attorneys for the "delay" in releasing Segarra Palmer, Judge T. Emmet Clarke set bail February 11 at the outrageously high sum of $1 million. The judge observed that the defendant's continued injection of $1 million to the government continued to hold him without bail.

But it was Judge Clarke who imprisoned Segarra Palmer for more than two years without even setting a trial date. This was done under the federal "habeas corpus" provision of the 1964 Bail Reform Act, which allows judges to lock up and deny bail to anyone they label "dangerous to the community."

Segarra Palmer is one of the Hartford 16, who were arrested in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the United States in 1985 and 1986 for their alleged involvement in the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut, and with membership in the Mecacheros, an organization that supports independence for Puerto Rico.

Two hundred FBI agents swooped down on the island of Puerto Rico in August 1983, razing homes and offices and terrorizing the defendants and their families. The cops forcibly removed them from Puerto Rico to stand trial in the United States.

Seven of the defendants were held in detention for almost a year and a half. Clarke continued to jail Segarra Palmer and Filiberto Ojeda Rios on the basis of FBI claims that the two were "dangerous terrorists."

Segarra Palmer had begun a hunger strike at the federal detention center in Hartford the week before bail was set. He did this to draw public attention to the "unconstitutionality of the Bail Reform Act and the legal violations carried out by FBI agents who spied on the defendants in Puerto Rico."

He explained that the purpose of the fast was also to "reflect on how colonialism victimizes the Puerto Rican people and corrupts the values cherished by the American people."

Segarra Palmer will be able to post bail and could be released within a week. Ojeda Rios appeared before Judge Clarke January 20 and demanded an end to his detention. Clarke has not yet ruled on the request.

Messages and telegrams demanding that Ojeda Rios be released could be sent to Hon. T. Emmet Clarke, U.S. District Court, 450 Main St., Hartford, Conn. 06103.

"and the government is interested in seeing it destroyed, too."

Elizabeth Moreau, a striking nurse, summed up the mood when she commented about doing picket duty in subzero temperatures. "When people are prepared to picket in these conditions, they're either very serious or crazy. The government and the hospitals have thrown the book at us. They're trying to intimidate us. They're using the courts to scare us. But they're digging their own graves because it's just unifying us."

The nurses were fighting for the right to strike, better wages and working conditions, and against the deteriorating quality of health care in the province.

In the five years since the adoption of the antistrike legislation, nurses' wages increased only 7 percent. At the opening of the recent negotiations, the AHA demanded a 3 percent wage cut.

Alberta is the center of the Canadian oil industry. Since the worldwide drop of oil prices, the Conservative government has given more than 1 million in loans and direct grants to private industry.

But funding for hospitals was increased only 1 percent this year, after a 3 percent cut last year. Hospitals Minister Marvin Moore has advocated "scaling down the number of employees" and "closing more beds to save financial resources."

Opposition to cutbacks and anger at the government's antilabor policies helped galvanize the nurses' movement, the AHA and the government were forced to negotiate a settlement with the union.

The pact calls for wage increases of between 8 and 10.9 percent over a 27-month period, improvements in health-care benefits, the retaining of all nurses fired for striking, and the dropping of civil contempt proceedings against individual nurses.

Some nurses expressed disappointment at not winning improvements in working conditions. Nurses voted by an 82 percent majority to return to work. The nurses voiced pride in what they accomplished in the strike. Heather Smith, vice-chair of the UNA negotiating committee, said, "We have a sense of confidence and strength. The issues are not dead. This is just one battle in a very long war."

"We're received tremendous labor support," Harrigan said. "We received letters from all over the world."

Early in the strike, the Alberta Federation of Labor organized large solidarity rallies in Calgary and Edmonton. It launched two broadly based strike support committees in the northern and southern regions of the province.

Unionists from all over the province joined nurses on picket lines. The Canadian Labour Congress, the countrywide labor federation, pledged the full support of its 3.3 million members.

In the face of the nurses' determination and the solidarity they won from the labor movement, the AHA and the government were forced to negotiate a settlement with the union.

Editors: Don't let this issue beat you to death. Write to us! We need your help.

The United Nurses of Alberta rally during strike, which defied antilabor legislation passed by Conservative provincial government.

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Nicaraguan govt reports on land distribution

BY ROBERTO KOPEC
MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Ministry of Agrarian Reform has reported that 9,300 landless peasant families received land in 1987. This figure represents about two-thirds of the goal that had been projected at the beginning of the year. The pace of land distribution was the slowest for any year since 1982.

At the start of 1987, the government had estimated there were still 60,000 landless peasant families. If these figures are accurate, that would leave just over 50,000 landless peasant families today. No projections for land distribution in 1988 have yet been announced.

Since the 1979 overthrow of the dictatorship that ruled Nicaragua in the interest of the capitalists and landlords, a total of 72,000 landless peasant families have received land.

An additional 40,000 peasant families have received another 10 percent of the land that they had been farming as squatters. At an estimated average of six individuals per family, this means that well over 240,000 people have benefited directly from the land reform program of the workers’ and peasants’ government. The total population of Nicaragua is judged to be between 3 and 4 million.

The government distributes land to peasants to work as individual farmers or as members of collective farms or cooperatives.

Collective farm members own and work the land together. Cooperative farmers own their individual property, but join together to get credit, technical help, assistance in marketing their products and buying supplies, and other benefits.

From the start of organized land distribution in 1979, about 20 percent of the families that benefited from the land distribution established individual farms. The remaining 80 percent of families benefited by the land distribution established cooperatives or collective farms. (The 1987 breakdown is not yet available.)

Twelve percent of the land distributed in 1987 came from privately owned properties. The rest came from state-owned lands.

Land expropriations

At the time of the 1979 Sandinista revolution, the new government expropriated all the property owned by the dictator Anastasio Somoza and his close associates.

This gave the government 20 percent of the total farm land (4.5 percent of the family-owned land).

Some of this land was used to set up state farms. Much of the land has now been given to landless peasants. The state now holds only 12 percent of agricultural land.

Ninety percent of the land expropriated by revolutionary government allows the expropriation of private landholdings under certain conditions. These are: if the land is abandoned or underused; if the owner exploits peasants as sharecroppers or tenant farmers; or if the land is needed for “reasons of public necessity or the interests of society.”

Since 1981 some 8 percent of the nation’s agricultural land has been taken from capitalist farmers and ranchers and other big landowners.

Together with the 1979 confiscation of the Somozas property, these expropriations have greatly reduced the share of agricultural land held by large landowners — defined in Nicaragua as those with more than 865 acres. Before the revolution, they held 36 percent of the land. Today they have 9 percent.

Government priorities

There is no legal limit on the size of private landholdings. The government encourages individuals and groups to keep their lands and maintain production. Government policy is to try to avoid expropriations in their properties, even to meet the needs of landless peasants, when alternatives are available.

Vice-minister for Agrarian Reform Alfonso Porras recently explained the priorities in finding land to distribute.

The government first encourages peasants to move onto land in areas that had been abandoned because of contra attacks, but are now available for resettlement as a result of Nicaragua’s military victories against the contras.

The second priority, Porra said, is to give peasants an option of joining existing cooperatives or collective farms that have more land than they are using productively.

The third priority is to distribute state land that is not being used.

Only as a last resort, he stressed, will the government take over private landholdings to give to landless peasants.

With the changes brought by the revolution, state farms now hold 12 percent of the agricultural land; capitalist farms, less than 1 percent, and cooperatives 11 percent. These are forms of land ownership and use that did not exist before the revolution.

The remaining 65 percent is owned by individuals, who range from poor peasants to capitalist farmers and ranchers.

Children are target of contra attacks on peasant settlements in south

BY DAVE WELTERS
LAS PALOMAS, Nicaragua — “It was atrocious. They attacked as if it was a military installation — with mortars, automatic weapons, and rocket launchers.”

Lt. Juan Correa stood next to the burned remains of his family’s home in a village settlement near the contras’ headquarters in the eastern mountains of Nicaragua.

“Here there were only 33 peasants armed,” Correa said. “All we had were AKs,” he said, referring to automatic rifles.

Roughly 200 contras attacked Las Palomas with heavy weapons early in the morning last November 21, while a similar force attacked Never Operta.

Defenders held off the contras for an hour and a half until militia members from San Miguelturra arrived and drove off the attackers. Fourteen residents were killed by the contras, and 29 wounded. Half the casualties were children.

Twelve-year-old Jazna Guaitan and two of her brothers were kidnapped by the contras the day before the attack. They had been bringing in bananas from a nearby field. “We were surprised by them,” she said, referring to the contras. “They took our animals and bananas.”

The three were held in an isolated area and escaped that night when the attack began. Jazna’s father, who went looking for the children, was captured and murdered by the contras.

In Never Operta, six children were killed and two were still hospitalized with their wounds at the time we visited. Several children saw playing near their homes were bandaged on their arms and legs.

Fourteen-year-old Estelina Lugo described how four “bombs” destroyed her family’s home, killing two of her brothers.

She also showed where fragments scattered her head and tore through her left hand.

These communities look like anything but military installations — simple homes sprouted throughout a rough clearing. Most had tin roofs and dirt floors, and a few, lacking enough wood for walls, were enclosed by large sheets of black plastic.

Women were doing their laundry in a stream and pond near the settlements, and children bathed and played.

In Las Palomas, the destroyed children’s center was the building that served as a combined school, health center, and community center. Seven weeks after the attack, a new center had been built.

Brigade members encountered Rosa Pérez in front of her home nearby. Her husband was one of the defenders killed in the attack, leaving Rosa to care for her elderly mother and five young children.

She said that daily life had come to a standstill since a peasant cooperative was being formed and conditions would be better.

Las Palomas co-op

The cooperative was formed in 1983 and now has 320 residents. There is land for grazing cattle, in addition to small plots on which families grow squash, corn, yuca (cassava), and other foods.

Families were brought here from isolated areas in the mountains east of here, from as far away as 20 miles. In these areas, unreachable by road, there was no contact with the government. There were no schools or health-care centers. The contras were able to take advantage of this to persuade or force many people to fight against the government.

Rosa Pérez said there was fear of the contras in these isolated areas. But it was undoubtedly hard on many to leave their mountain homes.

“No one really wants to live here,” she said. “But it is more secure.”

This is the same area of Nicaragua where a CIA cargo plane carrying weapons to the contras was shot down in October 1986 and the U.S. mercenary Eugene Hasenfus captured.

Lieutenant Correa estimated that there are about 600 contras in the area, but that they could not maintain these settlements, even with superior numbers and weaponry.

The newly covered graves at the entrance to Las Palomas and Never Operta testified that contra terror in Nicaragua will continue until all U.S. funding of the contras is stopped.

Annual number of peasant families receiving land

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Sankara on revolution in Burkina Faso

Cuban interview with late president of West African country

The following interview with Thomas Sankara, the late president of the West African country of Burkina Faso, appeared in the Aug. 4, 1987, edition of the Cuban daily newspaper Granma. Sankara's government was overthrown by a military coup on Oct. 15, 1987, organized by then state and justice minister Blaise Compaoré that had emerged from the coup of November 7, 1982, with rightist sectors of the military. Many of them went to Ouagadougou, the capital city of Ouagadougou, and established the revolutionary government. August 4 resulted from the unity achieved between the most honest and progressive forces in the nation on the one hand, and young revolutionary officers on the other.

To mark the anniversary of this event the Granma interviewed Thomas Sankara, who was assassinated by his own bodyguards on Oct. 15, 1987. He expressed concepts of great interest to both the revolutionary process in Burkina Faso and bilateral relations.

Question. Comrade President Sankara, you have met several times with President Fidel Castro. Would you please tell us about your first meeting with him, which took place in New Delhi [India] in March 1981, at the summit meeting of the seventh congress of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries — before you became leader of the revolution in Burkina Faso?

Answer. For me this was and remains a memorable encounter. As I recall, it was very much sought after. There were many people around him, and I thought it would be impossible to talk with him because he didn’t know me. I did, however, get the chance to meet with Fidel.

In this first conversation I realized Fidel had great human feelings, keen intuition, and that he understood the importance of our struggle, the problems of my country. I remember all this as though it were yesterday. We have recalled it with pleasure each time I met with him again. We are great friends, thanks to the revolution that guides both Burkina Faso and Cuba.

Q. After Aug. 4, 1983, new relations opened between Cuba and Burkina Faso. How do you view the development of these linkages and cooperation?

A. Cooperation between Cuba and Burkina Faso has reached a very high level, which we see as very important because it purifies our contact with a sister revolution. We like to feel we are among friends; nobody likes to feel alone. For us, the knowledge that we can count on Cuba is an important source of strength.

A number of programs of economic cooperation have been established, including in sugar cane, in which Cuba is a specialist and Burkina Faso is a newcomer. In addition, Burkinabe technicians have carried out studies in the railroad sector, including the production of ties, and in the prefabrication of units that could be used in housing construction.

The same is true in the social sector — in health and education. A number of Cubans have helped in the training of Burkinabe cadres here, and we also have many students in Cuba. Cuba is very close to us.

Q. Do you believe it is necessary to build a vanguard party in Burkina Faso?

A. We have to build a vanguard party. We have to create a structure based on organizations because the achievements we have attained will remain fragile unless we also have the means to defend them, the means to educate the masses so as to attain new victories.

We don’t see formation of a party as something far away or impossible to reach. We are actually quite close to this objective. But there still remain a number of small-group concepts we have to approach with a serious effort of seeking agreement, with Marxism-Leninism, and unity.

The nature of the party, its concept, and the process of building it will surely not be the same as it would have been had we begun it before coming to power. Many precautions will be taken to avoid falling into leftist opportunism. We cannot deceive the masses. We have to be very careful, selective, and demanding.

Q. In various speeches you have referred to the class struggle in your country. What are the elements in this struggle today?

A. In our country the question of the class struggle is posed differently from the way it’s posed in Europe. We have a work of art and were unable to appreciate it.

We have also the means to defend them, the means to educate the masses so as to attain new victories.

We don’t see formation of a party as something far away or impossible to reach. We are actually quite close to this objective. But there still remain a number of small-group concepts we have to approach with a serious effort of seeking agreement, with Marxism-Leninism, and unity.

It’s placed at some points in government leadership, and it never ceases to harass us, to create difficulties, with the support of imperialism.

There are in addition the big landowners, who are not very numerous. And there are some sectors of the religious hierarchy who more or less openly oppose the revolution.

Q. What is democracy, in your opinion?

A. Democracy is the people, with all their strength and potential. Ballot boxes and an electoral apparatus in and of themselves do not signify the existence of democracy. Those who organize elections every so often, and show concern for the people only when an election is coming up, do not have a genuinely democratic system.

But wherever people can say what they think at any time, there is genuine democracy — because the confidence of the people must be earned every day. Democracy cannot be conceived of without total power in the hands of the people — economic, political power, and cultural power.

Q. How did you become a Marxist?

A. It was very simple — through discussions, through friendship with a few individuals. It was also the result of my social experience. I had heard these men talk, pursue careful and logical solutions to the problems of society. Gradually, thanks in part to reading, but above all to discussions with Marxists on the reality of our country, I arrived at Marxism.

Q. There’s a street in Ouagadougou named after Ernesto Che Guevara. What meaning does this remarkable Latin American patriot have for you?

A. This is a man who gave himself totally to the revolution; his eternal youth is an example to all of us. For me the most important thing is to achieve the victory bound up inside each one of us. I admire Che Guevara for having done this in an exemplary way.

Q. In the context of Africa, what does Patrice Lumumba mean to you?

A. Patrice Lumumba is a symbol, and when I see the content of this question I realize how many who were unable to even live a little despite contact with him, I consider them miserable wretches. They stood in the presence of a work of art and were unable to appreciate it.

Lumumba confronted a very unfavorable situation in his home country, which had been partitioned in and of themselves do not signify the existence of democracy. Those who organize elections every so often, and show concern for the people only when an election is coming up, do not have a genuinely democratic system.

Q. Comrade president, if you could step back four years, would you do the same thing, follow the same road?

A. I’d take a different road in order to do much more than I have accomplished, because in my opinion it hasn’t been sufficient. Many mistakes have held up the process when progress could have been more complete and rapid.

So if I had everything to do over, with the knowledge I have today, I would correct many things. But we would never abandon the revolution; we would make it deeper, stronger, and more beautiful.
Palestine youth defy Israel gov’t brutality

Continued from front page

beatings and killings have not been able to

Declarer Feb. 16 a “Day of Anger,”

Israelis were shut down the West

Bank and Gaza Strip.

George shutters were pulled down over

shops, and the streets were deserted in
every village, town, and refugee camp,”
one dispatch said.

“The Israeli army,” the dispatch added,
appeared to be keeping a low profile.

And in the first public admission of any
kind of retreat, the deputy army chief of
staff, Maj. Gen. Eshel Barak, told reporters
that, for the moment, the army was about
domining as counterproductive its campaign
to force the reopening of Palestinian shops
whose owners have joined in protest
strikes.

Troops have broken shop gates open
with crowbars or, in reprisal, welded them
totally shut. Shop owners have been beaten
and in at least one case, teargassed while
locking inside a shop.

In many cases, where store locks were
smashed, Palestinian locksmiths promptly
appeared to repair them without charge.

General Barak also abandoned the of¬
ficial fiction that the uprising was the work
of “outside agitators.”

“What we confront,” Barak said, “is a
widespread, violent uprising led by a nu¬
cleus of activists who enjoy the support
and cooperation of the people of the
Golan Heights on Feb. 14, 1,600 Israeli police battled Drone
protesters in Majdal Shams, the largest of the four
villages in the area.
The Golan Heights was taken from Syria
in Israel’s June 1967 war against its Arab neighbors.
Each year the Syrian people of the Golan
Heights protest on Feb. 14. This was the
date in 1982 when the area was de¬

Nora Astorga, Nicaragua
UN ambassador, dies

Nora Astorga, Nicaragua’s ambassador
to the United Nations, died Feb. 14 in
Managua, Nicaragua. A victim of cancer,
she was 39.

In 1984 the Sandinistas appointed Ast¬
orga to become Nicaragua’s ambassador to
the United States. Washington went into an
uproar. One Reagan administration official
called Astorga “the second ugliest woman
who’s not suitable for material for an ambassador.” The
New York Times branded her “a femme fatale.”

Astorga’s “crime” was the fact that in 1978, she had helped bring to justice Gen.
Reynaldo Perez Vega, known in Nicaragua as “The Dog.” He was one of the most
tarterrars of the Somoto regime, the second in command of Somoto’s National
Guard, and a CIA agent to boot.

Astorga had been working with the Sand¬

inista National Liberation Front (FSLN)
since 1969. Coming from a wealthy lumber
and ranching family, she had used this as
cover to get to know Perez and other tar¬

men of the dictatorship.

A member of a Sandinista plan to kidnap
Perez and exchange him for imprisoned
FSLN members, Astorga lured him to her
acrimonious meeting on July 29, 1978. Since
then, several FSLN guerrillas were waiting. Perez put up a fight,
however, and his captors had to kill him. Following the operation, Astorga’s house was
underground and became a guerrilla fighter.

Washington flatly refused to accept Astorga as ambassador to United States in 1984, and the Nicaraguan govern¬
ment was forced to renounce the appointment.

Astorga became Nicaragua’s ambassador

Pride that she had served as a deputy
foreign minister and as a prosecutor against
the National Guard and other crimi¬

ans of the Somoto regime. She was also a
member of the Sandinista Assembly, the highest consultative leadership body of the
FSLN.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Solidarity Workers Party, sent a message to the
FSLN National Directorate February
16. Nora Astorga was targeted by Wash¬
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ness of the Sandinista revolution since
working people in this country, the fear of the truth about Nicaragua that Nora
Astorga presented to the world and to the
United States as ambassador to the
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Without the participation of the United
States as ambassador to the United

Palestinian struck by Israeli soldier

last Monday from the Ansar II detention
center, he had no blood pressure whatever.
He is slowly recovering.

“in the next room lay Khaled Akal, 19,
nursing a broken left arm and deep bruises
on his legs and arms. His 17-year-old cousin
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Sunday night.”

“Akal says he and his cousin were seized
by soldiers, dragged from their houses in
the Burei refugee camp, and beaten in a
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“Downtown, in the women’s ward
Pataco Hashisha, 34, was brought in Tues¬
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“she said soldiers came to arrest her 17-
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Arab gov’ts reject Camp David pact as basis for Palestine settlement

In an apparent setback for U.S.-Israeli
euveries, key governments in the
Mideast have declared they reject further
dialogue based on the Camp David
accords.

The prime minister of Jordan said the
parties struggling in the West Bank and
Gaza Strip has “changed many of the polit¬
ical equations, pushing us to our limits.
We need to find a fair solution that guarantees
the end of the occupation” of the West
Bank and Gaza Strip.

Washington has been pushing a plan,
whose terms remain to be publicly re¬

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foreign minister and as a prosecutor against
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ture in her house, and then broke her leg,”
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Paperworkers tour successful in New York, New Jersey

BY JANICE LYNN AND L. PALTRINERI in New York City—mainly paperworkers from Jay, Maine, and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, spent a week in the New York City area in early February, winning new support for their eight-month strikes against International Paper.

Cindy Bennett and Rich Rusch were the representatives of the Paperworkers International Union Local 14 in Jay, where 1,250 workers are on strike. Bennett was one of the first women hired at IP’s Jay mill 11 years ago; Rusch had worked 20 years in the mill when the strike began last June.

The strikers visited the train crew rooms at the New Jersey Transit Rail Terminal in Hoboken, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Station in New York City.

At the Hoboken crew room, they were introduced by a UTU shop steward. The UTU members there have been working without a contract for two years and a half year and were interested in hearing about the support the IP workers have been winning throughout the labor movement for their strike.

Bennett and Rusch also visited members of UTU Local 77 at the crew room for Metro North trains in New York City’s Grand Central Station. The rail workers identified with the strikers’ description of IP’s attempts at job combinations and the safety hazards that result. The railroad is trying to do the same thing by changing work rules.

The paperworkers also spoke to union members of chemicals and airline workers, met with executive board members in New York and fell in Berkeley, and gave several interviews to the media.

Bennett and Rusch wrapped up their three-day stay with a talk at the New York Militant Labor Forum, which was attended by 85 people. Over $1,000 was raised during their New York visit, mainly in small donations from the unionists they met.

A week earlier, two other Jay strikers — Dick Bates and Mike Spindt — spoke at a meeting of Teamsters Local 877, whose members work at Exxon’s Bayway Refinery and Chemical Plant in Linden, New Jersey. The 200 members present at the meeting voted to donate $2,500 to the paper strikers.

Six strikers from UPI Local 1787 in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, followed the Jay workers with a visit to northern New Jersey.

The Lock Haven workers were invited to speak to the National Student Conference held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick the weekend of February 5-7, which was attended by 700 students from around the country.

Two Lock Haven strikers addressed a group of more than 300 of the reading featuring noted poet Allen Ginsberg.

The paperworkers also spoke to two classes at Rutgers. The students were interested in every aspect of the strike, from learning more about conditions in the mill to whether the strikers felt they were winning. Between the conference and classes, the students donated more than $350 to the strike fund.

A strike-support group for the Lock Haven paperworkers has been formed at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania, and the strikers hope to see more such committees established.

The Lock Haven strikers also spoke to union meetings of chemical workers, airline workers, and telecommunications workers, and addressed a meeting of the Bergen County Central Labor Council. An additional $1,000 was raised for the strike.

Mill shutdown demanded after leaks

Continued from front page

"People in there don’t know what they’re doing," Meserve said. The February 15 demonstration was organized by Jay residents led by Deb Thorne and Patty Finne. Thorne is married to a paper striker. Finne’s husband works at the James River paper mill in Jay. Finne and Finne are both mothers of small children. They and their kids went through the traumatic experience of a forced evacuation of the town February 5, when more than 112,000 gallons of deadly chlorine gas leaked from the mill.

After a night-long meeting at Pierceau’s house, word went out for the February 15 demonstration. Jay and Livermore Falls high school students, housewives, senior citizens, teachers, teachers, professionals, and small business owners took part, as well as strikers’ spouses.

Local 14 observed the restrictions of the court injunction on pickup picketing at the mill, limiting picketing to 12 per gate.

"Poison out! People in!" Chanting "We want [Maine Gov. John] McKernan, shut it down!" and "Poison out, people in," the militant community protest was the first such action since the February 5 leak.

The demonstrators, along with representatives of Maine’s numerous environmental groups, were cheered as they marched by a 100-person union hall. A mile later they were hailed by pickets at the mill gates some of whom had donned white coverall and gas masks.

"I am not sending my kid to school to die," Patty Finne said, speaking to the demonstration. "I want my kid in school sleeping knowing they’re going to wake up. We have a force field around this mill. It has to be shut down now." The crowd erupted in cheers.

The demonstrations brought news of the Jay strikers in the mainstream media, following the February 5 gas leak. The Jay strikers won a victory in early February when the Maine legislature voted to extend their unemployment benefits an additional 26 weeks just days after their first benefits expired.

In addition, Maine’s television network affiliates will be granting the union free air time to answer company anti-strike commercials.

The Jay workers are joined in their fight against IP by paperworkers on strike at the company’s mills in De Fer, Wisconsin, and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Workers are locked out at IP’s mill in Mobile, Alabama, as well.

Ray Rogers also spoke at the February 10 meeting. He heads Corporate Campaign, which is helping to organize solidarity efforts for paperworkers at all four mills. Rogers described the union’s “southern offensive” — a union caravan that will leave Mobile, Alabama, February 17 and travel through Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Some $15,000 was presented to the strikers from visiting unionists who attended the meeting.

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Toronto, Ontario
M6H 4E3 Canada

February 26, 1988 The Militant

The memorandum provides a summary of government- and employer-organized obstacles to workers' organization and administrative actions. Workers, therefore, would find it useful.

The U.S. government has engaged in widespread violations of workers' rights in its attempts to dictate how its political enemies conduct their personal and legal lives today for its right to continue to do so in the future.

Much of the truth about this has been revealed in legal cases in the United States. The government has engaged in the widespread violations of workers' rights in its attempts to dictate how its political enemies conduct their personal and legal lives today for its right to continue to do so in the future.

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trial labor movement in the late 1930s are increasingly being interpreted by federal agencies, the courts, and labor boards as "finished by these laws to restrict rather than advance union activity and the rights of workers."

U.S. courts have held that because in many plants owned rather than government property, they do not come under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Constitution.

Thus workers on the job do not have legally guaranteed freedom of speech or association, protection from warrantless searches, or the other guarantees found in the Bill of Rights.

Workers cannot publicize unsafe or illegal conditions in the plant and be protected from discipline by the right to free speech. They are not "innocent until proven guilty" while at work, and if fired have to leave their job before they can challenge the firing.

Constitutional rights are surrendered at the workplace door.

The protection workers do have on the job comes instead from successes in organizing unions and fighting to win rights standards through union contracts, and from gains won in laws that cover unions and workers. These protections are subject to erosion and violation by both the government and management to bring scabs into the plant, restrict courts and government officials from arbitrarily outlawing strikes by court injunction.

For instance, the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act was enacted to guarantee the 40-hour workday. In fact, as it has been interpreted by the courts and applied, it only guarantees certain pay premiums for work over 40 hours a week.

Many industries, such as auto, systematically require extensive forced overtime, curtailing workers' time for personal, political, and union activity off the job, and reducing their rights to safety and health.

**The Norris-LaGuardia Act of 1932.** This law for the first time in U.S. history restricted political and government officials from arbitrarily outlawing strikes by court injunction.

Nonetheless, court injunctions limiting the right to strike remain a central obstacle for workers successfully defending themselves against corporate takeovers and strikebreakings. Courts routinely limit the number of pickets the union can post at plant gates to a token few, allowing management to bring scabs into the plant, resume production, and defeat the strike.

**The Wagner Act of 1935.** This law, enacted during a powerful labor upsurge in which unionists around the country were competing for union recognition from employers and winning gains in wages, seniority rights, and working conditions, gave legal recognition to workers' right to union recognition. It made it illegal for employers to interfere with this right in certain ways, defined as "unfair labor practices." It created the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to oversee the implementation of the law.

Since the law was passed, the NLRB and U.S. courts have limited the legal right to engage in union activity.

2. Protected activity has been interpreted to cover only activity that is engaged in collectively, as opposed to by one individual, such as refusing to work in unsafe conditions.

3. The NLRB and the courts have increasingly restricted the objectives on behalf of which unions may legally act to narrow economic interests in their particular plant. Solidarity activity with other workers or broader union social activity are left unprotected by law.

In addition, the existence of the NLRB as an arena for union-company relations has provided an excuse to legally prevent unions from using their organized power to resolve disputes with management, derailning disputed issues into time-consuming hearings before the board, enmeshed in legalistic red tape.

This has weakened the unions' capacity to organize and fight to protect workers' interests.

**The Hatch Act of 1939.** Unionists employed by the federal government also face special laws barring them from any public participation in electoral politics. Under the Hatch Act, enacted in 1939, government workers are denied the right to run for public office and are forbidden from supporting the campaigns of other candidates. This law covers both government union leaders and rank and file workers.

Following the 1984 presidential election, the national presidents of three major government unions — Kenneth Blaylock of the American Federation of Government Employees, Moe Biller of the American Postal Workers Union, and Vincent Griesa of the National Association of Letter Carriers — representing more than 800,000 federal workers, were charged and convicted for violating the Hatch Act by actively working against Ronald Reagan's presidential reelection campaign.

Enforcement of this law, which violates political freedom, was carried through by the Justice Department even though the three union presidents were all on leave from government service while serving in their full-time union posts, and had campaigned against Reagan in that capacity.

**The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947.** This law, passed during the beginning of the post-World War II witch hunt, is one of the most notorious anti-labor laws in U.S. history. In form, it is actually a series of amendments weakening provisions of the 1935 Wagner Act.

These revisions include enacting a list of "unfair labor practices" that unions can no longer legally engage in. The bill outlawed working-class solidarity by making it illegal for workers of one company to picket on behalf of workers in struggle at another company.

Section 14(b) of the act gives legal sanction to state legislatures to outlaw the union shop. This law has allowed state officials to enact right-to-work laws, restricting union organizing in many states.

Section 301 of the act for the first time made union-company collective bargaining agreements enforceable in court. This gives management the right to sue the union for violation of the contract.

It is now routine in the United States that when unions are forced on strike in violation of a no-strike clause in the contract, the employers get a court order barring the strike and win monetary damages from the union for striking.

The Taft-Hartley Act made it law that union officials had to sign a loyalty oath alleging that they were not members of the Communist Party as a precondition for NLRB recognition of the union.

This provision, later overturned, reinforced the government's right to interfere in the unions and introduce political criteria for legal recognition of union organizations.

The refusal of many unionists to sign such oaths after the law was passed in the late 1940s was used by conservative union officials to expel a number of international unions from the CIO and to split and thereby weaken a number of international unions.

The act also authorizes the U.S. president to split and expel an international union for violation of the contract.

Government and courts continue to use injunctions against workers' right to strike. Left, 1978 protest by striking miners. President James Carter attempted unsuccessfully to use Taft-Hartley injunctions to break walkout. Court injunction limiting picketing in current strike against International Paper in Jay, Maine, aimed to enable company to ship strikebreakers into plant without meeting massive protest by workers. At right, pickets confront scab at plant gate.

It made it illegal for employers to interfere with this right in certain ways, defined as "unfair labor practices." It created the

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Antiwar Vietnam vets hold N.Y. speak-out

BY CAPPY KIDD

NEW YORK — Twenty years after the North Vietnamese Tet offensive, 15 years after the signing of the Paris peace accords, one week before the vote on President Ronald Reagan's contra aid package, nearly 400 Vietnam veterans and their supporters arrived to call for reconciliation with Vietnam and to oppose U.S. intervention in Central America.

Since Washington was forced to withdraw its troops from IndoChina in 1973, Vietnam has not known one day of peace. The U.S. government has carried out uninterrupted aggression against the people of Vietnam through an economic embargo and through support to reactionary armed bands in the region.

On January 30, Vietnam Veterans Against the War sponsored a "Speak-out for Peace and Justice," which included veterans, antiwar activists, and others.

Rally speakers called on the U.S. government to cease its economic embargo and to normalize relations with Vietnam. Having lived through the Vietnam War, these veterans part the fight to stop Washington from embarking on another Vietnam in Central America.

Barry Romo, national coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said that veterans have played and can continue to play in the fight against aggression.

David Dellinger, a central leader of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said that veterans have played and can continue to play in the fight against aggression. In Nicaragua as part of the Veterans Peace Action Teams, Willson said he had met more than 400 army veterans who were victims of the U.S.-sponsored aggression against that country.

Willson told the audience that a congressional committee had labeled him and other veterans "terrorists" and a threat to "national security" because they had "compromised the government of the United States to change its policies in Central America and advocating resistance across the country.

Restating his commitment to nonviolent resistance, Willson continued, "As long as my country continues its policies in Central America, I hope that every one of you will stand in a manner that is considered a threat to our national security."

Bob Harkness of Black Veterans for Social Justice urged his fellow veterans to take up the struggle against the blatant racist attacks that have been occurring in New York and around the country. Speaking of the worsening conditions of Blacks, Latinos, and poor whites, he stated, "When we fight back in this country we will see peace throughout the world."

Other speakers on the platform included Norma Becker, longtime peace activist and coordinator of the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, and Charles Lytken and Duncan Murphy of Veterans Fast for Life.

U.S. group opens new drive to aid Nicaragua

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

NEW YORK, N.Y. — A new campaign to ship more than $100 million in humanitarian aid to Nicaragua was announced by the Quest for Peace at a January news conference in front of the Capitol.

During the news conference, the scope of this effort was dramatically illustrated as hundreds of boxes of donated medicine, clothing, and school supplies were loaded into a 20-foot cargo container destined for Nicaragua.

The event was one of many demonstrations, rallies, and actions aimed at opposing U.S. aid to the contra war in Nicaragua in the days before Congress voted on the Reagan administration's proposal for an additional $60 million for the contras.

The Quest for Peace campaign to aid the people of Nicaragua is a project of the Quixote Center, a Catholic-based peace and justice organization in Washington, D.C. Last November, the $100 million goal of a similar aid campaign was successfully met. The figure was designed to match the $100 million Congress had voted for the contras in the summer of 1986.

The new Quest for Peace campaign is specifically aimed to help Nicaraguans with resistance efforts undertaken as part of the Guatemalan peace accords. Aid will go to thousands of Nicaraguans displaced by the U.S.-sponsored war, including Miskito Indians coming from Honduras.

The campaign will also provide help to towns and villages that agree to take in former contras who have accepted the amnesty program established by the Nicaraguan government.

As with previous Quest for Peace efforts, this material aid will be raised from hundreds of cities and towns across the United States. Many local solidarity, religious, and community groups have already pledged to fill one or more 40-foot cargo containers in the coming months.

Additionally, Quest for Peace will seek to raise $2 million to help fund small development projects in Nicaragua designed to rebuild vital infrastructure and services destroyed by the contra war.

This sum will be raised by establishing thousands of "Communities of Peace and Friendship" religious groups, Central America organizations, unions, schools, and community groups that will pledge $1,000 each toward the goal.

Maureen Fiedler, a leader of Quest for Peace and a prominent figure in the Central American solidarity movement, described the Reagan administration's push for continued funding of the contra at the press conference here. "They try to cover up the reality of their deadly policy with words like 'non-lethal' or 'humanitarian aid,'" she said, "when in truth the $60 million requested was designed to continue the killing of thousands of Nicaraguan civilians —- women, children, teachers, doctors, and those involved in development projects in rural areas of Nicaragua.

Fiedler pointed to a banner on the side of the cargo container parked in front of the Capitol that read "Elliott Abrams repairs containers." Abrams is the under secretary of state responsible for overseeing the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua.

"He is a key figure," Fiedler remarked, "in the Iran-contra scheme and the secret funding of the contras, operating through deception and stealth because the government's policies in Nicaragua are so unpopular."

"I urge Elliott Abrams, the Quest for Peace has always been completely open, public, and honest about its efforts. Unlike Abrams, we do not need for paper shredders," she added.

Other speakers at the news conference included Rep. Louise Slaughter from New York State; Frank Murphy, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore; John Linder, brother of the U.S. engineer slain by the contras last spring; Daniel Ellsberg, who, along with a variety of veterans groups, was fasting on the steps of the Capitol to protest contra aid; William Callahan, another leader of Quest for Peace, and the secret funding of the contras, operating through deception and stealth because the government's policies in Nicaragua are so unpopular.

"I urge Elliott Abrams, the Quest for Peace has always been completely open, public, and honest about its efforts. Unlike Abrams, we do not need for paper shredders," she added.

Pueblo palestino desafia salvaje represion israelí

El Salvador: desafian a represión israelí que acaba con la vida de la mujer, el menor y el adulto pobre en sus propias manos.

Nicaragua impulsa lucha por la paz

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If you read or are studying Spanish, there is a complimentary monthly magazine for you: Perspectiva Mundial. PM is a Spanish-language socialist magazine that carries many of the same articles you read in the Militant.

The February issue of PM includes an article about the changes in world politics and the role of the working class in these changes to shift capitalist development.

The article reviews a talk given by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, that discussed the past seven years of the ruling-class offensive against working people, and the international workers-class struggle that is necessary to wage an effective fight against the rulers' attack.

10 The Militant February 26, 1988

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Gorbachev sets date for Afghan pullout

BY FRED FELDMAN

Communist Party head Mikhail Gorbachev announced that Soviet troops will begin pulling out of Afghanistan on March 15, provided the Pakistanis and Afghan governments reach agreement on a pact by March 15 in upcoming negotiations in Geneva. The Soviet Union, under intense public and international pressure, has been under increasing pressure to withdraw from the war-torn nation. Gorbachev said that the withdrawal would be completed within 10 months.

The announcement, which was read on a nationwide Soviet television broadcast February 8 by an announcer who interrupted regular evening programs, called for a promises of reduction, withdrawal, and non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

He said the agreement should also include verification procedures, the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, and a commitment on the part of the opposition groups to cease-fire in the war.

The “international guarantees” sought by Gorbachev include an end to American aid, one of the key issues in the Afghan issue. It can only be resolved by the Afghans themselves.

Recent Soviet security officials had mixed reactions to the announcement. State Department spokesperson Charles Bartlett welcomed Gorbachev's “willingness to address” the question of a timetable for withdrawal. He continued: “Naturally, we'll want to see further details on the Gorbachev offer and consult with the Pakistanis on the matter.” Another official praised the Soviet declaration as a “major step forward” but voiced “great skepticism.”

Within days, however, some White House officials leaked to the press that they were raising objections to the Reagan administration's commitment to end arms shipments to the Afghan factions as soon as Soviet withdrawal begins.

UTAH LABOR, STUDENTS HIT ARYAN NATIONS

BY STEVE WARSELL

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah — More than 100 union members, with support from others turned out for a forum here to protest the racist Aryan Nations movement's attempt to organize in Utah. The event was held at the Union Labor Center and was sponsored by the Utah State AFL-CIO, chaired by its state president, Ed Mayne.

Speakers included Lenore Bush for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Curtis Sewell of the Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church; here: Lucy Malin, a regional board member of the National Organization for Women; Gonzo Edmonson, student activist from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; Merle Hannah, a member of the National Education Association; and Bill Wasmuth of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where the Aryan Nationalists base.

Wasmuth has been a target of Aryan Nations and other right-wing groups involved in the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, an organization set up to oppose the racist group.

The January 26 meeting was part of a tour for Wasmuth and Hanssen sponsored by the Utahans Against the Aryan Nations and a broad range of community, student, and labor organizations including United Steelworkers Local 2702, General, Utah; Salt Lake County NOW; Utah Diocese of the Catholic Church; and the state AFL-CIO.

At the meeting, Wasmuth noted that “peace in the face of the Aryan activity is taken as support at least. I accept that. I doubt that the people of Utah will have the strength to say we have had in Idaho because you responded so quickly with positive meetings of this kind.”

Merle Hannah noted that the Aryan Nations, like other racist and ultraright organizations, are encouraged by the extreme crisis. “Farmers who are looking desperately for solutions are given nothing more than ‘fight the Jews',” by these outfits, he said.

Hanssen also stated that government policies aimed against working people and promoting war, racism, and anticommu­nism are encouraging the ultraright groups to legitimize the efforts of the ultraright groups. One of the best ways to undercut this is to “organize and build solidarity with workers in other countries.”

Wasmuth and Hansen spoke to audiences totaling 750 people in their statewide tour...
IF YOU LIKE THIS RACIAL PAPER, THEN THIS UP US CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles
Art for a New Nicaragua. Speakers: Judith Baca, director of Spark (Social and Public Art Resources); and James Allen, who has done work in Nicaragua and the Soviet Union; Mike Aliev, director of Pathfinder Mural Project Union. Fri., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. Spark, 685 4th St., Zip: 90036. Donation: $5. Sponsor: Spark and Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

FLORIDA
Miami

The Legacy of Malcolm X. Speaker: Pat Hunter, Socialist Workers Party, member of the U.S. Postal Workers Union. Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. 178 NE 54th St. Donation: $2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

Missouri
St. Louis


NEBRASKA
Omaha
Call to Assemble. An 11 p.m. weekly educational series. Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. through April. 140 E 40th St., Donation for series: $1.50. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, Pathfinder Bookstores. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

Stockholm: War on Nicaragua! Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: $2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK
Brooklyn
Protest the Murder of Juan Rodriguez by Police. Sat., Feb. 20, Assembly. 1 p.m. Bushwick Park (DubKali subway stop). March to the Ghetto Precinct. Sponsor: Latino Coalition for Justice. For more information call (212) 767-9665.

ILLINOIS
Chicago

NEW MEXICO
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OREGON
Portland

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia

TEXAS
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Cuba: The Struggle for Freedom. Film and dis­ cussion. Speakers: Yusef Mgeni, Black political prisoner; Tony Prat, SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1384, 758-0408. Sponsor: Tony Prat, SWP, YSA. For more information call (212) 296-2710.

WASHINGTON
Seattle

WEST VIRGINIA
Charleston

Pathfinder Mural Project video, photos
The Pathfinder Mural Project: an International Collabora­ tion. An overview of the work in pro­ gress, including Nicaraguan artist Arnoldo Guil­ lèn painting on the mural and speaking. The video includes a brief description of the Pathfinder publishing house.

Pathfinder students at New York University. It is 15 minutes on 1/2 inch tape; VHS recorder or player needed for showing. The cost is $15. Also available is a set of 3 VHS tapes. The cost is $45.

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Pathfinder students at New York University. It is 15 minutes on 1/2 inch tape; VHS recorder or player needed for showing. The cost is $15. Also available is a set of 3 VHS tapes. The cost is $45.
Sure, and maybe break a few bones — to go over there two months ago, and I can’t get it back. I say the police should weld their stores.

Harry Ring

but so they come and bag us to open them.” — An Israeli resident of Jerusalem on the Palestinian merchants’ strike.

Continued from Page 9

to issue injunctions barring national strikes that he held to be contrary to the national interest. Such actions had been used against national strikes in the steel and textile industries.

The Landrum-Griffin Act of 1959. This act was adopted as a result of the McClellan Committee and was named after its chair, Arkansas Sen. John McClellan. The act provided a federal Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether such strikes should be added to the list of threatened and endangered species.

If the price was right — On those revelations about Ed Mezine’s role in the alleged bribe offer to Israeli officials to help push through a nuclear arms testing ban in the United States. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres pledged that if Israel did not receive the billions of dollars it intended to use future U.S. aid to pay for the repairs.

He’ll appreciate people’s problems — Thomas McNear, president of the Executive Office of the Senate, during a meeting of the notorious Sen. Joseph McCarthy to investigate labor violations.

The real purpose of the hearings was to find popular concern for government intervention in the union movement.

Workers’ concerns over certain practices and policies of employers were added to the list of official charges in the hearings to be used in the hearings to the McClellan Committee.

This intervention was codified in the Landrum-Griffin Act. This act extended the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, barring members of the Communist Party from running for public office, and placing unions under the threat of fines if they did.

The U.S. Labor Department was empowered to send its agents into union headquarters to investigate complaints about labor activities, financial accounts, union files, and other records; and regular general union proceedings, contracts and corporation ratification votes.

Under this law, the courts could order the closing of union membership from crooked officials, the act actually advanced government penetration of the unions. The unions were allowed to union business, weakening the capacity of the union movement to develop and organize to successfully combat attack by the employers and the government.

The result was that our unions lost the independence of the union movement, especially the industrial unions born in the massive organizing drives of the 1930s. While sometimes passed in the name of union interests, this legislation eroded the union’s role as a popular movement, and often made them work for the employers and the government.

The next day [November 18], another guerrilla band in any part of the country was_lien to challenge corporate power. In addition to illegal health and safety violations, many major industries organize to slash workers’ wages in the name of ‘productivity.’ In addition to illegal health and safety violations, many major industries organize to slash workers’ wages in the name of ‘productivity.’

In 1985, the last year statistics are available, a staggering 10,000 workers in the United States perished on the line. In 1985, the last year statistics are available, a staggering 10,000 workers in the United States perished on the line. In 1985, the last year statistics are available, a staggering 10,000 workers in the United States perished on the line.

Ongoing 10 and 25 Years Ago

THE MILITANT

February 24, 1978

February 15 — The events of this past week mark a turning point in which the longest national coal strike in U.S. history.

The National Union of Mine and Electric Workers, which had been involved in an ongoing labor dispute with the Union PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Corporation, voted to strike.

To end the strike, the company agreed to negotiate a new contract with workers.

The strike was called to raise wages and improve working conditions.

In 1985, the last year statistics are available, a staggering 10,000 workers in the United States perished on the line. In 1985, the last year statistics are available, a staggering 10,000 workers in the United States perished on the line.

On the beef line in this plant, where 175 carcasses are split every hour, the cows move 84 percent faster than it did in 1979, and over that time the injury rate has increased 76 percent.

Insist on a union label — Bleached steer skins have become a favorite workwear item in the leather craft and design industry. They’re a “weathered” piece of the American dream, explains the artist. The steer skins come from the meat-packing industry.

Never entered our head — “It’s not that shack of a house,” — Presidential hopeful Pat Roberson, explaining his opposition to government subsidized housing.

— AP.

What odds are they giving? — “Several analysts said the market is likely to remain skittish until China makes it clear it will resist the common perception that the market has turned into some kind of cash lending or speculating haven.” — AP.

Spuars individual initiative — “People not knowing what’s going’to happen in the next two months tend to look for ways and means to accumulate some money on the side, to save for a rainy day; some way to jump in fraud and embezzle many corporate mergers and shakeups.” — AP.

How U.S. Govt. employers violate workers’ rights

leader of this movement. Below is an excerpt from one of the statements, taken from the Colloquial Mirror.

The next day [November 18], another dispatcher reported that the commander of the Civil Guard and Police of Peru, Gen. Humberto Quea, was going to Quilpué, capital of the province of Concepción, and told the U.S. military officers to reinforce its military units and to prevent any demonstration by the people.

The next day [November 18], another guerrilla band in any part of the country was_lien to challenge corporate power. In addition to illegal health and safety violations, many major industries organize to slash workers’ wages in the name of ‘productivity.’

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Hands off PLO UN office!

The struggle of the Palestinian people for basic human and political rights has been a focal point within Washington’s plans to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization. This move is expected to be a threat to the United Nations.

It has also given impetus to efforts to reverse the closing of the Palestine Information Office in Washington, D.C., which was staffed by U.S. citizens.

The threats to close these offices are part of the U.S. government’s attempts to prejudice the people of the United Nations against the PLO. It aims to prevent us from learning the truth about the Palestinians’ fight for their land and rights.

As this morning’s television news shows, Palestinians refuse to be cowed despite the beatings and shootings by Israeli troops. And sympathy for the Palestinian cause grows.

For Washington — without whose financial, political, and military aid Israel could not exist — this is bad news.

Learning the truth about the Palestinians’ fight for their land and rights.

The U.S.-born Randolph has been the center of the fight against the army’s discharge of his homosexual orientation was unconstitutional. This is a victory for the rights of all to think, read, and discuss political ideas.

The move enacted in the closing days of 1987 imposes a one-year ban on the exclusion of noncitizens because of “past, current, or expected statements, beliefs or associations” that would be protected by the Constitution if they were citizens. It suspends for one year several provisions of the U.S. immigration law that were adopted during the peak of the reactionary witch-hunt in 1952.

Prominent writers who protested the order to deport Randall include Arthur Miller, Kurt Vonnegut, Alice Walker, Norman Mailer, and William Styron.

According to attorney David Cole of the Center for Constitutional Rights, who represented Randall, the INS officials conceded that legislation adopted by Congress in December effectively bars further deportation proceedings against her.

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Government can’t deport Randall

Officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service announced February 4 that they were dropping political views expressed in her books. This marks an important victory for democratic rights.

Randall was an active member of the international campaign led by the political views expressed in her books. This marks an important victory for democratic rights.

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U.S. invasion of Grenada: no great military feat

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The October 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada was hailed by President Reagan as one of his greatest political and military triumphs. A television show entitled "Operation Emergency Fury," which was the code name for the invasion, has been effective in winning support and appeasing critics in the United States. Democratic mandate, argues efficiently against Reagan's version of these events. It was part of the Reagan administration and was the fuse of Grenada. The program, which is based on former New York

IN REVIEW

Times correspondent Seymour Hersh's investigative report on the Reagan administration's violation in Grenada is as follows:

October 1983- an invasion that stakes in the Caribbean but U.S. national security, charged Reagan. He furthermore described Grenada as a "Soviet-Cuban colony being readied as the U.S. bastion to export terror and undermine democracy." The invasion voyage failed to adequately describe the tremendous social and political gains won by the Grenadian masses during the 1979-83 revolution. However, excellent film footage shows Prime Minister Bishop and several other Grenadian militants saying: "If the U.S. invasion force could be done, we would have invaded Grenada on October 25.

Cuban President Fidel Castro explained that Washing­ton's invasion was nothing more than an attempt to destroy a symbol by attacking a corpse. This invasion, he said, turned to the Jordanians, but they wanted the Israelis to have occupied the territo­ries. "What we must decide is, if there is an accidental nuclear explosion that wipes out this entire part of the world, what do we pass the cost on to the country?"

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try to get the strike at its 22 British plants


British Ford strikers ratify pact


Auto giant's European-wide operations hit hard by walkout


BY TONI GORTON


LONDON — As we go to press, Brit­

ain's 32,500 Ford workers approved a new

contract. They have been on strike since

February 7.

Ford officials from Detroit intervened to try to get the strike at its 22 British plants

settled because it was having a serious im­
pact on production at the company's other European operations.

In the proposed new agreement, the giant auto company accepted a two-year

contract, backing down on its original de­

mand that the workers take a three-year contract. Ford also dropped its demand for

inclusion of sweeping work-rule changes

in the national contract. Instead, the pro­

posed changes are to be taken up in local

negotiations.

The settlement includes an immediate

wage hike of 7 percent retroactive to

November. In the second year of the con­

tract workers will receive another 7 percent

raise or an increase of 2.5 percent greater

than the rate of inflation, whichever is

higher.

The contract also includes increases in

pension benefits and in benefits for work­
ers laid off in the future.

Most of the workers are members of the

Transport and General Workers Union. The rest belong to other unions.

The company's plan for its British plants

included complete flexibility to assign

workers to jobs. This would have meant

skilling workers being put on the line and

semiskilled workers being assigned to light

maintenance work without having their pay

increased.

Management also wanted the increased

use of employee-management cooperation

schemes as the "team concept" or quality circles.

Ford wanted the longer three-year con­

tract so it has time on its hands to drive

through the changes.

The vast Ford empire in 38 different lo­
cations in Europe was hard hit within hours

by the stoppage of production in Britain.

The company has tried to keep an edge

over competitors and increase profits by

cutting back on the amount of capital in­

vested in parts. Ford calculates production

schedules so parts produced at its British

plants get to other European operations

"just in time" to be assembled on the cars

and trucks as they pass along the assembly

line.

The company's Genk, Belgium, plant

came to a standstill within the first few

days of the strike because it could not get

the engines normally produced at

dagenham in East London. Production at the

Saarlouis plant on West Germany's

western border was also quickly cut in half.

A shortage of diesel engines produced in

the Haleswood plant in Liverpool led to sub­

stantial production cuts at Ford in Valen­

cia, Spain.

The national union negotiating commit­

tee appealed to the International Metal

Workers Federation for support.

Messages of solidarity came in from

many union bodies. A statement from

workers at German plants read in part, "We

decided to avoid any kind of work which

could endanger your dispute. We are well

aware of the possible consequences for us

such as a cessation of production or the re­

duction of our wages.

The large Transport Workers Union

local at Dagenham reached out for support

to workers in Britain and internationally.

They contacted unions and shop stewards

committees throughout Europe and in

Brazil, Canada, the United States, South

Africa, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand,

and Japan.

By and large, Ford has been able

throughout Europe to impose its demands

for three-year contracts with job combina­
tions, changes in work rules, and quality

circles and other employee-involvement

schemes.

Miners face challenge at Pittston Coal

BY CECILIA MORIARTY

NORTA, Va. — Route 63 in the

southwest corner of this state is dotted by

small mining communities.

Many mines here are owned by Pittston

Coal Group. On February 13, Pittston an­

nounced it would sign a contract

similar to the national agreement reached

with most coal companies February 8.

A four-person Militant reporting and

sales team has been traveling through this

area talking to miners and their families.

Two thousand United Mine Workers of

America (UMWA) members work at

Pittston's 20 metallurgical coal mines, some

of which are located in Kentucky and

West Virginia. The company employs

another 1,000 workers at its nonoper­
tion plant.

Four thousand more workers are

on layoff from Pittston.

The company cut off health benefits to

pensioners, surgery costs, and dis­

abled former workers just as its old con­

tract with the union expired January 31.

The UMWA leadership instructed its

members at Pittston to remain on the job

past the contract expiration while negotia­
tions with the company continued.

In the wake of Pittston's refusal to sign

the national contract the local press says

Virginia State police are dispatching spe­
cial units to the state's seven coal-produc­
ing mines.

UMWA Vice-presidential Cecil Roberts

has been quoted in coalfield newspapers as

saying Pittston is "looking for a strike.”

Roberts said the union has decided not to

strike and that it will keep union members

on the job and continue "to bargain in good

faith.”

Pittston has also hired Vance Security, a

union-busting outfit notorious for its role in

the 1984-85 strike at A.T. Massey mines.

Pittston officials have given these gun

sites the nickname of "asset protection

teams.” Vance Security is owned and oper­

ated by the son-in-law of former U.S. pres­

ident Gerald Ford.

"The miners want to work. It's the com­

pany that is causing all the problems. They

destroyed our environment, took all the

natural resources, and want to leave us

with nothing,” a miner's wife told us.

"If Pittston broke the union here, it

would hurt everybody,” another woman

said. Her son-in-law is a disabled Pittston

worker.

"They contacted unions and shop stewards

to workers in Britain and internationally.

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Ohio: 7,000 GE workers strike

to protest job combinations

BY VAL LIBBY

CINCINNATI — On February 16 the
giant Electric jet engine plant here was

shut down solid by a 5:00 a.m. walk­

out of members of United Auto Workers

Local 647 and International Association of

Machinists. 912. Their membership is

about 7,000 workers.

Picket lines of 25 to 100 workers at each

of the more than 100 plants in the

division were cut in half.

 messages of solidarity came in from

many union bodies. A statement from

workers at German plants read in part, "We

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