

# Protest the U.S.-British war on Argentina! March June 12!



British bomb explodes on airfield at Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley) in Malvinas Islands.

As the *Militant* goes to press, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is threatening slaughter in Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley) unless the Argentines give up their rightful sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

Ronald Reagan is backing the British imperialists all the way, providing mis-

an unknown number of British troops, have already been killed.

American working people are increasingly alarmed as U.S. involvement in this war escalates. It is the realization that exactly this kind of war could lead to the use of atomic weapons that is fueling protests against the imperialist nuclear buildup. British officials have, in fact, admitted they might resort to nuclear arms if the situation in the South Atlantic becomes "grave."

Working people in the United States and around the world must say no to the war on Argentina.

The demonstrations in New York and other cities on June 12, called to coincide with the United Nations second special session on disarmament, offer a giant opportunity to send a message to Washington and London: Hands off the Malvinas! Withdraw the British fleet! Stop U.S. aid to Thatcher's colonial war!

Every unionist, antiwar activist, Black rights fighter, and woman militant should be in the streets that day.

The stakes are big in this fight. The Reagan administration not only wants to help Britain crush the Argentine workers — as an example to colonial peoples everywhere — but Washington intends to use this war to deepen its own military drive against revolutions abroad and its war on working people at home.

The "advisers" and millions of dollars the Democrats and Republicans have sent to the Salvador junta have not been enough to stem the popular guerrilla forces there. Rebel forces are also advancing in nearby Guatemala.

Nor has Washington succeeded in pushing back the workers and peasants

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## EDITORIAL

siles, tanker planes, spy flights, and the U.S. base on Ascension Island to Thatcher's invasion force.

We are witnessing the most massive use of force by an imperialist power since Washington's war on Vietnam. More than half the British Navy, armed with nuclear weapons, is now engaged in the conflict in the South Atlantic. Thousands of British soldiers have been sent to the war, against their interests.

Hundreds of Argentine soldiers, and

## Aid needed as floods ravage Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN  
AND JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA — Hit by six days of relentless rain totaling half the amount Nicaragua normally receives in a year, the government here has issued an emergency appeal for international aid to offset massive flood damage.

The 34 inches of torrential rain undermined and in some cases threatened to reverse nearly three years of immense progress in employment, agriculture, health, education, and housing since the Sandinistas took power in July 1979.

"The scope of the disaster is the worst the country has been through since the destruction and loss of life in the war of liberation" against ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza, said Sergio Ramirez, a member of the Junta of National Reconstruction, on May 26.

A dramatic response to Ramirez's appeal for aid immediately came from revolutionary Cuba. Fidel Castro pledged that Cuba would halt its own construction projects, if necessary, to provide equipment and trained personnel to help repair the damage.

### Visit to refugee center

While busy helping to attend to the needs of some 3,000 homeless in one of Managua's main flood refugee centers, Sandinista policeman Mario Norori recalled how different this natural disaster was from the one Nicaragua last faced — the 1972 earthquake that leveled downtown Managua.

"When the earthquake came, the government didn't help anyone; they didn't even organize us to help ourselves," he told the *Militant*. "Now everything is organized through our Sandinista Defense and neighborhood committees."

Norori wasn't glamorizing the situation at the center. Everything was organized. Volunteers were working around the clock to provide three meals a day, medical attention, and sanitary facilities; and to keep the children singing, playing, and — most importantly — dry.

But outdoors, meanwhile, the rains would not stop.

In the western half of Nicaragua, the rains produced a human tragedy. Preliminary estimates are 100 missing or dead, 40,000 homeless, and known immediate damage of \$200 million.

### Worst storm in history

Yet even these figures do not tell the full story. As of June 2, whole sections of the country remained isolated by washed-out highways and bridges, making a full account of the damage impossible.

Agriculture, the mainstay of the economy, has been devastated. Losses are reported as "incalculable."

All agricultural work was paralyzed for a week at the height of the winter planting season. Much of the crop that had already been planted was washed away, along with tens of thousands of tons of top soil.

At least 30 percent of the plantings of such basic food crops as rice, beans, and corn were lost, as well as 90 percent of the planting of cotton, the country's main export crop. Some 60 percent of the banana harvest was also lost.

But Nicaraguan peasants are in a stronger position to combat the devastation.

tion of crops due to a major confiscation of idle land by the government early in May. On May 23 peasants from 17 agricultural cooperatives received nearly one-tenth of the 100,000 manzanas (1 manzana = 1.73 acres) of land recently expropriated.

These latest land confiscations have nearly equaled, at one stroke, all the land turned over to cooperatives in the first 34 months of the revolution of July 1979. And unlike the earlier confiscations, which primarily affected open

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## French and U.S. socialists condemn Reagan-Mitterrand war policies

The following is a joint statement by the political bureaus of the Revolutionary Communist League, French section of the Fourth International, and of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party on the occasion of Ronald Reagan's visit to France.

The president of the United States and the president of France, giving full

support to British imperialism's bloody war against Argentina, will meet in Paris June 5 to discuss their twin offensive against the toilers at home and the toilers abroad.

Reagan and Mitterrand speak in the name of peace, the better to be able to conduct their wars.

American imperialism has begun a new Vietnam war aimed at reversing the advance of the socialist revolution in Central America and the Caribbean. The U.S.-armed and financed juntas in Guatemala and El Salvador, aided by U.S. military "advisors," are waging war against the people of those countries.

A less publicized but no less serious war has begun in Nicaragua. U.S. imperialism is pressing forward its drive to overturn the workers and farmers government brought to power by the Sandinista revolution.

Fighting is under way on two fronts. Incursions from the Honduran border by Somocista forces and Honduran troops trained by U.S. Green Berets occur almost daily. On the southern front, Costa Rica declared a state of emergency aimed against Nicaragua, and in support of counterrevolutionary armed forces led by traitors such as Eden Pastora, with Washington's full support and aid.

Reagan is escalating his political at-

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## Court victory for Mason lawsuit

BY LYNDIA JOYCE

SEASIDE, Calif. — In an important victory for working people and their right to run for office, the Superior Court of California ruled May 28 that independent candidate for governor Mel Mason must be granted a leave of absence from his job at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC).

"This victory means people in California and around the country will have a chance to hear a working-class alternative to the Democrats and Republicans," said Mason. "It's especially important for the mammoth petitioning drive we are launching June 7 to get on the November ballot." (See box on page 2.)

Mason, a socialist city councilman in Seaside, waged a two-month fight with the MPC Board of Trustees for an unpaid

leave from his job as student activities director so he could effectively campaign for office. The board denied the leave and refused to reconsider, even though public sentiment was in Mason's favor. Mason filed suit against the board.

Judge John Anton ruled that Mason "has constitutional and statutory rights to not be unreasonably restricted from participating in a political campaign."

Anton wrote in his decision:

"The California constitution broadly protects such political activity. . . . The Education and Labor Codes recognize concerns with denying leaves of absence where First Amendment rights may be infringed."

MPC had tried to apply the Hatch Act, which denies public employees the right

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# Court upholds Mason



From left: campaign attorney Robin Maisel, Mel Mason, and supporters. Militant/Larry Lukeart

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to run for office, to Mason. The judge clearly overruled the governing board's attempt to extend this undemocratic act to educational institutions.

It is not known if MPC plans to appeal the decision.

At a news conference at MPC the same day, Mason declared: "This is not just a ruling for Mel Mason. It's a ruling for working people."

"We had widespread support for this case from the community, unions, students, and faculty — not only in Seaside but throughout the state. I want to thank them all for this collective victory."

Mason went on: "The unions are going to be inspired by this. It shows that the board and the bosses can be fought and won. Now when our unions at MPC go for salary negotiations, they'll ask for more. They're not going to be intimidated."

"When it comes to layoffs and cutbacks in programs here at the college, they'll take a firm stand. This is important for people who work at the college. They can actually take the board to the hoop."

Mason explained: "Our campaign stresses the need for a workers and farm-

ers government. There are farmers up in the San Joaquin Delta who I haven't had a chance to talk to. Now I'll be able to do that."

"I'll be traveling all over the state. But one thing I want people to understand is that I've taken a leave of absence from the college, but not from my job as city councilman. That's a job the people elected me to do, and in the face of budget cuts it's too important to miss a single meeting."

Robin Maisel, Los Angeles attorney for the Mel Mason for Governor Campaign, told the *Militant*: "We've won the first round in the battle to get Mason's name on the November ballot. Next we must gear up to challenge the secretary of state and others who will put obstacles in the path of having an alternative like Mel running for governor. We'll be ready."

Max Tadlock, president of MPC, refused to comment.

The mood at the college and in the Seaside community was one of victory. Tony Chester of Youth for Mel Mason said, "It's great, because it shows just how serious Mel is for standing up for working people."

## Help petition

Supporters of the Mel Mason for Governor Campaign will be petitioning from June 7 through July 11 to qualify the independent candidate for the November ballot in California.

State law requires 113,000 signatures on petitions, but supporters plan to gather 180,000, of which 22,000 were gained earlier this year.

Help is needed for this campaign by the Seaside socialist city councilman — for petitioning, publicity, fundraising, paperwork, and other tasks. To help, contact Mason for Governor offices in the following California cities:

- Los Angeles: 2546 West Pico Blvd., 90006; tel. (213) 380-9460.
- Oakland: 2864 Telegraph Ave., 94609; (415) 763-3792.
- San Diego: 1053 15th St., 92101; (714) 234-4360.
- San Francisco: 3284 23rd St., 94110; (415) 824-1992.
- San Jose: 46½ Race St., 95126; (408) 998-4007.
- Seaside: 1043A Broadway, 93955; (408) 394-1855.

## Reagan-Mitterrand war policy condemned

Continued from Page 1

tacks on the workers and farmers government of Grenada, systematically moving to isolate Grenada in preparation for future military moves against that country.

Washington is tightening its noose around revolutionary Cuba; escalating a diplomatic war, carrying out aggressive military maneuvers in the region, and in the latest move, once again barring travel by Americans to Cuba.

The French government — despite its false words of friendship and concern for the oppressed peoples of the Third World — ruthlessly pursues its own imperialist interests and policy.

Mitterrand stands shoulder to shoulder with Reagan in support of Thatcher's war in the South Atlantic.

In response to the threat of the extension of the Grenadian revolution in the Caribbean, the French imperialists have beefed up their naval power in the area, and have expanded French armed forces in the Antilles.

In addition, France is maintaining

garrisons of thousands of troops in Black Africa as a counterrevolutionary force on that continent.

Both U.S. and French imperialism are pushing relentlessly forward in the development and deployment of nuclear weapons aimed against the peoples of the world who are fighting for democracy and socialism.

Mitterrand is pressing ahead with research on the neutron bomb; expansion of the nuclear submarine fleet; strengthening the French nuclear strike force; and conducting atmospheric nuclear tests in the South Pacific, which endanger the lives and health of the peoples of that region.

The Pentagon is pressing ahead with its plans for deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe. This is done in the face of massive opposition that has led hundreds of thousands into the streets in protest.

Reagan is also implementing plans for development of the neutron bomb while U.S. officials issue statements about the possibility of a "demonstra-

tion" use of nuclear weapons in Europe.

This vast expansion of the imperialist's nuclear arsenal is financed by ever increasing war budgets, at the expense of the standard of living of peoples of the world.

Working people in France and the United States have no interest in these war policies, which threaten all of humanity. We have no interest in common with the capitalist class, whose interests these policies uphold. Our interests are one with the oppressed and exploited who the imperialists aim to crush.

We say, Not one penny for the imperialist war budget!

Not one person for the imperialist armed forces!

Jobs, not bombs!

U.S. and French military forces out of Central America and the Caribbean!

French and U.S. imperialism out of Africa and Asia!

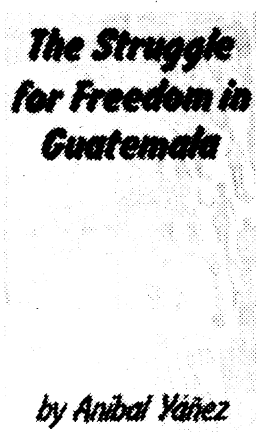
Dismantle the U.S., NATO, and French nuclear arsenals now!

The Malvinas are Argentine; with-

draw the British fleet now!

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## Free pamphlet with an introductory subscription to the 'Militant'



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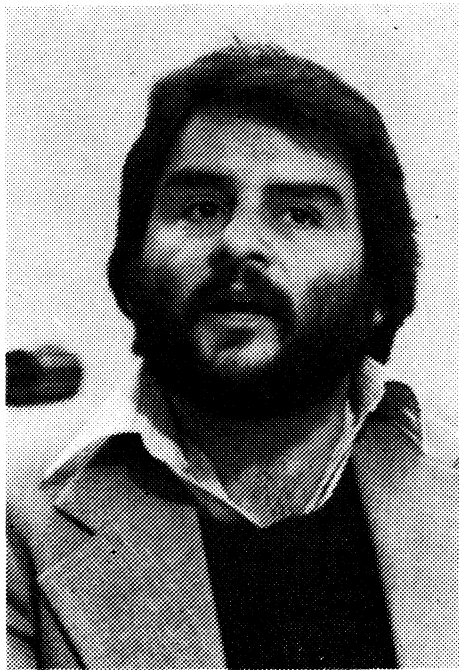
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# Bilateral nuclear freeze proposal is debated at N.Y. town meetings



Militant/Lou Howort

**Socialist Victor Nieto spoke out against U.S. wars at East Harlem town meeting, explaining why freeze proposal doesn't point road to peace.**

**BY JAN ARAGON  
AND DEAN DENNO**

NEW YORK — On May 25 "Town Meetings on the Nuclear Freeze" were held in 11 communities here. These meetings were sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility, religious leaders, Bella Abzug, and a variety of organizations associated with the Republican and Democratic parties.

The purpose of the gatherings, according to the organizers, was to discuss and vote on the following resolution:

"Resolved, that this meeting calls upon the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union to negotiate an immediate, verifiable mutual freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons, and mutual reductions of nuclear weapons and calls for the transfer of funds from the military budget to human needs."

The format of the meetings was tightly controlled by the organizers. This made a real discussion of nuclear weapons, disarmament, and current U.S. wars difficult. In most of the meetings, discussion from the floor was limited to one minute per person, and votes were not taken on any proposal except the sponsors' bilateral nuclear freeze resolution.

## **Antiwar sentiment breaks through**

In spite of these restrictions, the antiwar sentiment of working people in this country found expression and big support.

Antiwar activists from various organizations attended the town meetings. Women from the New York National Organization for Women (NOW) distributed leaflets for a forum on "Women, Nuclear Disarmament and the United States War Machine."

Members of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) circulated a petition demanding that Reagan stop military aid to the junta in El Salvador and withdraw all advisers.

They also passed out a leaflet focusing on the constant U.S. nuclear threat faced by those who are struggling for self-determination in Central America. The leaflet invited everyone to join with CISPES in the march on June 12, coinciding with the UN session on disarmament.

The freeze meeting in "El Barrio" in East Harlem drew an audience of 150 that was in its overwhelming majority Black and Latino.

Barry Commoner of the Citizens Party gave a major speech. After he spoke, discussion began, but no one spoke in favor of the freeze.

A representative of the Committee in Support of the People of Vieques pointed to the naval war "games" that the U.S. government has been conducting on that small island off the coast of Puerto Rico. These maneuvers are practice invasions of Central American and Caribbean countries whose people have rebelled against U.S. domination.

The speaker was met with applause, especially when he tied support for the people of Vieques to opposition to the U.S. wars in El Salvador and the Malvinas.

Victor Nieto of the Socialist Workers Party said that the freeze resolution put forth did not speak to the sentiments he had heard expressed at the meeting.

Nieto said that an effective resolution needed to deal with the causes of war; it needed to demand an end to the U.S. war budget; it should demand a cutoff of aid to the Salvadoran junta and to the mercenaries who are attacking Nicaragua from bases in Honduras, funded by Washington. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

## **Socialist literature popular**

Nieto and other supporters of the New York SWP election campaign passed out a brochure explaining the antiwar position of the SWP candidates. Many who read the statement returned to help distribute more of them.

A mile away in Harlem, at Canaan Baptist Church, the program was much the same. The audience of about 150 was nearly all Black. A physician gave a technical description of the destructive capabilities of a hydrogen bomb. The official speakers advocated a "yes" vote on the freeze.

In the discussion period, Glova Scott disagreed and argued for unilateral disarmament of the U.S. government.

Meanwhile, at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Chelsea approximately 500 people gathered in another meeting. Chelsea Against Nuclear Destruction, United (CANDU) was a major participant and organizer of this meeting.

# **N.Y. labor speakout discusses Malvinas war**

**BY RICK CONGRESS**

NEW YORK — Washington's wars in Latin America and their relationship to the nuclear arms buildup were discussed at a speakout held here May 19, sponsored by the Labor Task Force of the June 12 Rally Committee.

The theme of the evening was the labor movement's role in building support for the demonstration to be held here June 12 during the United Nations session on disarmament.

Bruce Birnbaum, coordinator for the June 12 Rally Committee, reported to the 100 people present on progress in publicizing and organizing the march.

Emogene Walker, president of the New York Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), spoke about cutbacks in social services and attacked the U.S. government's massive shift of funds to the military budget. CLUW is actively building the June 12 march, she said.

Dr. Leonard Lipson of Physicians for Social Responsibility pointed out the impossibility of humanity surviving a nuclear war.

The U.S. government was ready to use nuclear weapons against Vietnam in 1969, said Alvin Turner, president of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 205. Representing District Council 1707 of AFSCME, Turner explained that massive antiwar demonstrations in this country stayed the hand of the U.S. government.

Eva Chertov, a member of Transit Workers Union Local 100, spoke as a

After hearing from several Democratic Party politicians, the floor was opened up for discussion. Susan Jacobson, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, proposed a different resolution.

Jacobson said: "Every day the U.S. government drags the American people deeper into a new Vietnam. Millions are poured into Central America to prop up the brutal El Salvadoran dictatorship. U.S. materials and advisers are in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. U.S. advisers are aiding former Somoza National Guardsmen in attacks on Nicaragua. The U.S. is a direct agent in the British war against the Argentine Malvinas Islands.

"Growing U.S. involvement in shooting wars heightens the possibilities that the U.S. government will resort to use of nuclear weapons, leading to all out thermonuclear holocaust," she warned.

"The massive U.S. war buildup is being paid for out of the pockets of U.S. workers through inflation, unemployment, cuts in social services, and growing government attacks on the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and women."

Jacobson urged the meeting to approve a resolution stating:

"Be it resolved that this town meeting demand:

- U.S. out of El Salvador and Central America.

- Halt U.S. aid to the British war against Argentina.

- Unilateral U.S. disarmament.

- Money for jobs, not for war.

"Be it further resolved that this town meeting urge all New York residents to march June 12 to oppose Washington's wars."

## **Freeze lets U.S. off hook**

Two socialist campaign supporters took the floor and motivated this resolution, explaining Washington's active complicity in the war in the Malvinas. They spoke out against the freeze resolution because it lets Washington off the hook by failing to take a position on the real shooting wars that the U.S. government is involved in.

substitute for Kathy Andrade of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who was unable to attend due to illness.

Chertov spoke out strongly for the need to oppose the U.S.-backed British aggression against Argentina's Malvinas Islands. "This is a real shooting war, where the British fleet has nuclear arms, and has threatened to use them," Chertov said.

"Any disarmament or antiwar movement worthy of the name has to take a stand opposing such wars and aggressions."

Chertov also spoke to the importance of opposing U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and specifically the U.S.-sponsored raids and des-

# **Machinists local endorses June 12**

**The following resolution endorsing the June 12 demonstration was passed by Local 264 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM). Local 264 represents 18 bargaining units in the Boston area.**

**The resolution illustrates the strong desire of trade unionists to protest U.S. war policy and the potential to mobilize that sentiment in action.**

Whereas, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers endorses the June 12 antiwar/

In Greenwich Village over 400 people met at the Metropolitan Methodist Church. The discussion included a statement by a 20-year-old draft resister who urged all present to oppose Washington's war in El Salvador.

The U.S. government's involvement in the Malvinas war was clearly on everyone's mind at the freeze meetings. People were anxious to hear about the extent of U.S. involvement.

There was a general recognition that Washington was once again covering up with a media blitz of misinformation.

The SWP campaign newspaper, the *Militant*, with its headline "Labor's stake in stopping the U.S. war on Argentina," caught the attention of many looking for the right path to move forward.

Over 100 copies of the paper were sold. Forty copies of the *Young Socialist* and more than 20 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* were also purchased.

According to the May 27 *New York Times*, over 4,000 people attended the town meetings on the nuclear freeze. The vote totals were 3,316 in favor of the freeze, 42 against, and 51 abstentions. Due to the lack of alternatives on the ballots and the restricted discussion time, many young people left without voting at all.

These meetings were organized to avoid the real question that the people in this country must discuss — the imperialist war drive against the workers and farmers around the world.

The attention of the organizers of these events is focused on convincing opponents of U.S. wars to get Democratic Party candidates elected in November. Many meetings did not even focus attention on the June 12 demonstration.

Despite this, when socialists and others spoke to the real wars Washington is waging today and outlined the true dangers to world peace, urging support to June 12 on that basis, they got a very positive reaction. The response indicates that tens of thousands will march June 12 to oppose the U.S. warmakers and their aggression around the world.

tabilization aimed at Nicaragua.

"All polls show anti-U.S. intervention sentiment is high in this country," she said. "In building the June 12 demonstration, this sentiment can be tapped and linked to the need for the U.S. government to get off its nuclear arsenal. The threat of nuclear war comes concretely from U.S. wars in Latin America."

Chertov's remarks were very well received. She concluded by reading the text of a petition that members of Local 100 are circulating among co-workers. It urges the union's executive board to support the June 12 action on the basis of opposing nuclear weapons and U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. It calls for funding human needs, not war.

antinuclear demonstration at the United Nations; and

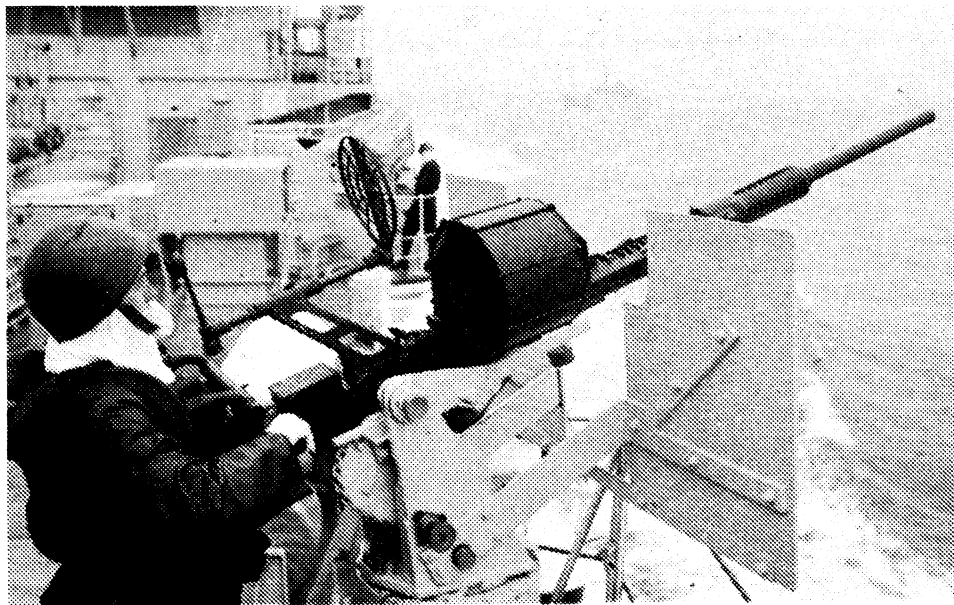
Whereas, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers is on record against U.S. aid to the government in El Salvador, and opposes a new Vietnam in Central America; and

Whereas, the June 12 march provides the opportunity to protest the war policies of the U.S. government;

We, Local 264, hereby go on record in support of the June 12 protest, and will publicize it to our members.

# Big stakes in British-U.S. war

## Reagan, Thatcher escalate imperialist aggression against Argentina



British gunner in South Atlantic

BY FRED MURPHY

British imperialism's escalating war to restore colonial rule over the Malvinas Islands has become a central issue in world politics. A major confrontation is under way between the imperialist rulers of Western Europe and the United States on the one hand and the masses of Latin America and the rest of the semicolonial world on the other.

Working people everywhere have a big stake in this conflict. Its outcome will greatly affect the relationship of class forces around the world, and above all in Britain, Argentina, and the United States.

### Massive military buildup

More than half the British fleet has now been sent to the South Atlantic, and a full-scale invasion of the Malvinas, involving thousands of troops, has been carried out. In addition to sending additional ships, British officials continue to raise the possibility of air raids against the Argentine mainland. They refuse to deny that the fleet is armed with tactical nuclear weapons. According to the West German weekly *Der Spiegel*, the armada's commander is authorized to use these weapons "in the event of grave circumstances."

London failed to achieve its aim of forcing the Argentine junta to surrender the Malvinas without a military confrontation. Instead, the pressure of the Argentine people for a serious fight to uphold the country's sovereignty has forced the junta to give battle to the British invaders.

The imperialists' goal in this war was to drive home to the peoples of the semicolonial world that it is futile to resist imperialist oppression or to challenge the world's wealthy rulers.

But what Argentina's resistance has already shown — even while the country is saddled with a reactionary dictatorship — is that the imperialists can indeed be challenged. They have already been made to pay a heavy price for attempting to reimpose their domination. Every British warship destroyed, every Harrier jet shot down, raises the morale and confidence of the oppressed throughout the world.

It is precisely because of this that Thatcher is more determined than ever to crush Argentine resistance to the reimposition of colonial rule in the Malvinas. London's determination to punish Argentina is reflected in its hardening diplomatic stance. The narrow opening Thatcher had left the junta for a retreat during the preinvasion negotiations has now been closed.

"We're not in the business of placating the Argentines any more," a top British official told the *Wall Street Journal* May 23. "There can be no truce," Defense Secretary John Nott told Parliament May 24. "Our objective is to retake the Falklands," said Thatcher herself to the same body May 25.

The Reagan administration is backing its British allies to the hilt. From the moment the conflict began, the U.S. rulers have echoed all of London's propaganda themes against Argentina — the importance of repelling "aggression," of "upholding the rule of law," of "settling territorial disputes without the use of force," of safeguarding the colonial settlers' "self-determination," and so on. Washington's political support for Thatcher's aggression is clear, and it would be so even without the slightest U.S. military involvement. But in fact, the Pentagon is playing a growing role in the war itself.

U.S. Defense Department officials confirmed May 27 that "Britain has requested and gotten hurry-up shipments of the Air Force's AIM9L Sidewinder missile for aerial combat," the May 28 *Washington Post* reported. "The same is true, they said, of Hawk antiaircraft missiles and steel landing mats for building temporary airstrips on the Falklands."

Other U.S. participation revealed so far includes the use of the U.S. air base on Ascension Island in the mid-Atlantic as Britain's staging and training area; satellite intelligence on weather conditions and Argentine positions; U.S.-piloted KC-135 tanker aircraft flying replacement duty for British planes in NATO operations; and other forms of logistic and matériel support.

Much of the actual U.S. role in the war is undoubtedly still being kept secret. Nonetheless, it is clear that the U.S. rulers intend to do everything possible to help the British imperialists restore their colonial grip on the Malvinas.

The reality of the U.S.-British alliance in the war is certainly obvious to Argentines. "No matter how indirect Washington may want people to believe its military support for London is," the *Buenos Aires Herald* said in a mid-May editorial, "Argentine victims of the extensive raids these [U.S. KC-135] tankers will make possible will be just as directly dead as if the U.S. had flown the refuelling missions itself."

### OAS breaks with Washington

Anglo-U.S. aggression against Argentina has evoked outrage and protest in many countries, above all in Latin America. Virtually all the continent's governments have had to respond to anti-imperialist sentiment by taking a stand on the side of Argentina. A key indication of this was the sharp diplomatic blow dealt to Washington by the Organization of American States (OAS) on May 29.

Meeting at the request of the Argentine government, the OAS foreign ministers voted overwhelmingly to "condemn most vigorously the unjustified and disproportionate armed attack perpetrated by the United Kingdom." They demanded that Washington order "the immediate lifting of the coercive measures applied against the Argentine Re-

public." And they urged OAS member governments to aid Argentina in the conflict.

Only the representatives from Colombia, Chile, and Trinidad and Tobago joined the U.S. delegate in abstaining on this resolution. According to the May 28 *Washington Post*, the meeting was characterized by "some of the most virulently anti-American rhetoric ever heard in the OAS." A speech by Alexander Haig "was greeted with only scattered and perfunctory applause," while Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Méndez received a standing ovation when he charged Washington with "turning its back" on Latin America and denounced Britain's "irrational armed aggression."

Three days earlier, Costa Méndez had addressed the Security Council of the United Nations. There, he made Argentina's case in the following terms:

"We are witnessing an unprecedented event of regression of history, with no other explanation but the British attempt to hold on to an outdated imperial system and world dominance which, with its grandeurs and its misery, belong to the past.

"Great Britain is sending to our coast two-thirds of its fleet with the intention of teaching a lesson to a nation which has dared to disturb the harmony of the old decadent international order and to exhibit before the world one more anachronistic example of colonial domination."

"The United Kingdom does not want to negotiate. Great Britain wants to restore, by force, a colonial regime on Latin American soil."

### Truth behind 'victories'

The imperialist news media — uncritically echoing the triumphant declarations of London officials — want to create the impression that the British forces on the Malvinas have been piling victory upon victory. Secretary of State Haig joined this effort May 25 with his statement that "The British appear to be in a position militarily to bring the war in the Falklands to an early conclusion."

Even as Haig spoke, Argentine jets were sinking another British destroyer and putting out of action a merchant vessel bearing helicopters and supplies.

The imperialists' victory propaganda is aimed at putting further pressure on the Argentine junta to yield. In fact, "Despite the confidence displayed in public by politicians," *New York Times* military analyst Drew Middleton wrote from London May 25, "no responsible British officer of any service considers the battle won."

After the heavy losses suffered by the fleet in Argentina's May 25 air raids, a BBC reporter complained that some Argentine pilots seemed to have "a kamikaze attitude." According to the May 26 *New York Times*, "Officials in London were disheartened by the continuing punishment inflicted on the British armada."

The British Defense Ministry has claimed repeatedly that the Argentine air force is being decimated by missiles and antiaircraft fire. "A great deal now depends on whether the British estimates of Argentine air losses are even roughly accurate," the *London Economist* noted skeptically in its May 29 edition. "In past wars such claims have almost always proved too high. If that were true this time, Argentina would be able to keep up the pounding uncomfortably long."

### 'It will become our Vietnam'

Another aim of the imperialists' assertions of military success is to counter suspicions among British working people that their rulers might be getting bogged down in an open-ended, Vietnam-style adventure, and among U.S.

working people that Washington is preparing to play an ever bigger military role. Neither Thatcher nor Reagan can afford a British defeat, or a lengthy, escalating war. But even if colonial rule is forcibly restored over the islands, they will still have to be defended. This could mean a drawn-out conflict and mounting domestic pressure for withdrawal.

"When British casualties start to outnumber the Falkland Islanders they were sent to save," the *London Guardian* warned in a recent editorial, "how long before the nation begins to ask, 'Is it worth it?'"

Protest demonstrations of up to 8,000 persons have already taken place in Britain, despite the warmongering of the Tory press and the abject refusal of the top Labour Party leaders to challenge Thatcher. Key trade unions such as the coal miners and railway engineers have called for the withdrawal of the fleet. The sentiment of growing numbers of Britons was reported by a *Wall Street Journal* correspondent who spoke with customers "at the Castle Pub in the Holland Park section of London":

"Jim O'Dea, an unemployed 34-year-old wallpaperer, points to an oversized vodka bottle at the corner of the bar, half filled with coins. 'We put our silver in there to buy the local hospital a kidney machine, and they [the government] spends 25,000 with each bomb it drops. It's a waste of money.'

"His mood turns resentful when he considers those who have died. 'I feel sorry for the poor bastards,' he says. 'All they can win us is a lot of penguins, and they get either a gold medal or a wreath.'"

"Mr. McGrea, [a] computer programming student, believes, 'If too many British lads are killed it will become our Vietnam,' a conflict few in Britain would want to continue."

### Imperialists paying high price

The Argentine government has withdrawn from Central America all the military advisers who had been sent to help Washington with its wars against the Nicaraguan revolution and against the liberation fighters in El Salvador and Guatemala. Buenos Aires also made known May 24 that it would pull out the 70 Argentine officers assigned to the Inter-American Defense Board at the board's Washington headquarters and Panama training school. During a UN news conference, Foreign Minister Costa Méndez described this as a further indication "of the deep freeze in our relations with the United States."

Some Argentine officers have begun hinting that they may find it necessary to seek military aid from the Soviet Union.

These political setbacks for Washington, combined with the military blows the British fleet has suffered, form part of the growing cost to the imperialist rulers of their adventure in the South Atlantic. The cost will go still higher, but Thatcher and Reagan can ill afford to retreat.

Giving in to Argentina's just demand for sovereignty over the Malvinas would run totally counter to the intervention by Washington and its allies in other areas vital to their global domination — such as the Middle East, Central America, and Southeast Asia. The imperialists must force their own working classes to provide the cannon fodder and accept the massive diversion of resources from social needs to warfare.

Clearly, the workers' movement around the world, as well as the peace movements in the United States, Western Europe, and Japan, have an urgent stake in staying the warmakers' hands. Actions demanding the immediate withdrawal of the British fleet, a halt to all U.S. aid to London, and recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas are on the order of the day.

From *Intercontinental Press*



# Black party holds speakouts on jobs

BY PAT WRIGHT

OAKLAND, Calif. — The National Black Independent Political Party held a speakout here for jobs and affirmative action May 1.

Jonina Abron, NBIPP Central Committee representative, opened the meeting by noting that it was International Workers Day, which marks the struggle for the eight-hour day. She went on to give a brief history of the important role Blacks played in this struggle through strikes, demonstrations, and other militant actions.

The NBIPP has launched a national educational campaign for jobs and full employment, with the focus on Black youth. The forum here was sponsored by the Oakland-San Francisco chapter of the NBIPP.

Other speakers included Eugene Williams from the Plant Closure Project in Fremont, California. A seven-year employee of the General Motors plant that recently shut down there, Williams urged the audience to become more aware of the interconnection between labor exploitation here and around the world, since many plants run away to other countries for cheaper labor.

Ellis Sheppard, of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 1695 at the University of California's Berkeley campus, spoke on affirmative action. He explained, "There has never been an affirmative-action program at UCB for nonacademic employees."

The university administration claims individuals have no right to grieve unfair, discriminatory practices. Since the union filed a complaint with the public relations board and launched a public protest, the administration has agreed to hear some of the grievances.

Also speaking was Milton Howlett, a member of Teamsters Local 70 and the Oakland-San Francisco chapter of NBIPP. Howlett was one of the first Black drivers employed by Fleming Foods in Fremont. He filed a suit against Fleming for their discriminatory practices and failure to abide by the contract, and against the union for complicity with the company.

Howlett won his suit and back pay, but the company later terminated him unfairly. Since then Fleming has been fighting Howlett's reinstatement.

Howlett urged the audience to fight these companies that discriminate against the very people who make them rich. The way to do this is to build the NBIPP and fight for all Black people.

BY OSBORNE HART

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In commemoration of Malcolm X's birthday, the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) chapter here hosted a community forum on the "Fight for Jobs and Income in D.C." May 19.

Responding to recent government figures citing joblessness at its highest since the Great Depression, Mike Alexander remarked, "statistics only reveal half the story of the impact of unemployment on Blacks."

Alexander, the D.C. NBIPP Labor Commission chair, shared the panel with Lester Cuffie, Black community activist; Bernard Demczuk, representative of the American Federation of Government Employees union; and Cheryl Frost, D.C. NBIPP cochair.

Alexander enumerated the effects unemployment and budget cuts are having on this city's majority Black population.

Some 30,000 jobs were lost in the city through Reagan administration "RIFs" — Reduction in Force. "Blacks were the first ones Riffed," said Alexander.

The panelists offered their views and exchanged opinions with the audience on how to fight for jobs in the nation's capital.

Outlining NBIPP's program "Jobs, In-

come, & Full Employment Now," Alexander explained, "It's everyone's right to have a job. A basic human right."

He emphasized a need to "build a movement to fight for jobs directed at the government and rich people" and added "NBIPP can be counted on to take up that fight."

Frost cited an example of NBIPP's potential to respond to unemployment and cuts in social services.

Last November, several hundred Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients were threatened with cuts in benefits here. D.C. NBIPP publicly opposed the cuts and challenged the city government's right to make them. The city officials have backed off for now on cutting AFDC benefits.

## Mexican socialist tours southwestern U.S.

BY DUANE STILWELL

Isidro Leyva, a member of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) of Mexico, the sister organization of the Socialist Workers Party, will be touring the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

As a member of the national election campaign committee for Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, Leyva will speak before rallies and press conferences on "The Mexican elections, a socialist view."



Militant/Miguel Pendas  
**Rosario Ibarra de Piedra is the PRT candidate for president of Mexico. A member of her campaign committee is touring southwest to explain how socialists view the elections.**

## Gay rights set back in Lincoln

BY JACOB SAYRAF

LINCOLN, Neb. — A citywide referendum to bar discrimination against homosexuals in housing and employment was defeated here by a margin of 4 to 1 on May 11.

The Lincoln City Council put the referendum on the ballot after it refused to amend the Lincoln Human Rights Charter to include homosexuals. The charter prohibits discrimination in housing and employment based on sex, race, or age.

The Committee to Oppose Special Rights for Homosexuals, a right-wing group established to smear the proposed amendment, spearheaded the campaign against the democratic rights of gays in Lincoln.

On May 9, two days before the vote, 200 people turned out at the capitol in downtown Lincoln to rally in support of the amendment. The Lincoln Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights and



**Unemployed teenagers at New York City youth agency. Mike Alexander from D.C. NBIPP emphasized need to build a movement to fight for jobs directed at the government.**

Rosario Ibarra de Piedra is the PRT candidate running in the Mexican presidential elections scheduled for July 4. As a leader of the National Front Against Repression (FNCR), Rosario Ibarra has been a prominent fighter for democratic rights in Mexico.

Rosario Ibarra is known in the United States from a tour she made to win support for the fight by Héctor Marroquín to win political asylum in this country. She has testified at Immigration and Naturalization Service hearings and provided documents to prove that Marroquín's life would be endangered if he returned to Mexico.

Since he was arrested by the INS in 1977 Marroquín has been fighting against his deportation. Marroquín is now a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party and of the National Executive Committee of

the Young Socialist Alliance. He is being persecuted by the U.S. government because of his political ideas.

The PRT calls on working people to break with the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party and form their own party, a labor party based on the unions. This would be a decisive step toward the establishment of a workers and farmers government, which, the PRT explains, is the only government that could achieve Mexico's definitive liberation from imperialism and solve the most pressing problems of the masses.

The tour for Isidro Leyva will begin in San Diego on June 3. On June 5 he will speak at a rally in Los Angeles organized by the Mel Mason for Governor Campaign. On June 9 he will be in Tucson, Arizona; June 14 in Dallas, Texas; June 15-16 in Houston; and June 17 in San Antonio.

## Protests hit racist L.A. cop's defense of murderous chokehold

BY BARRY SCHIER

LOS ANGELES — Calls for the firing of Los Angeles City Police Chief Daryl Gates continue to mount, triggered by his latest racist remarks.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has been using a chokehold that has killed 15 people, including 12 Blacks, since 1977. Defending the chokehold, Gates told the *Los Angeles Times* that the problem was "in some Blacks when it is applied, the veins or the arteries do not open as fast as they do in normal people."

Gates's remarks on May 9 came after the results of an autopsy were released on James Mincey, Jr., the latest LAPD

chokehold victim. Police claimed that Mincey, a 20-year-old Black, was high on drugs and dangerous when arrested. No trace of drugs was found during the autopsy.

More than 250 people packed the Police Commission hearing room on May 12, chanting "Gates must go! Gates must go!" Speaker after speaker demanded that Gates resign or be fired.

Those calling for Gates's removal included John Mack, president of the Los Angeles branch of the Urban League; Bishop H. H. Brookins of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Ralph Houston, president of The Gathering, a coalition of 250 Black Los Angeles clergy; Ramona Ripston, executive director of the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union; Los Angeles School Board member Rita Walters; and José DeSosa and other NAACP leaders.

Several speakers reminded the commission of the long list of racist and anti-Semitic remarks Gates had made during his four-year tenure as police chief, including his comment that Latino officers do not rise through the ranks because they are "lazy."

Both Gates and the Police Commission — all appointees of Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley — tried to defuse the anger of those at the meeting, but with minimal success.

Gates apologized for the fact that his remarks may have offended people, but refused to retract the remarks themselves.

The Los Angeles Police Commission has announced a six-month moratorium on all chokeholds. However, they added an escape clause, permitting use of chokeholds whenever an officer's life is felt to be "in danger."



May 25 picket against Reagan in Los Angeles.

Militant/Dick Roberts

# 7,000 protest Reagan in Los Angeles

BY DICK ROBERTS  
AND BARRY SCHIER

LOS ANGELES — More than 7,000 people demonstrated outside Century Plaza Hotel here May 25 while President Reagan addressed a \$1,000-a-plate dinner inside.

The mile-long picket line across from the hotel seemed to be dominated by "ERA yes" banners. There was a militant contingent of Argentines and supporters who opposed the U.S.-British war in the Malvinas Islands. Signs against Reaganomics, nukes, U.S. intervention in El Salvador, cutbacks, and the draft were also conspicuous.

At a brief rally following the picket line, the loudest applause went to Ron Kovic, the disabled veteran who was a leader of the anti-Vietnam War movement.

"Fourteen years ago I got put in this wheelchair because of the same people that are having dinner over there tonight," Kovic said. "We're not going to let them have another Vietnam in El Salvador, are we?"

"Over the next year we're going to fill the streets of this country and we're going to resist. You are the wave of a new movement. Never forget your power and strength."

Blase Bonpane, a leader of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), declared that Reagan "didn't mean to pull the whole hemisphere together. It took a political issue that was important to the whole hemisphere. In picking the Malvinas, he has pulled us together."

Bonpane condemned Washington for taking tax money "from our domestic programs, for the regional war in Central America. We want them out of Central America! We want our troops out of El Salvador! We want them out of Guatemala!"

CISPES sponsored a feeder march to the picket line, as did students from UCLA.

George Hardy, former president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) spoke on behalf of the AFL-CIO County Federation of Labor. Carol Jacques, also of the SEIU and of the County Health Alliance, blasted the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS):

"Reagan blames undocumented workers for the economy. He rounds them up like dogs. The INS kicks women and children and carts them away."

Other unionists were present from the United Auto Workers, Machinists, American Federation of Teachers, and the air traffic controllers.

Antinuclear activist Michio Kaku spoke, leading a long chant of "No nukes! Shut 'em down!" and "Money for jobs, not for war!"

The demonstration was jointly sponsored by the Federation for Progress and a committee formed by the County Federation of Labor, which had previously sponsored the September 19, 1981, Solidarity Day rally here.

The theme voiced by several of the action's organizers and speakers was to initiate a "Dump Reagan" campaign aimed at the 1984 elections. They clearly had "lesser-evil" Democratic Party candidates in mind.

Other rally speakers included Southern California American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Ramona Ripston; Alliance for Survival President David Lumian; Mark Ridgley-Thomas of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; lesbian feminist Ivy Bottini; and American Indian leader Russell Means.

Supporters of Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California and a socialist city councilman in Seaside, received a very warm response. They collected almost 700 signatures on petitions to place Mason on the November ballot.

## Aid needed as floods ravage Nicaragua

Continued from Page 1

supporters of ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza, the latest land seizures have involved idle or abandoned holdings, regardless of the political affiliation of the former owners.

In industry, more than 60 factories, most of them government owned, have been partially or totally paralyzed by the floods.

The *Militant* spoke with workers at TEXNICA textile plant, Nicaragua's largest factory, and at the Rolter shoe factory. The concerns of the unionists at these two plants reflect the concerns of most industrial workers. They are worried about shortages of raw materials. Where raw materials do exist they are concerned that road conditions won't permit their transportation.

However, unionists at both places pointed out that this was no time for tears. Now was the time to get to work.

And work they did. Volunteers from these plants, along with some 2,000 others, spent Sunday, May 30 — Mother's Day in Nicaragua — rebuilding part of the Pan-American Highway.

"Mother's Day had always been such a commercialized holiday," explained Roberto Wagner Aguilar, general secretary of the union at TEXNICA. "But this year we celebrated it with Sandinista work."

TEXNICA suffered very little damage because 400 of its 1,200 workers responded to an emergency Saturday night radio call to defend their plant against the floods. Workers spent the following Sunday filling and placing sand bags to prevent flooding of the laboratory and testing department.

TEXNICA produces 100 percent cotton fabric. Therefore, successful replanting of this crop is a life-or-death issue for its workers, as well as for those in two other smaller textile plants in Managua.

### Cuban aid

Workers from some 100 unions who have pledged their Sundays to continue repairing the Pan-American Highway were inspired by the announcement of massive Cuban aid to this and other reconstruction projects.

We have a few problems of our own, Cuban Vice-premier Raúl Castro said May 31, "but if we were reduced to a single loaf of bread, half of it would be for our Nicaraguan brothers."

Raúl Castro delivered this pledge in person as he and an emergency team of Cuban construction, planning, and health officials landed at Managua's Sandino Airport. The Cuban team will work alongside Nicaraguan officials to evaluate total damage and plan the most rational and efficient way to begin reconstruction.

In the countryside, the Union of

Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), which represents some 90,000 small and medium agricultural producers, has taken on the task of replanting the country's crops.

"Where we can no longer plant corn, we'll plant beans, which have a shorter growing season," the UNAG national leadership announced May 31.

"Where we can't use a plow, we'll sow by hand.

"Our worst enemy is time, and we have to throw caution to the wind to get production going again."

In the cities, the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), which organizes the great majority of the country's workers, has been given full authorization to take whatever steps are necessary to get production going again. Union locals at various production and distribution facilities have been encouraged to establish contact with other locals to track down needed equipment and raw materials.

"We can't wait with our arms folded for government ministries and management to resolve the problems," CST General Secretary and FSLN leader Lucio Jiménez declared May 30. "It's up to us to propose solutions to prevent paralysis of such vital industries as the production and distribution of food."

Among the examples to be emulated, he said, were the following:

- A delegation of workers from one margarine plant found a big stock of the raw materials they needed in the warehouse of another plant, recently confiscated from millionaire industrialist Alfonso Robelo.

- The oil workers union has undertaken the responsibility to examine possible alternative roads to the north, to see if fuel can be gotten through to power plants faced with imminent shortages.

- Workers at the Caracol grain-processing plant in Managua, who believe that wholesalers are deliberately withholding shipments of grain, have been authorized to use their own militia unit to help the Ministry of Commerce deal with uncooperative suppliers.

- The national CST has informed the Ministry of Commerce that if the present stiff fines and six-month jail sentences don't stop shopkeepers from illegally raising prices, the CST wants to know, "because the workers have decided to participate in the effort to stop profiteering."

### Legacy of imperialism

The flood hit Nicaragua as it was under siege by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries who have been carrying out raids for months against the revolution. Attackers have struck along the Honduran border, along the Costa Rican border, and deep inside Nicaragua as well. They have killed Sandinista sol-

diers, peasants, and teachers, and destroyed bridges.

As they combat the flood, the Nicaraguan people are confronted not only with this ongoing U.S. war, but with the legacy of decades of U.S. exploitation, which makes the reconstruction tasks all the more difficult.

Less than three years ago, when the Sandinista revolution triumphed, the new government quickly discovered how precious little U.S. puppet Anastasio Somoza had left the Nicaraguan people.

Besides a foreign debt of \$1.6 billion, the revolution inherited a network of roads, bridges, and drainage systems that was totally inadequate for even normal needs and weather. Shoddily built to begin with, and never maintained beyond a bare minimum, the entire infrastructure virtually collapsed in the torrential downpour.

American imperialism, the major backer of the Somoza dictatorship and the major beneficiary of its rule, had the nerve to respond to the call for aid with a shipment of food and a check for a grand total of \$25,000.

It is an urgent necessity for working people, for all supporters of elementary human rights, to demand immediate, massive U.S. aid to Nicaragua. Unions, churches, and antiwar organizations can also help by responding directly to the Nicaraguan government's appeal for funds.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, the Protestant Committee to Aid Development, and the Ministries of Health, Social Welfare, and Commerce have established an emergency committee to collect and distribute such funds.

This committee and the Nicaraguan people urgently need contributions to help recover from the disaster.

Funds can be sent to Account No. 418-05-1113-2, Emergency Relief Fund, Banco Nacional de Desarrollo, Managua, Nicaragua.

## How you can help flood refugees

In cooperation with the flood relief program of the Nicaraguan government, Casa Nicaragua in New York has made an urgent appeal to American citizens to help raise funds and collect supplies for refugees.

Requests for aid should be made to unions, antiwar and church groups, women's organizations, and community groups.

In addition to financial aid, Nicaragua needs antibiotics and all other kinds of medicines; hospital supplies; foods, including canned goods, rice, beans, sugar, and milk; 10,000 tents for refugees; clothing, blankets, baby bottles, and cooking utensils.

Casa Nicaragua has opened a special

bank account for financial donations. It is: Nicaragua Relief Account, Casa Nicaragua, No. 01033210, Amalgamated Bank of New York, 11-15 Union Square, New York, New York 10003. For tax purposes Casa Nicaragua is a non-profit organization with tax deduction number: Tax Exempt 13-3045101.

Money, food, clothing, and medicine can be taken directly to:

- CASA Nicaragua, 19 West 21st St., New York, New York (212) 243-2678.

- The Church World Service, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

Large quantities of medicine can be delivered directly to the Nicaraguan Consulate, 820 Second Ave., New York, New York.



# U.S. presses war against El Salvador



Salvador freedom fighters.

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Although it has dropped from the headlines, the war being waged against the people of El Salvador is still very much under way — and becoming even more brutal. Since the March 28 electoral farce in that country, the U.S.-backed armed forces have butchered several hundred people.

Yet this war is receiving scant attention in the big-business press in the United States.

Some commentaries have ascribed this to the outbreak of fighting over the Malvinas Islands, taking the absurd position that it is impossible to cover more than one Latin American "hot spot" at a time. But an article in the May 17 *Newsweek* acknowledged, "In fact, many news organizations had decided to end their on-the-spot coverage of El Salvador even before the Falklands blew up."

The explanation for this move is simply that the latest news from El Salvador is the kind on which the capitalist press would prefer to remain silent.

## Smokescreen for intervention

This news blackout comes at a time when the U.S. government is moving to step up its intervention in El Salvador even more.

The Reagan administration has asked Congress to approve \$60 million in military aid to the Salvadoran government for the fiscal year beginning October 1. The House Foreign Affairs Committee overwhelmingly approved the request on May 12, voting down several motions to limit or halt such aid.

Another \$128 million in economic assistance has been requested for El Salvador.

Moreover, according to a dispatch from San Salvador in the May 8 *Los Angeles Times*, "the United States plans to increase the Salvadoran fleet of UH-1H 'Huey' helicopters from the present 17 to 40 by the end of 1984, informed sources say."

"In addition, the sources said, a deal is being put together to provide El Salvador with about 12 airplanes — C-123 cargo planes, O-2 spotter aircraft and A-37 counterinsurgency jets — by the year's end."

One indication of how much the Pentagon is helping to direct the Salvadoran regime's counterinsurgency efforts came to light in early May when a group of senators asked the Defense Department for a secret report on the military situation in El Salvador. The report was drawn up by Brig. Gen. Fred Woerner, who headed a seven-member military team that spent eight weeks working on the study in close collaboration with the Salvadoran military command.

The May 5 *Miami Herald* reported, "According to sources who have seen the report, it is basically a set of goals developed by the U.S. military for the Salvadoran military leaders to deal with the leftist guerrillas they are fighting."

Because of widespread antiwar sentiment in the United States, the Reagan administration is having big political difficulties in pushing ahead with such interventionist moves. Prominent news

articles on massacres by Salvadoran government troops would not help.

The blanket of silence that has been thrown over the brutalities of the Salvadoran regime is designed to allay domestic concern about the situation in El Salvador and provide cover for Washington's next moves.

## Massacres and decapitations

While the White House and capitalist press in the United States look the other way, El Salvador's army and death squads have been busy.

According to information in the Salvadoran press cited by Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, at least 353 Salvadoran civilians were killed in April alone, and another 82 were kidnapped. None had been involved in military clashes in which guerrillas were present.

Noting the increase in violence since the elections, the archbishop declared, "I think that there are elements in the regime that favor this."

He also reported that some 100 children had died of hunger after they fled a recent government military operation.

Among those killed during April, there was an increase in the number who had been decapitated or whose bodies showed signs of torture.

In early May, peasants reported finding six decapitated bodies outside Moncagua, 80 miles east of San Salvador, and four mutilated heads in nearby Palón.

From May 2 to May 6, according to the guerrilla station Radio Venceremos, government troops killed 52 peasants in a sweep through five hamlets along the Lempa River 50 miles east of the capital. Some of those killed were elderly, and some were burned alive in their huts.

On May 13, eight youths in San Sal-

vador were kidnapped. The next day their bodies were found lying on a road. They had been shot at point-blank range. When parents of the eight visited Archbishop Rivera y Damas, they accused troops from the army garrison in the neighborhood of San Carlos of the killings.

## Army suffers heavy losses

The Salvadoran government troops, so effective in killing unarmed civilians, have proved less successful in encounters with fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

On April 25, some 4,000 government troops, including paratroop, infantry, and artillery companies, launched "Operation Torola" against FMLN positions in the eastern province of Morazán. Among the government forces were troops from the 957-member Ramón Belloso Battalion, who recently returned to El Salvador after three months of training in the United States.

By the time the army ended the operation, it had suffered heavy losses. The FMLN reported inflicting 166 casualties on the troops, and capturing large quantities of arms and ammunition. One of the commanders of the operation told Salvadoran newspapers that the losses on the government side were "numerous."

On May 5, the regime launched another offensive in Usulután province, code named "Operation Dueñas," which lasted five days. Again the FMLN reported inflicting heavy losses on the government troops.

The fighting in April appears to have been particularly heavy. According to the April 26-May 2 issue of *El Salvador Proceso*, a news bulletin of the Documentation and Information Center of the Central American University in San Salvador, "Local newspapers have reported the confirmed deaths of 230 military and paramilitary troops in April. This is the highest number that has been reported in the press in the last two years."

## Image problems in San Salvador

The failure of the Salvadoran military to hold its own against the liberation forces underlines the urgency, from the perspective of the American imperialists, to step in more directly to prop up the regime.

But this has been made more politically difficult by the gains of the ultrarightist parties in the March 28 elections.

In an effort to give the regime a more "reformist" image — and thus dampen some of the opposition to U.S. aid to it —

Washington had hoped for a victory by the Christian Democratic Party.

It did not turn out that way. The parties identified most closely with the ultraright and the oligarchy won 60 percent of the seats in the new Constituent Assembly, and chose Roberto D'Aubuisson, the head of the death squads, as the assembly president.

Concerned that direct rule by D'Aubuisson and his allies would evoke still greater opposition in the United States to aiding the regime, the White House stepped in to engineer the selection of Alvaro Magaña as president of the country. The U.S. press has tried to portray Magaña, a bank executive, as a "moderate."

But the course followed by the new government promises to be if anything even more bloody than that of its predecessor. In one of his first proclamations, Magaña categorically ruled out any negotiations with the FMLN. On the question of human rights violations by government forces, he declared, "The day that we succeed in a pacification of the type I hope for, the problem of human rights will end."

On May 18, the Constituent Assembly decided to scrap even the pretense of reform. It voted by 37-18 to suspend the U.S.-prompted land reform scheme, which, despite its totally fraudulent nature, had been trumpeted by Washington as "proof" that the Salvadoran authorities were concerned about bettering the lot of the peasant masses.

While embarrassed by such moves, Washington has no intention of abandoning the regime in San Salvador. So instead it is on a public relations campaign to present the regime in a more favorable light — including D'Aubuisson himself. The press blackout is part of this.

Appearing before a congressional committee in early May, Secretary of State Alexander Haig claimed that the new government was "broadly based." He maintained, "It is pledged to reform and is avid in the search for peace."

When Haig talks about the "search for peace," it means only one thing — more war.

According to a statement issued in May by the Mexican representatives of the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador, "The danger of a massive intervention still exists, and becomes even more necessary for imperialism as the crisis of the Salvadoran regime deepens."

That makes it equally necessary for opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America to continue mobilizing against Washington's aggressive moves against the Salvadoran people.

From Intercontinental Press

# Appeal for imprisoned Iranian socialists

Representatives of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) of Iran have been informed by an official of the Tehran Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office that a trial may be held on the cases of HKE leaders Bahram Ali Atai and Bagher Falsafi and on the legality of the HKE's weekly newspaper, *Kargar*.

Atai and Falsafi are partisans of the Iranian revolution who have been imprisoned without charges at Evin Prison since March. Atai was arrested three weeks after *Kargar* had published an extensive interview with him detailing the abuses he witnessed during a previous term of imprisonment at Evin.

Falsafi, who was responsible for printing *Kargar*, was jailed in the course of a wave of harassment against the newspaper by officials of the prosecutor's office. On March 26, that office ordered publication of *Kargar* suspended.

The official who spoke with HKE representatives on May 16 gave no date on which a trial might begin, nor has any formal notification of this been presented in writing.

Family members of Atai and Falsafi

who have been allowed to visit the two HKE leaders at Evin Prison report that they are in good spirits and have not been mistreated.

On May 18, Falsafi was transferred to the part of Evin Prison known as the "Educational Center." Persons due to be released are often moved to this section, where prison conditions are better.

The HKE has been carrying out a campaign to secure the release of Atai and Falsafi, and to regain the right to publish *Kargar*. A pamphlet containing articles and documents on the cases has been widely distributed to workplaces, militia and Revolutionary Guard units, and other institutions. HKE leaders report that organized discussions on the case have taken place at some factories, such as the Iran Poplin textile plant outside Tehran, where 1,000 workers are employed.

The axis of the HKE's defense work is to explain how attacks on the democratic rights of working-class organizations and publications weaken the defense of the Iranian revolution against imperialism.

Efforts by those who support the Iranian revolution and oppose imperialism's attacks on it can help to gain the release of Atai and Falsafi. Telegrams such as the following should be sent to Hojatolislam Mousavi Tabrizi, Prosecutor General, Islamic Revolutionary Courts, Tehran, Iran. Send copies to *Jomhuri-e Eslami*, Tehran, Iran.

"As a supporter of the Iranian revolution and opponent of the imperialist threats against it, I urge you to release the anti-shah, anti-imperialist fighters Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammed Bagher Falsafi, who are being held without charges at Evin Prison in Tehran."

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## 'Militant' builds June 12

In the week leading up to the massive June 12 demonstration, antiwar activities will be taking place across the country. These events come in the context of the stepped-up military support by the U.S. government for the British war in the Malvinas, and the intensified wars Washington is waging in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Discussions and debates around disarmament, bilateral nuclear freeze, and the issue of who's responsible for the wars going on today are widespread.

To better participate in these debates, the Newark branch of the Socialist Workers Party is planning a big sales week with

this issue of the *Militant* to build for the June 12 demonstration and get out the class-struggle perspective on the fight against war.

Newark socialists have set their sights on selling over 200 papers this week.

They'll go to the many political meetings leading up to June 12. Daily teams will be organized each morning and evening for community sales. Socialists will be at plant gates, in the garment district in nearby Hoboken, and on college campuses.

The perspective for the big sales week was outlined at a meeting of Newark socialists on May 31.

Nelson Blackstock, the organizer of the SWP branch, explained that by selling the *Mil-*

*itant* and its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, they are helping build the largest possible turnout of antiwar forces on June 12.

"We have to get out with our ideas on this important struggle," Blackstock explained. "It's only in the *Militant* and *PM* that people can be introduced to the approach of organizing the sentiment for peace into a movement opposing the real wars Washington is waging today."

## Help sell at rallies

On June 12, a gigantic sale of the *Militant* and *PM* will take place in New York and at companion actions in other cities.

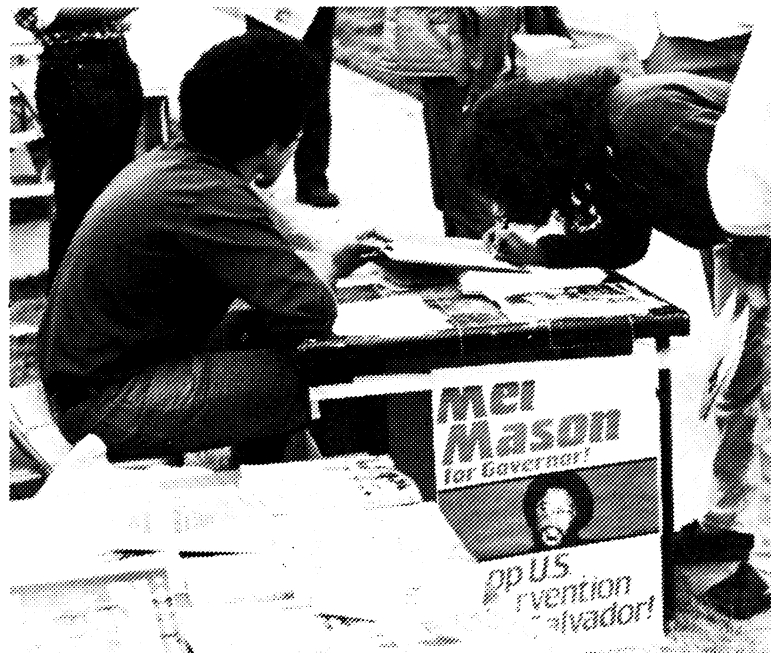
*Militant* and *PM* salespeople will be talking with activists on the buses and trains coming from around the country to New York.

They'll be mingling with demonstrators at the assembly site near the United Nations and selling to the large crowd at the rally in Central Park.

A literature table will be set up at Central Park, complete with socialist books and pamphlets, and featuring the *Militant* and *PM*.

Supporters of the *Militant* are urged to help on June 12. In New York, look for the *Militant* truck parked on 54th Street, just east of First Avenue, and for the literature table in Central Park. In San Francisco, call (415) 824-1992 to participate in the sales effort there.

— NANCY ROSENSTOCK



Militant/Dick Roberts

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Militant issue #20, PM issue #10)				
Area	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold	Total Goal/Sold	%
Denver	80/105	5/0	85/105	124
Lincoln	40/43	0/0	40/43	108
Phoenix	90/93	45/50	135/143	106
Schenectady	90/93	0/0	90/93	103
Louisville	80/82	0/0	80/82	103
Baltimore	110/111	0/1	110/112	102
Manhattan	135/127	30/41	165/168	102
Birmingham	90/91	0/0	90/91	101
St. Louis	90/91	0/0	90/91	101
Tucson	30/28	20/21	50/49	98
Toledo	50/41	0/2	50/43	86
Salt Lake City	90/71	5/7	95/78	82
Brooklyn	140/127	30/10	170/137	81
Gary	75/58	5/0	80/58	73
Portland	70/48	0/0	70/48	69
Iron Range	50/33	0/0	50/33	66
Atlanta	100/65	0/0	100/65	65
Newark	120/65	20/24	140/89	64
Milwaukee	90/56	10/3	100/59	59
Seattle	80/43	3/5	83/48	58
Harrisburg	50/24	0/4	50/28	56
Tidewater	70/37	0/0	70/37	53
Los Angeles	140/71	25/11	165/82	50
San Diego	40/20	5/2	45/22	49
Charleston	50/23	0/0	50/23	46
Cleveland	65/34	10/0	75/34	45
Wash., D.C.	70/30	20/7	90/37	41
Miami	60/20	10/2	70/22	31
Detroit	115/30	5/5	120/35	29
Cincinnati	70/20	0/0	70/20	29
Morgantown	70/18	0/0	70/18	26
Dallas*	25/5	15/5	40/10	25
Piedmont*	85/21	0/0	85/21	25
Oakland	60/15	5/0	65/15	23
Boston	140/30	10/0	150/30	20
Philadelphia	140/24	15/1	155/25	16
Kansas City	105/15	5/0	110/15	14
New Orleans*	85/10	0/0	85/10	12
Albuquerque	50/5	10/0	60/5	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,965/1,923</b>	<b>398/201</b>	<b>4,363/2,124</b>	<b>49</b>

Areas not reporting: Chicago, Houston\*, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Price, San Antonio\*, San Francisco, San Jose, Twin Cities.

\*Petitioning to put socialist candidates on the ballot.

# Polish workers strike against regime

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In factories, steel mills, and shipyards across Poland, workers downed their tools in a disciplined 15-minute strike on May 13 to protest martial law and to express their active support for the Solidarity union movement.

Coming after the large street demonstrations in Warsaw, Gdansk, and other cities on May Day and May 3, the strike was the third massive display of popular opposition to the regime of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski in less than two weeks. Called by a number of Solidarity leaders from different parts of the country, it was also the first nationally coordinated strike action since martial law was declared on Dec. 13, 1981.

While it is difficult to get an accurate picture of the size and scope of the strike, thanks to the government's censorship and restrictions on communications, the reports of foreign journalists — and the official radio and television accounts themselves — indicate that it was actually very widespread.

## 'Long live Solidarity!'

On the morning of May 13, which marked the beginning of the sixth month of martial law, the main newspaper of the ruling Polish United Workers Party, *Trybuna Ludu*, betrayed the bureaucracy's anxiety over the planned strike. Among workers at the giant Huta Katowice steelworks in the south, it wrote, "The word 'strike' is constantly turning up in conversations once again."

Precisely at noon, the siren at the huge Huta Warszawa steel mill in Warsaw began blaring to signal the start of the strike, and continued for more than 15 minutes.

At the FSO automobile plant in Warsaw, some 500 workers rallied outside the factory gates after the morning shift change, chanting "Long live Solidarity!"

Workers also stopped work at the

large Ursus tractor factory just outside the capital. One woman worker at Ursus told a reporter, "In my shop, the gears division, about 80 percent of the workers just switched off the machines and stood around." She added, "We are going to win."

The Polish Press Agency acknowledged that in the Warsaw area there were also strikes in the Kasprzak, Warynski, Nowotko, WSK, and other enterprises.

Simultaneously with the strike, several other protests were staged in the capital. Some 5,000 to 6,000 students rallied at Warsaw University, and smaller demonstrations occurred at the Warsaw Polytechnic, the Agricultural Institute, and at least seven high schools in a northern suburb.

In the heart of the city, hundreds of motorists stopped their cars for several minutes and leaned on their horns to protest martial law. Bystanders cheered and gave V-for-victory signs. Among those applauding was one uniformed soldier. When approached by journalists, he declared, "I'm a slave in uniform. I don't have the right to do anything."

## 'Extended cigarette breaks'

Strikes also took place around the country.

According to travelers from Gdansk, workers at the Lenin Shipyard — where Solidarity was born — struck for 15 minutes. Students at the Gdansk Polytechnic held a silent demonstration and buses traveling between Gdansk and its sister cities of Sopot and Gdynia stopped running.

Solidarity sources reported that in Wroclaw, where the union has a particularly well-organized branch, strikes took place in a number of factories. At one shop in a railroad car factory, only 20 to 30 workers stayed at their jobs. At the Dolmel electrical equipment factory,

some 200 workers struck. Workers at another plant distributed leaflets demanding the release of eight of their detained co-workers.

The Warsaw radio admitted "attempts to stop work in some factories in Lower Silesia," the industrial area around Wroclaw.

In various cities and towns, the government radio reported, there were silent demonstrations, the blaring of horns, and workers going on "extended cigarette breaks." At a cooperative in Zakopane, in the far south, workers decided to hold an exercise class.

In the heavily industrial city of Poznan, according to a radio report, there were "several interruptions in the normal rhythm of life," another of the bureaucracy's favorite euphemisms for strikes.

In Lodz, workers at the large Marchlewski textile plant — where a large majority of the workers are women — struck, as did workers in at least one other enterprise in the city.

According to a government source cited in the May 15 issue of the Paris daily *Le Monde*, Solidarity flags went up at noon in factories in the Bialystok region, and there were strikes in several factories in Pisz.

The initial Solidarity strike call urged workers and other supporters not to hold street marches or demonstrations, in order to avoid police provocations and attacks. Most protesters followed this advice.

But in Krakow, on the evening of May 13, some 10,000 people rallied in the city's old market square, carrying Solidarity banners and chanting slogans. The crowd was attacked by the motorized riot police, the ZOMO, with clubs, tear gas, percussion grenades, and water cannon.

Also on May 13, more than a dozen prominent Solidarity leaders and figures began a hunger strike in the Bialoleka internment camp near Warsaw.

A day earlier, on May 12, some 3,000 farmers rallied in Warsaw to express their support for Rural Solidarity, the 1.5-million-member farmers' organization that is allied with Solidarity.

These strikes and demonstrations took place despite the martial law regulations that outlaw all work stoppages and unauthorized public gatherings. In the days preceding May 13, workers were warned that they faced immediate dismissal and up to five years in prison for organizing or participating in a strike. During and after the May 13 actions, the police did detain or arrest nearly 700 people.

The May 13 strike was also a significant test of the authority of the Solidarity leaders outside of prison who are working to reorganize the union.

Unlike the May Day or May 3 demonstrations, which were either spontaneous or called by lower-ranking activists, the May 13 strike was called by the Provisional Coordinating Committee of Solidarity, which is headed by the union leaders of four key regions: Zbigniew Bujak of Warsaw, Bogdan Lis of Gdansk, Wladyslaw Hardek of Krakow, and Wladyslaw Frasyniuk of Wroclaw.

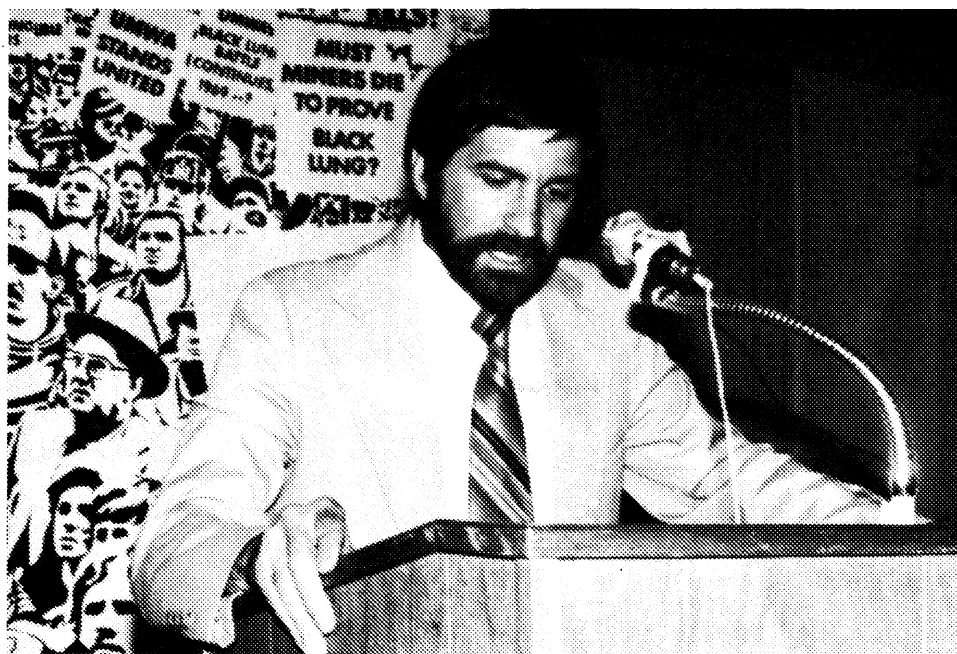
From Intercontinental Press

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Mark Zola, socialist candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, at celebration of successful petitioning.

# Socialist campaign celebrates in Pa.

## 43,000 signed for ballot status

BY ELLIE BETH BRADY

HARRISBURG, Pa. — In three weeks of petitioning, Socialist Workers campaign supporters gathered 43,000 signatures in more than 20 cities to put socialist candidates on the Pennsylvania ballot this November.

This is well over the 23,407 signatures required by law.

They celebrated their victory at a Harrisburg rally May 15.

Speakers included Socialist Workers Party candidates Mark Zola, for governor; Katherine Sojourner, lieutenant governor; and Cathy Emminizer, U.S. Senate.

Joining them were Joyce Miller, an antinuclear activist; David Nack, an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Cathy Fox, from the Nuclear Freeze Campaign and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and Dan Miller, a student who recently joined the Young Socialist Alliance.

Mark Zola, a member of United Steelworkers Local 1408, explained that the response to the SWP campaign has been so positive because it poses the only real alternative to the Democrats and Republicans in the 1982 elections.

He pointed to how the current administration of Republican Governor Richard Thornburgh and his cohorts in the House and Senate from both

capitalist parties have consciously carried out Reagan's budget cuts and his policies of war and economic hardship against the workers, farmers, and unemployed.

The rally's keynote speaker was Maceo Dixon, SWP candidate for governor of Georgia, who urged participation in the June 12 New York disarmament demonstration "to voice opposition to the U.S. war drive in Latin America and the threat which comes from Washington's nuclear and conventional weapons."

Fox also urged people to join the June 12 action.

A taped message was played from Mel Mason, socialist city councilman from Seaside, California, who is running an independent campaign for governor of that state.

Mason could not attend as scheduled because he had been refused a leave to campaign by Monterey Peninsula College, where he works.

Unionist Nack spoke out against the government's racist deportations of undocumented workers. He also pointed out that the Democratic and Republican parties present no real solutions for working people, and said a labor party would offer them an alternative.

More than \$1,700 was contributed to the campaign at the rally.

## Candidates pledge solidarity to fighting Missouri farmer

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Socialist Workers Party Pennsylvania candidates sent a telegram of support May 18 to Wayne Cryts, a leader of the American Agricultural Movement.

Cryts was in the Pope County jail in Russellville, Arkansas, for the "crime" of refusing to name other farmers who helped him repossess 31,000 bushels of soybeans he had stored in a grain elevator that went bankrupt.

A U.S. Bankruptcy court judge ruled that Cryts's soybeans, and those of other farmers, were assets of the bankrupt grain elevator.

The telegram to Cryts said in part:

"We salute your determined defense of the democratic rights and the standard of living of working farmers. Despite massive intimidation by the FBI, U.S. marshalls, local police, and the grain monopolies, you have inspired every worker and working farmer.

"Your refusal to bow down to the threats and intimidation of Federal Judge Charles Baker, and the bankers and big businessmen he serves, will further inspire your brothers and sisters everywhere.

"As you know, the working farmers of Pennsylvania are facing economic ruin. They are being squeezed by low prices for their products, high prices for machinery and supplies, and soaring interest rates. As well, working farmers in central Pennsylvania live and pro-

duce in the shadow of Three Mile Island, with its still deadly radioactive poison.

"As union members and socialist candidates, we stand by the tradition that 'an injury to one is an injury to all.'"

The SWP campaign also sent a protest telegram to Judge Baker, stating that by his jailing of Cryts he had "revealed to millions that the American 'justice' system exists to protect the interests of a tiny minority of bankers and big businessmen."

## 'Blitz' law ruled unconstitutional

BY JOHN STUDER

On May 14, Washington, D.C., Federal District Judge Barrington Parker ruled the "Blitz Amendment" unconstitutional. This amendment, enacted without debate by Congress last December, denies employment under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to "individuals who publicly advocate the violent overthrow of the Federal Government, or who have within the past five years, publicly advocated the violent overthrow of the Federal Government."

The amendment was adopted to reestablish the witch-hunt practice of denying jobs and benefits on the basis of political beliefs. Questions about an applicant's political views and affiliations

were inserted into all forms for government employment or programs. "Loyalty" boards were established to spy on applicants and their political beliefs.

The amendment's initial target, from which it got its name, was Dori Blitz, a member of the Communist Workers Party in Martinsville, Virginia.

In May 1980 Blitz had enrolled in a job training program set up under CETA. She had completed 600 of the 700 hours required to graduate when she obtained a leave of absence because she was pregnant.

In January 1982, after the birth of her child, she reapplied to finish her CETA training. She was found to be both eligible and qualified, but was excluded from the program because she refused

to answer questions about her political beliefs. The Virginia Employment Commission cited the amendment as grounds for barring her from finishing the program.

In ruling the amendment unconstitutional, Judge Parker found, "The legislative history of the amendment left no doubt that it was specifically intended to exclude Mrs. Blitz from the CETA program because of her political beliefs and affiliations and because she expressed those beliefs in her community."

The ruling resulted from a lawsuit filed on Blitz's behalf by the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (NECLC). It "requested a judgment declaring that the amendment infringes [Blitz's] right of free speech in violation of the first amendment."

In ruling for Blitz, Judge Parker found that the case turned on "the application of a well-settled principle of constitutional law: when government decides to provide a benefit or an opportunity, it cannot condition the grant on the surrender of unrelated freedoms."

Michael Krinsky of the NECLC applauded the decision, noting that in passing the amendment "Congress's real purpose was not to protect any legitimate government interest, but was a punitive measure against people who hold revolutionary views."

The case has received widespread attention, because if the amendment had been upheld it would have opened the door to broader bipartisan attacks on the right to free speech. Judge Parker's ruling is a setback to the rulers' campaign to deny government jobs, "security clearances" to workers in plants that have government contracts, and federal benefits on the basis of one's political beliefs.

Upon receiving word of the court ruling, Blitz announced her intention to reapply for admission into the CETA training program. She reaffirmed her determination to press the legal fight as far as necessary if the government decides to appeal Judge Parker's ruling.

"Obviously the decision is a victory, but the fight is just beginning," she stated.

## Farmers discuss grain elevator bankruptcy

BY SCOTT BREEN

FAYETTEVILLE, Ohio — Farmers and their families met here May 18 to discuss the effects of the closure of the Queen City Grain elevator in Cincinnati.

Queen City Grain, Inc. (QCGI) declared bankruptcy on May 6, citing debts of over \$2,000,000 and assets of only \$250,000. About 30 farming families held their grain there, worth over half-a-million dollars, an average of \$17,000 per family. Chances are, they'll never recover a tenth of what's due them.

Most farmers held "delayed-price agreements" with QCGI. This marketing agreement means that when farmers take their grain to the elevator, they give up title to the grain to the company in exchange for payment in the future, when the price is better. As a result, "Farmers have no security when an elevator goes bankrupt," according to Charlie Nash of the Ohio Farmers Union.

"In the last 10 years, 200-250 elevators have been closed or consolidated. Four million dollars worth of farmers' grain has been lost through the bankruptcy of 33 grain elevators," Nash told the farmers.

A lawyer described the bankruptcy procedure to the farmers, who hope to recoup their losses. He urged them to band together. However, he admitted that the farmers could only hold an "insecure claim" because they no longer legally owned the grain once they entered the delayed price agreement. When it finally comes to dividing up the grain elevator's few assets, this means the farmers are on the bottom of the creditors list, behind the banks and loan companies.

This bankruptcy couldn't have come at a worse time for Ohio farmers, who face smaller crop yields and reduced prices.

"It puts a person in a terrible situation," Edmund Motz, a lifelong soybean farmer, said. "It makes for an extremely difficult situation, and some farmers may lose their farms. This year, I really needed the money to buy the materials to put up that barn. We've got the walls half up, and that's where it will sit."

In a joint statement, Kurt Landefeld and Joe Lombardo, Socialist Workers candidates for Ohio governor and U.S. Congress, 2nd District, blasted the state and federal governments for failure to protect the interests of farmers.

"The government of Democrats and

Republicans," they said, "is criminally responsible for this crisis facing farmers."

"We call for opening up the financial books of QCGI and the banks for inspection by farmers and consumers. Schemes that rip off the working farmer, like the delayed-price agreement, should be prohibited.

"QCGI and any other grain elevator system that claims bankruptcy should be nationalized and farmers compensated 100 percent for their grain. None of the farmers who held grain with QCGI should lose a penny — the federal government should pick up the tab."

### Marxism and the Working Farmer

An Education for Socialists bulletin. Includes "American Agriculture and the Working Farmer," by Doug Jenness; documents and speeches by Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Fidel Castro. 62 pp., \$2.50.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 postage and handling.

# Nicaraguan leader discusses role of working class in revolution

The following are major excerpts from a speech by Commander Tomás Borge Martínez, Nicaraguan minister of the interior and a leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), delivered May 1 to a crowd of 100,000 people in Managua's Carlos Fonseca Plaza of the Revolution.

The translation of Borge's speech was done for *Intercontinental Press* by Elisabeth Reimann.

When we came from the Plaza of the Nonaligned to the Carlos Fonseca Plaza of the Revolution, we marched for a good part of the way in the midst of the workers, and on the way we thought back a bit about our past. And we thought a bit about the symbolism involved in our coming over in the midst of our workers. We did not come at the head of the workers, we came in the midst of the workers, with the working class at the front of the march, heading north, but not toward the brutal and stormy north, but rather toward the north of the revolution.

But we were thinking of something else. The crowd was so compressed, the mass of workers was so compact and so combative that if Daniel [Ortega] and I had wanted to turn back — something that will never happen — this mass of workers would never have allowed us to take a step backward. [APPLAUSE]

This is not a May Day like any other. It is a May Day where there have been important qualitative leaps within the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. We have assembled not merely to speak of the struggle of Nicaraguan workers, but to draw lessons from this struggle. We have assembled to specify more exactly the role of the working class within the revolution.

The struggle of the working class has been long, complex, full of sacrifice and martyrdom. You, the workers, know very well the enormous difficulties that the working class has suffered, all the workers in general, all our people, in order to achieve their liberation. The struggle of the working class has been as long as its own history.

At what moment does the working class appear in the history of humanity? Because the working class has not existed always. When man appeared upon the earth, the scarcity of material resources, cultural poverty, the extraordinary limitations of that historical moment, forced man to live in a state of community, but one that was completely primitive; they produced no wealth for the sake of which some men would fight other men. When work tools were developed and men began to produce some wealth in excess of the bare needs of survival, some men enslaved other men, and for very many years there were masters and slaves. The slaves rebelled against the masters, and when slavery, in its fundamental form, disappeared, a new society emerged: the society of the great landowners. The society of kings, of barons, the lords who wielded power over life and death. This was called feudal society, just as the previous society had been called slave society.

## Working class emerges

Little by little, within this feudal society, manufacturing production, mercantile production developed, and the foundations of what later would become great industry began to be built up. In order to enrich themselves, the owners of this new system of production, the owners of the factories, began to exploit the labor force capable of producing this wealth. This labor force was composed of the factory workers, that is to say, what is called the working class. There

were great movements in Europe and the French Revolution is the climax of the revolution of the owners of these factories, the revolution of the bourgeoisie; and it is within bourgeois society, therefore, that the working class emerges, the most revolutionary class in history.

The bourgeoisie then gave rise to a society full of illusions and beautiful phrases. It spoke of liberty and fraternity. It gave rise to a bureaucracy, a police, and an army, which were presented as instruments serving society as a whole. But these illusions of all kinds — including the legal, moral and political illusions forged by the bourgeoisie — collapsed when confronted by the reality and by the essence of bourgeois exploitation. When in a bourgeois society, for instance, the workers ask for an improvement in their wages, when the peasants lay claim to the land, the police and the army of the bourgeoisie turn into instruments of repression.

You, workers of Nicaragua, saw it in daily practice during the bourgeois regime of Somozaism. When the workers rose up in strikes and marched in the streets demanding better living conditions, when the peasants energetically claimed the land, the National Guard, an instrument of the bourgeoisie, did not stop to ask whether the industrialist or the landowner affected by the workers' struggle was a Liberal or a Conservative, pro-Somoza or anti-Somoza, whether or not they belonged to the so-called opposition bourgeoisie. In order to defend the interests of the rich, the National Guard repressed the rural workers, the workers in the cities, and the peasants, even though these forces sometimes mistakenly tried to defend themselves against repression by declaring themselves to be Liberals and even Somozaists.

What does this prove? That the National Guard had a chief, Somoza, but that its job was to defend certain social classes, regardless of their political coloration or their religious beliefs; that is to say, it was at the service of the industrialists and the landowners.

## Who is complaining?

What happens now? What is the difference between yesterday and today? Who are the ones who complain about the Sandinista People's Army (EPS), the Sandinista Police, the organs of State Security — apart from some justified

complaints against isolated cases of abuse which, though less each day, unfortunately are still committed? Who are the ones who complain? Do you complain against our glorious EPS [SHOUTS OF "NO!"] against our ever more efficient Sandinista Police ["NO!"], against our self-sacrificing comrades from State Security? ["NO!"] Who are the ones who are complaining? [SHOUTS OF "THE BOURGEOISIE!"]

Is it the peasants and the workers? No. Those who complain are the ones who in the past had an unrestricted instrument for repressing workers and peasants; those who complain are the great landowners and the big industrialists and the tiny groups that still allow themselves to be confused by counterrevolutionary preaching. [APPLAUSE] And the reason is very simple. While yesterday the industrialists and the landowners had an army and a police like the National Guard and an Office of Security serving their interests, today the workers and the peasants, all the working people, the ordinary people of Nicaragua, have at their wholehearted service the Sandinista People's Army, the Sandinista Police, and the Organs of State Security. [APPLAUSE AND CHANTS OF "ONE SINGLE ARMY!"]

One would really have to be an idiot or a victim of delusion, or both things at once, to ask for the support of the people in order to give back the lands that were taken away from the landowners, or to return the holdings that were confiscated from the Somozaists.

One would really have to be an idiot or an evil person, or both things at once, not to realize that our people have gained awareness of their real history, that our workers have gained awareness of the class they belong to.

## Proletariat is the revolutionary class

Because the proletariat does not gain class consciousness spontaneously. The proletariat is, without a doubt, the most revolutionary class in history. But it gains this awareness only when it comes into intimate contact with revolutionary theory and practice. At certain stages, the working class may be confused by the illusions sown by bourgeois propaganda. The false bourgeois saying, the false bourgeois principle that all men are equal before bourgeois law, can only be refuted when it comes into conflict with practice and through the



Intercontinental Press  
Tomás Borge (center) explained that Heroes are the workers, who labor s

knowledge of revolutionary theory.

The working class, during its lengthy struggle, has learned and continues learning from its mistakes and its failures. During the development of its struggles it discovered new forms of political combat, forms that go much further than the just demands for more humane working hours, better wages, and better social conditions. Nevertheless, many times the working class has been guilty of economist errors, meaning that it has raised, as a final goal, the achievement of economic demands. In a society of exploitation, it is absolutely justified that the workers should struggle for economic demands; but it can never be correct that the workers should forget their political struggles and their political goals, even under a regime of exploitation.

In a society where, as in Nicaragua, the power of imperialism and of the bourgeoisie has been decapitated, it is correct that the workers should continue putting forward their economic demands. But to struggle for economic demands, and leave in a secondary place the consolidation of their political power as a social class, would mean going against common sense and against history.

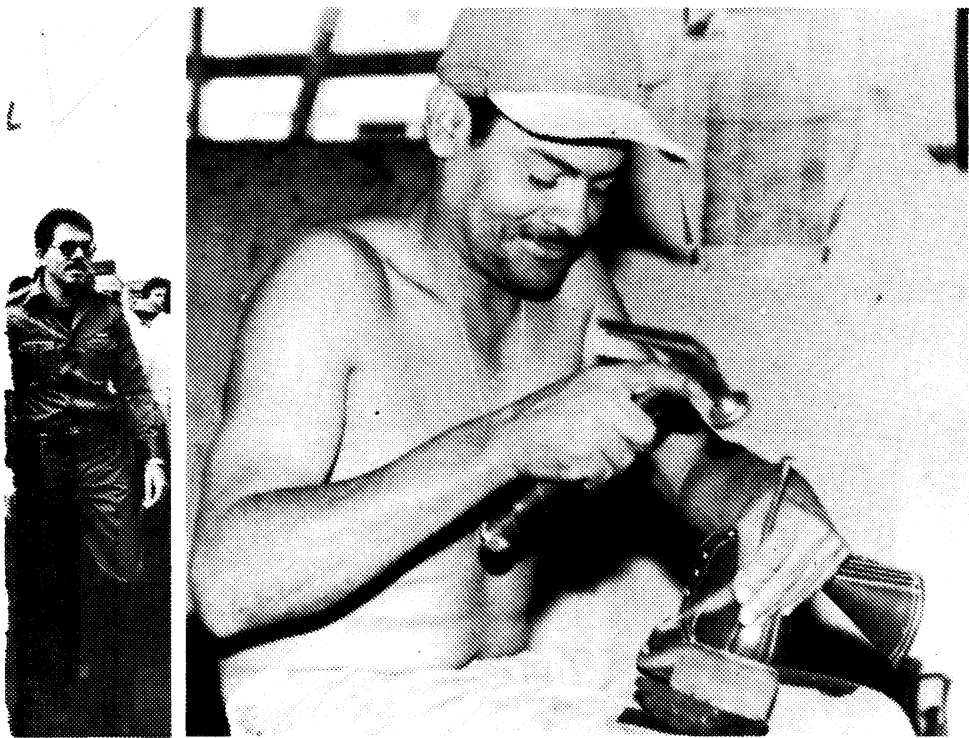
This means that, at the present moment of our history, when the rule of bourgeois and imperialist exploitation has been eliminated forever in Nicaragua, the fundamental duty is and should be the consolidation of their power within the revolution.

A revolutionary process is made up of various phases. During the first phase of national liberation, which in Nicaragua was the war against the Na-



Intercontinental Press/Arnold Weissberg  
Salvadoran refugee center in Nicaragua. "Our workers must educate themselves in the idea that our revolution would stop being a revolution, if it did not think in terms of solidarity with other brother peoples of the world."





Press/Jane Harris

Intercontinental Press/Arnold Weissberg

orkers of Nicaragua would "never allow us to take a step backward. . . lessly to increase production."

tional Guard and the domination of the Somozaist bourgeoisie, the working class and the vanguard that represented its historical interests drew together other sectors and strata of society. At that moment it was correct to form a broad national unity to achieve a goal that was common to all our society: to get rid of a regime that was both criminal and ready to deliver our riches to foreign interests. And this regime was, at the same time, a gigantic obstacle to the historical development of our country.

#### New phase of revolution

With the victory of the revolution, a new phase begins. It is still necessary to unite the widest possible strata of Nicaraguan society to confront the common enemy of all Nicaraguans, which is U.S. imperialism. This means that this new phase, after victory, puts the main emphasis on the defense of the nation, on the struggle to have our national sovereignty respected, on the right of self-determination and on the need to unite all Nicaraguan patriots to confront a huge and cruel enemy.

But in this new phase, serious internal contradictions begin to come to the surface, when the revolution is forced — by its own dynamic and to remain in harmony with the political, economic, and social principles that were its reason for being — to determine which social sectors shall be given priority within the revolutionary process. Our people already know who the privileged ones were yesterday, and our people already know which classes have priority today, for whom this revolution was made.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to maintain national unity with wide sectors of our society, including those sectors of the bourgeoisie who are ready to work in a common cause with the workers, in production and in the defense of the sovereignty of our homeland.

This new phase, however, is extraordinarily complex, because on one side we have the interests of the workers and peasants, the backbone of the revolution. And on the other side there are those capitalist sectors that the revolution wants to keep on its side, even giving them economic incentives. But at the same time these sectors are torn apart by the dashing of their political hopes, and because the umbilical cord that ties them to imperialism, due to their anti-patriotic traditions, refuses to disappear.

#### Will capitalists develop country?

But, is it possible that some industrial or capitalist sectors linked to agricultural production might be able to cut that umbilical cord? Is it possible that these social sectors might be capable of understanding that the guiding axis of the new society is the workers? Does the possibility exist that they might give up their political expectations and utilize

their experience and capabilities to work for the benefit of production linked to development of the country as a whole?

Experience tells us that on one hand, a certain number of elements belonging to these social groups cannot resign themselves to the new reality, and that even within the revolution, there are those who believed that ultimately the dreams of the workers and peasants would end in a nightmare and the dreams of the bosses as a class would end in paradise.

Experience has also shown that there are capitalist sectors who are ready to work with the revolution, and that broad middle strata and the majority of small and medium agricultural producers have incorporated themselves into the revolutionary process.

Within the first group, there are those who had illusions about the nature of the revolution, but who eventually realized that the revolution was not made in order to satisfy their hunger for power, their poor and sad aspirations for power. Among them there are also those who were incapable of realizing that the real stars are not those sewn on uniforms but those that shine in the heavens.

There have been many great deeds in the grand and glorious history of our homeland. In all these great deeds, the protagonist was the Nicaraguan people, and, of course, we shall not forget our heroes because that would not be right. But heroes are nothing more than the instrument of the masses to make history.

I would rather not even mention, because he may be present here, that young man who defied imperialism on its own soil.<sup>1</sup> But I should like to hear one single witness who ever heard him boasting of his feat. He has simply accepted it as part of his revolutionary duty and because he is aware that there are tens of thousands of young Nicaraguans who, like himself, are capable of adopting the same attitude when confronted with imperialism. [APPLAUSE]

#### Nicaragua's heroes

Is there not even greater heroism in work? Heroes are the workers, who labor selflessly to increase production; heroes are the peasants, who under our pitiless sun now work not only for themselves but to satisfy the needs of the country. Heroes are the comrades who work until late at night; while the brightly lit windows of their offices fall like a weight upon their eyes. Prevailing against sleep and fatigue, they con-

1. Orlando Tardencilla, a 19-year-old Nicaraguan captured fighting alongside the guerrillas in El Salvador, was brought to Washington to testify that Nicaraguans and Cubans were intervening in El Salvador. But at the State Department's March 12 press conference to aid the charges, Tardencilla, risking return to El Salvador and certain death there, refuted Reagan's lies before the assembled press corps.

tinue working to complete their jobs. Heroines are our women, who are not only exemplary in their self-sacrifice at work, besides taking care of all the tasks of the home, but have also known how to be part of the vanguard when it is time to defend the homeland. A heroine is a woman over there, the mother of our frontier guards who carried in her body the hero who gave his life for his country. [APPLAUSE]

Heroes are our people; a poor people, hounded by their economic limitations, bent under the weight of the inheritance from the past, yet who every day confront with incomparable valor that powerful, boastful, and criminal country whose imperialist government tries to make them knuckle under. And there is no possibility that this people, which is truly heroic, will ever surrender or sell itself.

This revolution was made, not to reaffirm the old society, but to create a new society. [APPLAUSE]

Well now, this struggle, which is fundamentally a task of the working class, has special characteristics stemming from the economic, historical, and cultural conditions of Nicaragua.

When imperialism emerged as the highest stage of capitalism, a struggle for world markets was initiated by the large capitalist countries, and during that first division of the world, Nicaragua, together with other Latin American countries, suffered the terrible fate of falling into the hands of the U.S. imperialists. Our economy, therefore, developed as a dependent economy. This forced our people to struggle for their national liberation, and this struggle took on a specific form, which is nationalism.

This also explains why our country, ferociously subjected to the United States, never produced a true national bourgeoisie. The dominant force in our country was never the local bourgeoisie: it was imperialism, through its brutal local instruments. The development of Nicaragua took place through investments and loans administered by an overseer named Anastasio Somoza, as in the past there had been, to mention only a couple of examples, Chamorro and Moncada.

#### National liberation

When Sandino's army of peasants and workers kicked the Yankee invaders out of our homeland, the astute invaders established a docile army which had the characteristics of an army of occupation, and which was the foundation not only of the Somoza dynasty but of the power of the oligarchy as a whole. That is why the struggle of our people took the form of a struggle against the Somozaist dictatorship, which was, in its essence, a struggle against imperialism. And through this dialectical link between national liberation and the anti-Somoza struggle victory was reached, a victory that took the form of the overthrow of the Somozaist tyranny, but whose content was a victory of national liberation.

Who was capable of deciphering this historical synthesis?

It was the Sandinista National Liberation Front, it was Sandinism that knew how to apply the theory of revolution to the concrete reality of Nicaragua.

Therefore, the Sandinista Front was the living instrument for the conquest of power by the workers, and the living instrument for the consolidation of the power of the workers.

What does this mean? Just like the human body needs vitamins and protein to nourish itself and develop, the Sandinista Front needs to draw its sustenance from the working class. The vitamins and protein of the Sandinista Front are

the Nicaraguan workers and peasants, and the intellectuals, professionals, and other sectors of society who want to identify with the Sandinista People's Revolution, must identify with the interests of the workers and peasants. And the capitalists, regardless of their ideological conceptions of the Nicaraguan workers and peasants, have to identify with the patriotism of the peasants and workers if they are to remain in Nicaragua.

The Sandinista Front is the vanguard of the workers and peasants, and is the vanguard of these social sectors, the Sandinista Front is the living instrument of the revolutionary classes, is the guide leading toward a new society. [APPLAUSE]

It had the wisdom and the courage to find the essence of the antagonistic contradictions between Nicaragua and U.S. imperialism. It knew, and it will know, the role of the revolutionary classes in the process of the political and economic transformations of Nicaragua. It knows the point when it is necessary to have qualitative changes, while always keeping its feet firmly on the ground, simultaneously bearing in mind our most beautiful dreams and reality, which is sometimes challenging, difficult, and terrible.

#### Vanguard of the revolution

That is why the Sandinista Front is the vanguard of our people, that is why the Sandinista Front is the irreplaceable vanguard of the unity of the nation, a unit that must be based on the interests of the workers and on national patriotism.

But revolutionary power is only an instrument for accomplishing the achievements of the people. What are the achievements we have won so far, and what objective obstacles, for the time being, hold back the accomplishment of new achievements?

Before speaking of some concrete accomplishments of the revolution during the brief historical period since the workers have begun their participation as the moving force of this process, we must refer with all frankness to the economic situation of our country. It can be said that our economy has been recovering, little by little, both from the destruction caused by the war and the Somozaist destruction and pillage, as well as from the decapitalization and pillage carried out by certain capitalist sectors after our victory. Nevertheless, this recovery has run head-on into a drop in the prices for our products, our agricultural exports, and this has meant a reduction of the receipts of hard currency, that is to say, of dollars, for Nicaragua.

Why do the products that we sell abroad continually bring lower prices? Our workers must understand this problem clearly. There is a crisis in the world capitalist economy, and the Nicaraguan economy that we inherited from the past is still fundamentally oriented toward the capitalist markets. The logic of capi-

Continued on next page

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Militant/Larry Boyd

**"Our education aims to encourage collective participation, human solidarity, and the organizational capacity of the people. . . . We are struggling for the future of the home land, and not to do so would be to go against the very essence of our revolution."**

talism is cold and cruel. They buy from us at cheap prices, and the raw materials they buy from our poor countries are transformed through advanced technology and sold back to us at extremely high prices. There are other products, such as oil, whose prices have been raised excessively, and unfortunately our production, the electrical energy that we use, is intimately linked to oil.

But it isn't only oil. There are all our export products. Sugar, for instance, is down one-third from its price only a year ago. The price of cotton has dropped 20 percent, the price of beef is down, the price of gold is down, and the same has happened with the prices of other articles we normally export. This has meant, for Nicaragua, a drop in its income, this year alone, of \$110 million. We can add to that the antipatriotic decapitalization of many business enterprises; we can also add the denial of numerous credits, such as the criminal cutoff of the AID [Agency for International Development] credits for wheat purchases.

#### Hard currency is scarce

When we speak of hard currency, fundamentally we mean dollars. In other words, we have been seriously affected in our commercial trade with the capitalist countries and, above all, with the United States. We therefore have less hard currency at our disposal. And hard currency is required for medicines, many essential consumer goods, and the products that in technical terminology, are called inputs — such as fertilizer — which are used in the production of food, or in the production of clothing and shoes. All this means that to satisfy the demands of health and food and clothing a certain amount of hard currency is needed, and therefore the revolution is forced to give priority to the use of this hard currency for the benefit of the basic requirements of the people.

But however great our efforts to establish priorities, hard currency is still scarce, which opens up the possibility that we may have to stop importing some raw materials used in producing consumer goods that are not essential. This can have some consequences for workers. The workers will have to face this problem with wisdom and efficiency, as they must also face the limitations and injustices that are committed against them, the arrogance and misuse of power on the part of some government administrators, the corruption that prevails in some enterprises, the administrative disorder, excessive expense accounts, unjustified firings, the inconceivable fact that when some members of the militia come back from the border and return to work, they find a letter telling them they have lost their job. This even happened in some state-owned enterprises, as if there were not a law against this, as well as a moral obli-

gation of elementary justice.

To face these problems — abuse of power, bureaucracy, the limited participation of workers in the enterprises — there is only one road: the unity of the working class.

There are some workers who believe that the main enemy of the working class is the bourgeoisie. But the bourgeoisie as a class has been mortally wounded in this country, and the dying have never been dangerous enemies. The main enemy of the working class is the division of the working class. However, the dying still have enough breath left to say, in a shaky voice, in the midst of their historical death agony, that the workers have the right to trade union freedom.

And what does this mean, trade union freedom? Trade union freedom means the division of the working class. I have often said that the bourgeoisie is united, and at this stage it is inconceivable that the united summits of the bourgeoisie should be calling for trade union freedom. What interest can the bourgeoisie have in trade union freedom? When have they ever cared about the workers? But what is still more inconceivable is that some small sectors of the working class, although they are a minority, should still lend an ear to these siren songs of the bourgeoisie.

#### Freedom to defend working class

True freedom for the unions means the freedom to defend the interests of the working class. True freedom for the unions is expressed in the undeniable fact that after the victory, many more unions have formed than in all the previous history of our country. Freedom of unions to defend the interests of the bosses? [SHOUTS OF "NO!"] Freedom of unions to join the chorus of those who want to sell out our country? ["NO!"] Freedom of unions in the waiting rooms of the Yankee embassy? ["NO!"]

No. True union freedom to consolidate the role of the working class in the revolutionary process; true union freedom to defend, in the trenches of the homeland, the sovereignty of our country; true union freedom for defense against misuse of power, against bureaucracy, and against the injustices that still persist; true union freedom so that the workers participate in the process of production, which is the best school for the working class to understand the laws of economy and be able to control them.

True union freedom to defend the true interests of the nation, because the defense of this nation is fundamentally a task of the working class.

And as for the economic situation that our country faces, what can the workers do?

With every bit of hard currency we save, with every dollar we save, we shall

be defending the job of a comrade, of a brother worker, of a class brother.

This way, taking care of the machinery, saving materials, monitoring the quality of production and also acquiring new technical skills, the workers will raise productivity, which means that they will produce more per workday. And the more we produce, the more we will be able to raise the standard of living to which men in a revolution are entitled.

Confronting the problem of prices also requires the initiative of the workers. The state has expended great efforts to keep the prices of essential products low, for instance subsidizing basic food items. But government efforts would be wasted if they were not supported by the vigilance of the workers in the fight against speculators, those who hoard goods and cause shortages in order to sell products at a higher price later. There are other ways to hold down price increases, and one way is the initiative of reusing containers to make costs cheaper. We are sure that the problems we are facing will, as always, stimulate the creativity of the masses, who will always find new initiatives to solve them.

Therefore, in spite of the enormous difficulties, we have advanced. Although we too are victims of the economic crisis of the world capitalist system, our conditions are infinitely better than those of other neighboring countries or other Latin American countries. Inflation, sharply rising unemployment, elimination of social programs have been the characteristics marking many countries, almost all Latin American countries, and even the United States, where arms spending, as we have said on other occasions, means the incredible amount of \$1.5 trillion. This has caused an inflationary process and a process of economic recession that has forced the U.S. government to make grave cuts in the programs benefiting children, invalids, and the poor in general.

We, on the contrary, have pressed forward with social programs. And even more important than the social programs the revolution has carried out so far are the vast projects that, in a planned manner, will be changing the structure of the Nicaraguan economy.

#### Internationalism

Our workers must educate themselves in the idea that our revolution would be mean and petty, and would stop being a revolution, if it did not think in terms of solidarity with other brother peoples of the world. And that, even though we still have not left our backwardness and poverty completely behind, we must have, always present, an internationalist consciousness. We must be prepared to share our own poverty if necessary, whenever other hungry and ill-clothed peoples should need us. We,

the Nicaraguan workers, will be the brothers of every worker on earth.

Just as we have now received thousands of doctors and teachers from Cuba and other countries, some of whom are also poor like us, so we have to be ready to give away, not whatever we have too much of, because that would be no sacrifice, but whatever is necessary to other peoples that may need it. [APPLAUSE]

People of Nicaragua, a people of solidarity by definition, by history, and by conscience. People of Nicaragua, a people of solidarity because they have learned to assimilate the teachings of their great heroes. People of Nicaragua, a people of solidarity with the struggle of the Salvadorans. People of Nicaragua, a people who have known and know how to maintain, in spite of everything, their unconditional solidarity with Argentina in its confrontation with a colonial power, with the people of Argentina who were today attacked by British aircraft at Port Stanley in the Malvinas Islands. [APPLAUSE] A people of solidarity who know how to distinguish their friends from their enemies. A people of solidarity who know that today imperialism took off its mask, because instead of standing by Argentina, it stood by the side of the colonial power.

We, a small and poor country, do not stand by the side of the powerful. We stand by the side of our brother people of Latin America. [APPLAUSE] And this shows once more the need for the peoples of Latin America to unite to oppose those who, every day more obviously, are the enemies of our peoples.

#### Workers are brothers of all workers

Haig's declarations against Argentina are not Haig's declarations against Argentina. They are Haig's declarations against Latin America and against this Nicaraguan people which will demonstrate solidarity to the utmost, whatever the consequences. [APPLAUSE] A people that in solidarity with other peoples, but that is also in solidarity with the future generations. Workers and peasants who voice solidarity internationally and solidarity at home. Every worker is a brother of every other worker. All workers are brothers of every worker, and all Nicaraguan workers are brothers of all of the workers of the world.

Therefore, this workers' revolution has projected not only programs for economic development, but ambitious and realistic social programs as well.

Within these programs, education and health have priority. The successes of the revolution in our educational system are already well known. It is enough to mention one example: in preschool education, enrollment jumped from 9,000 children before the triumph of the revolution to 41,215 in 1982. And this after Nicaragua [under Somoza] had been one of the countries most indifferent to primary, and therefore to secondary and higher education. Beginning July 19 [1979], the numbers have grown; education in agricultural and cattle-raising technology has been intensified; so have industrial technical education, teacher training, commercial education, and special education. And all this without taking into account military and police technical training, which brings the total of those in our country who have received education to more than 1 million.

But the great fundamental educational undertakings in Nicaragua, such as the National Crusade for Literacy and Adult Education, have an importance that has not always been sufficiently stressed: that is, their success is due fundamentally to the participation of the people, to the support of the workers, a support both dynamic and full of historical vision.

Within a true revolution, this is to be expected. The strategic goals of education are a part of the strategic goals of the Sandinist People's Revolution, and their aim is to create a new society. The aim of education is to draw out the abilities, the energy, the best values of the people, so that they will gain awareness of their historical value, so that they



will gain confidence in their endless capacity for transforming nature and for transforming society.

Our education aims to encourage collective participation, human solidarity, and the organizational capacity of the people. It is an education that proposes to carry to the highest levels the extraordinary intelligence of our people, so that they acquire the awareness and knowledge needed for the transformation of the productive structure, so that they become capable of forceful leaps ahead in economic development — and I am not going to refer to this, because our people already know all about it. I am only going to mention two things.

#### Battle for fourth grade

The first great battle we must fight during the next years, and in which the participation of our people is vital, is the battle for the fourth grade. Every child without a single exception, must as a minimum complete the fourth grade, as a first step, so that during the whole of the next decade, all Nicaraguans complete at the very least nine years of general basic education. The battle for the fourth grade is extraordinarily important for the revolution. If we do not win it, it means we have lost the battle against illiteracy.

When we say we shall fight the battle for the fourth grade, we are saying that all our people are going to make a joint effort and that we shall design a strategy to win it.

We must not permit our children to drop out of school. We must achieve this goal to avoid the return of the terrible evil of illiteracy. We are struggling for the future of the homeland, and not to do so would be to go against the very essence of our revolution. And in the meantime, it is essential to eliminate, from the roots up, the remnants of illiteracy, and to consolidate popular adult education.

Within the area of education, logically the revolution gives priority, and will have to give even more priority in the future, to technical careers and to careers related to agriculture and cattle-raising, but there is one school that requires more attention immediately, and that is the school of medicine.

#### Health merchants

During the months of January and February alone, 42 doctors deserted, and besides these 42, another 48 have left the public clinics. This means that in two months, practically three doctors have left every two days. But maybe it is better that those health merchants should leave. [APPLAUSE] Those who write prescriptions to make money and not to cure the sick, those who were never disciples of Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, but rather were hypocrites who simulated a social service they were never ready to render.

Nevertheless, we must add that those who have stayed, many of them magnificent doctors, not only identify with the interests of the people in the hospitals and clinics, but have gone to suffer hardship in the wildest and most undeveloped areas of our country. Last night our comrade Lea [Guido, minister of health] was telling us that four medical brigades, composed of doctors and nurses, had gone to the Atlantic Coast to work in that area, traditionally our country's most backward and abandoned region.

Since July 19 [1979], 224 doctors and 1,862 paramedical personnel, all educated in a new mentality, have graduated. At this moment, 2,024 young people are studying medicine. These figures, though not to be scoffed at, are still insufficient for the enormous needs facing our country.

#### Imperialists' crisis

To sum up, all our efforts are directed toward destroying the negative habits that are a part of the Somozaist inheritance, so that those habits enter a crisis simultaneously with the breakdown of imperialist domination in Central America. This domination started to break down when the Sandinist People's

Revolution triumphed, and the process was speeded up with the development of revolutionary struggle in Central America.

Within this imperialist crisis, the U.S. government has frequently resorted to threatening words against Nicaragua. The imperialist expectations in El Salvador failed; in the Salvador voting process, victory did not go to those right-wing sectors best suited to the interests of the Reagan administration, which sought to exhibit to the world the electoral triumph of a political tendency under the guise of democracy. Victory went, as was to be expected given the intensification of the internal contradictions in that brother country, to the extreme right, headed by the murderer of Monsignor [Archbishop Oscar] Romero, Roberto D'Aubuisson, who is much harder to defend before international public opinion. This made it very difficult for imperialism to implement a scenario of intervention to defend its odious counterpart, although deep down this is what imperialism wanted.

The European allies of the U.S. government would not look kindly upon a more open armed support for the most notorious chief of the murder gangs in El Salvador. The Guatemalan coup and the Honduran elections, regardless of their nature, did not help the openly interventionist policy of the United States.

Equally, the Malvinas problem and the confrontation between a Latin American country and a colonialist power put the U.S. government in a difficult position, which will certainly have repercussions in the use of such instruments as the Rio Treaty, whose original goal was to implement the aggressive policies of imperialism against Latin America.

Exceptionally important was the audacious and determined mobilization of the Nicaraguan people in defense of our homeland. But does all this mean that the defeat, at the conjuncture, of imperialism's desire to carry out direct aggression against Central America, and against Nicaragua in particular, does this defeat mean it will abstain from aggression against our countries?

We reiterate our policy of peace toward the United States and our proposals to Honduras. This policy and these proposals reject the offensive and arrogant language that scarcely deigns to hide its aim of blocking any understanding.

#### U.S. arrogance

But it is this arrogance I refer to. Nicaragua, they say, has become a threat to peace in Central America. This is a situation, they say, that they don't want and will not tolerate. What do they mean by that? That they neither want nor will tolerate . . . What are they going to do to us? More than they have done to us already? We are ready to receive not only their insolent blustering, we are ready to meet with them too, so they will know what we are going to do. [APPLAUSE]

But what is perhaps more important than that, because it is a truth already known by heart, is that this way of speaking to us is a concrete obstacle to our efforts for conciliation and peace between Central America and the United States. Between Nicaragua and the United States. We continue to be in favor of peace and negotiations. And it seems that for the time being the prospect of a direct U.S. intervention has been defeated by our people.

We initiated a diplomatic and political campaign in the world, which culminated in the speech of our brother Daniel to the Security Council of the United States. [APPLAUSE] Of course, we are still in favor of peace, but peace must begin with mutual respect, and not with insolent messages that injure our dignity. Although we have told you that apparently that prospect has been defeated, does this mean that imperialism has given up all ideas of direct aggression against Central America and Nicaragua? It does not mean this. It means that they have given up, for the moment, perhaps, on direct aggression. But we would be naïve dreamers, we

would be stupid if we believed that imperialism had already given up on wiping out our revolution. Maybe for the time being — and I repeat, for the time being — imperialism considers direct aggression impossible, but it has not renounced aggression. What new forms is it using and will it use in the immediate future to attack us?

It is trying to even further develop the tactics of destabilization used against our revolution. Internal corrosion within the vanguard is one objective. It wants to sow mistrust and internal violence inside Nicaragua. To give priority to the technical capacity and firepower of the counterrevolutionary bands, especially in the northern areas of the country. They propose to increase sabotage, assassination attempts, and other forms of terrorism. They will try to disorient the people, encouraging ideological confusion, manipulating the religious feelings of the Nicaraguan people, and exploiting the consequences of our economic difficulties. They will try to bring together all the representatives of counterrevolution and all elements who, in one way or another, have come into conflict with the working class and the revolutionary process.

#### Another type of invasion

All this explains why imperialism has used delaying tactics in negotiating with Nicaragua.

It is a kind of invasion using another type of soldier — the soldier of disorientation, the soldier of slander, the soldier of ideological confusion — with weapons as dangerous, and maybe more dangerous, than the members of the counterrevolutionary bands. It has been said in counterrevolutionary circles and in circles of the right-wing parties, many of whose supporters have left the country, that a government junta-in-exile will be set up, which, if it turns out to be true, would not doubt be a junta of betrayal. We shall announce the names of the members of this proposed junta, knowing well that some of them may not even have been consulted but will surely have to define their position on this matter.

The proposed junta, approved by imperialism and called the "Supreme Directorate," would be made up of the following: Alfonso Robelo, Edén Pastora, Monseñor Miguel Obando, Steadman Fagoth, Enrique Bolaños, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, Col. Guillermo Mendieta, Col. Enrique Bermúdez, José Francisco Cardenal, Fernando Aguero, and Fernando Chamorro Rapaccioli. [HOOTS] It is said that very soon this Supreme Directorate will announce its existence publicly, once the Somozaist bands have occupied at least a small portion of our national territory, and that it will replace the present government junta and the National Directorate of the Sandinista Front. [CHANTS OF "THEY SHALL NOT PASS"]

I believe that those who have conceived this plan are going to live and die

deceived. I think that those who have conceived this plan have not been able to understand that our people, that our workers have gained complete awareness of their historical destiny. Here, during the Spanish conquest, they deceived the Indians with little glass marbles and mirrors. Those who dream of overthrowing the revolutionary government and its political leadership have not yet realized that the time of the conquistadors has gone, and that here the only thing we will conquer will be the establishment of a new and higher society. [APPLAUSE] They do not know what direction we are going in. [CHANTS OF "SOCIALISM! SOCIALISM!"] But our working people know what direction we are going in, and that is why I ask the workers and peasants of our country, what are we moving toward? [CHANTS OF "SOCIALISM! SOCIALISM!"]

And here, near the tomb of Carlos Fonseca,<sup>2</sup> we should like to speak a little with our brother and tell him . . . Carlos, listen to how your bones, your forceful and beautiful bones, march ahead under the fullness of the sun, stepping over the ruins of the old and putrefied society, knocked down by the stone fists of these men and women.

Carlos . . . the anger, the tenderness, the burning coals, the hopes belong to you. Maker of flintstones, brother, tamer of wild horses. Carlos . . . your dreams have come true! Here is your working class, our working class [PROLONGED APPLAUSE] with its calloused hands and its shining eyes. Here is your working class, standing at attention, which will be faithful to you until victory, until blood, until death. [PROLONGED APPLAUSE]

Here is your working class — comrade postman, street seller of candies and of splendors. We are the gatherers of your resurrection. We are not frightened of phantoms, we are not frightened of mummies, we are not frightened by imperialism, nor are we afraid of the Cains.

We, Carlos, beloved brother, are your thirst and we are the riverbed through which runs the mighty stream of our working class. Once we said to you, brother, "Free Homeland or Death!" But today we say to you, we are moving toward a new society, we are moving toward development and the consolidation of a revolutionary party, the Sandinista National Liberation Front, as the party of the workers and peasants, of the intellectuals and the Nicaraguan patriots, we are moving toward the total elimination of the exploitation of man by man, and we say to you, regarding the belief and the thoughts of our people,

FREE HOMELAND OR DEATH!  
[OVATION. CHANTS OF "PEOPLE'S POWER! PEOPLE'S POWER!"]

2. Carlos Fonseca, a founder of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and the central leader until he was killed by Somoza forces in November 1976.

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# Castro speaks to revolutionary youth on Cuba's struggle for peace



Territorial Troop Militia. "By strengthening our defenses we're bolstering the possibilities for peace."

Prensa Latina

The following is the concluding installment of major excerpts from Fidel Castro's April 4 speech to the Cuban Young Communist League. Last week's *Militant* carried part one. The text is taken from the English-language *Granma*.

I don't want to go on much more. I was intending to discuss the difficult and complicated world situation but I'll limit myself to. . . . (APPLAUSE AND SHOUTS OF "SPEAK!" "SPEAK!") Basically I'll limit myself to reminding you that we live in a world in crisis, a world of great danger, with an arms race that is careering along totally unchecked, resulting from imperialist policy.

I want to remind you of how arms production of all kinds continues to multiply: nuclear weapons, delivery systems, missiles, sophisticated planes, neutron weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons, threatening a world which is also in the grip of the worst economic crisis in living memory, one for which there is no solution in sight.

The world picture is complicated, and likely to become even more so. Imperialist plans to deploy 572 medium-range missiles in Europe pose a huge danger to the socialist community and the Soviet Union, for it is now threatened not only by intercontinental missiles, but by missiles stationed in Europe which could fall on Moscow and other Soviet cities, and on the socialist capitals, in a matter of minutes.

What madness, especially if we remember that the imperialists led the world to the brink of war when 42 such missiles were stationed in our country! Now they want to station 572 more sophisticated versions of such missiles along the borders of the Soviet Union. If such a policy is pursued the danger to the world will surely be great and there is a risk of grave complications.

As far as Cuba in particular is concerned, in addition to the worldwide danger and the general economic crisis, we have the specific perils resulting from imperialist threats which you know about, threats that have forced us to adopt serious measures. They have intensified the economic blockade against us, they are actively trying to tighten it and make life harder for our people, they are strongly pressuring all Western countries as regards their financial and economic relations with Cuba. They have been doing all they can to tighten the blockade and cause us problems.

There has also been talk of subversion. You'll remember there was even talk of a radio station which they were going to call José Martí. We are still

waiting for that station. So far we have been a bit let down, like the boxer who climbs into the ring only to find his opponent hasn't shown up. (APPLAUSE) I don't know if they were trying to scare us with their radio station, but the fact is that nothing has materialized yet, it isn't even known whether or not it really will be set up. It would be more constructive if they didn't, but you must remember that we are boxers.

On principle we want peace; we prefer to keep boxing to the field of sports (LAUGHTER); and if after all there were a dialectical confrontation between them and us, them with their subversive station and us with our reply, it would be better for there to be no match, that would be more peaceful. However, we had a fitting reply to their subversive radio ready. Of course we'd rather it didn't start up, because it would be a fresh source of friction, irritation and tension. The sensible thing in my view would be for them to drop the whole idea.

Faced by the threats of aggression we have taken many measures and made many plans: for example, on the most efficient way to resist a total blockade of the country. All of you know something about all this by now, what measures should be taken in case of any military action, any surprise attack. We have worked hard and in silence for many weeks, we've made efforts and sacrifices, but we haven't hesitated to make them.

We have increased our defensive potential to the utmost, as was our duty; we have been doing so since last year, since they began threatening us. For it was the threat of blockade and military aggression which led to large-scale delivery of weapons to our country. It wasn't for fun, it wasn't because we wanted to, it was because we were threatened.

That is why we established the Territorial Troop Militia, that is why we have prepared plans against naval blockade and enemy military action of any kind. That is the reason and none other, it is the only reason. We have worked hard and silently, I repeat, to deal with all those risks and we are calm, we are not worried.

## Focal point of int'l conflict

There is tension in the area. Everyone talks of this tension, and of the danger in the area, and they are real; the problems in Central America and the Caribbean have become a kind of focal point of international conflict.

From what has been published lately you know a lot about the situation in El

Salvador and Nicaragua. You know that many people, organizations and world opinion have spoken out for a negotiated political settlement in El Salvador, for negotiated political settlements in Central America and the Caribbean in general. Many organizations, the UN first and foremost, the Socialist International and others; many countries such as France and Mexico. Not just international opinion, but also public opinion in the United States itself; in the Congress of the United States there has been support for a negotiated political settlement in Central America.

The U.S. administration has persistently opposed this. They have opted to try to crush the revolutionaries by military means, they have imposed incredible elections in the middle of a civil war, genocide and terror, elections where those who didn't vote risked being murdered by the terror, elections from which the left was excluded. Nobody believed in those elections or viewed them as a solution, only the government of the United States.

The elections haven't solved anything and there is no likelihood that they will. There is rather a likelihood that the far right will take over the government or that there will be some kind of a coalition between the Christian Democrats of the current junta and the far right. We can categorically state that they have solved nothing and that the fascists and butchers will never be able to smash the revolutionaries. (APPLAUSE) No attempt to crush the revolutionaries by force will ever succeed.

The international and Central American situations, plus the situation in the area, all make a negotiated political settlement advisable.

It was in fact proposed by the governments of Mexico and France. Recently, as you may remember, Mexican President José López Portillo reiterated his country's position and called for a negotiated political settlement. The Mexican position was backed by Cuba, Nicaragua and the revolutionaries in El Salvador. It has broad international support.

Imperialism will have to choose between a clearly absurd policy of intervention which is bound to fail or a negotiated political settlement in Central America and El Salvador.

We have publicly expressed our support for Mexico's position and we coincide with the position of Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

The Mexicans have gone even further; they have spoken of the need for talks and bilateral contacts between the United States and Nicaragua and the United States and Cuba. We have not rejected any of these proposals. This is

the policy outlined at the 2nd Congress of our Party and the same policy we have always maintained: we do not refuse dialogue, discussion or negotiations.

At present nobody has the slightest idea whether things will turn out that way. Basically it won't depend on us or the Nicaraguans or the Salvadoran revolutionaries, it will depend on the United States, it is they who will have to choose between one policy or another.

It will depend on whether they recognize reality as such or set out on a collision course against reality; whether they decide on intervention in the area or a political path, the path of dialogue and political solutions.

## Increasing possibility for peace

I remember very well that yesterday, following the demonstrations of fighting spirit by our young people, a comrade spoke movingly and profoundly about peace and proposed a resolution supporting the struggle for peace.

I also remember Raúl's eloquent words as he explained that everything we were doing for the defense of the country, the efforts and sacrifices we were making for defense, in fact increased the possibilities of peace, because if we are weak we are in a dangerous position, if we fear the enemy we expose ourselves to danger and encourage attack. If we are strong, courageous and determined, if we are ready to fight to the last drop of blood — as we have said we are, over and over again — the enemy will have to give the matter second thoughts, he will have to calculate the price of an attack on our country.

By strengthening our defenses we are expressing our decision to defend ourselves, to struggle very firmly and heroically, something which I'm sure imperialism does not doubt. Imperialism hasn't the slightest doubt on that score.

We're bolstering the possibilities for peace for nothing is further from our thoughts than the desire to wage war. In today's world no one aware of the situation and of the dangers could possibly be in favor of a military solution to the problems. There's no place in today's world for military solutions of any kind.

The belief that the problems of today's world can be solved militarily is an imperialist belief, the belief that they can play the role of policemen, turn back the clock of history, impose their will, browbeat the peoples, freeze human society, block changes: these are precisely the ideas held by the imperialists. They could never be the ideas of Communists, the ideas of internationalists.

The clear, unambiguous stand our country takes has been publicly set forth. It is willing to work in the search for negotiated political solutions to the problems of El Salvador, Central America, the whole region. We support the stand taken by that illustrious friend of Cuba, President José López Portillo, and we do so firmly, seriously.

The Mexicans also suggested — they suggested it publicly, they suggested it to us, they suggested it to the government of the United States — a toning down of language, a sort of verbal de-escalation.

But you kept telling me: "Hit the Yankees hard," and "Fidel, pitch 'em in, Reagan can't hit." (LAUGHTER) You kept urging me not to tone down my language. However, it is my duty to moderate my language. I have, in fact, done so. I have spoken very clearly, very frankly, but with moderation, I think. (LAUGHTER)

In the final count, the essence of a policy does not lie in the virulence of its epithets but in the staunchness of its principles, (APPLAUSE) and we have always been faithful to that essence.

It is unthinkable that fear can ever be

Continued on next page





Salvadoran troops in action. State Department official couldn't convince Cleveland audience that Washington is furthering democracy there.

# State Dept. loses Cleve. debate on El Salvador war policy

BY OMARI MUSA

CLEVELAND, Ohio — "Can the State Department Defend its Position on El Salvador?" was the theme of a public debate held at Cleveland State University May 23.

The debate, sponsored by the Cleveland Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in El Salvador and Cleveland State University Emergency Coalition to Defend Student Rights, drew 200 people. It featured a confrontation between State Department representative James Bell and Rev. William Wipfler, a vice-president of Amnesty International and Director of the Human Rights Office of the National Council of Churches.

A panel of community and religious activists questioned Bell and Wipfler on U.S. policy in Central America.

The debate opened with heated exchanges on the fake elections held in El Salvador last March 28.

Bell claimed the March 28 elections were "fair and democratic." He said, "85

percent of the eligible people participated and that represented a stunning defeat for the leftists. You saw on television the long lines of Salvadorans waiting to vote." Bell did say, however, that there were "minor problems in the way the elections were carried out."

Wipfler immediately responded, "One of the minor problems Mr. Bell must be referring to is the fact that the electoral commission in El Salvador said that it printed only 800,000 ballots, yet the government there and the U.S. claim more than 1.3 million people voted."

Wipfler said the long lines at the polling places were clearly media hype aimed at the American people.

Wipfler went on to explain other "incentives" for voting. "The Minister of Defense went on television and told the country that anyone who didn't vote would be considered a supporter of the guerrillas. The National Guard and para-military groups went door-to-door

telling people to vote because they would return and demand to see their voting receipts.

"Another factor," Wipfler continued, "was that government employees were told they couldn't pick up their pay checks if they didn't have their voting receipts."

Bell, visibly stymied at this point, sought to win over the audience by claiming that the real problem in El Salvador was caused by the "outside interference of Cuba and Nicaragua.

"We favor Salvadoran solutions to Salvadoran problems," he said. "But the Salvadorans can't solve their problems as long as the leftists are getting Cuban and Nicaraguan military aid. That is why the U.S. gives military aid to the government of El Salvador."

Many in the audience greeted this argument with hisses.

Wipfler replied: "The U.S. government now gives aid to the Honduran government as well as military advisors to stop this so-called arms flow from Nicaragua, but they can't come up with any arms. Last January or February the Honduran government itself said there was no substantial flow of arms through its territory to El Salvador. Yet the U.S. government continues to feed us this new cold war rhetoric about rivers of arms flowing from Cuba through Nicaragua into El Salvador."

The harassment of Salvadoran refugees in the United States also fueled a hot exchange. Eric Fries, representing the Cleveland Central American Solidarity Committee, introduced three Salvadoran youth in the audience who are being denied extended voluntary departure status by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The youth are part of an international baseball team traveling in this country. When they applied for extended voluntary departure status it was denied. As soon as their story appeared in the Salvadoran papers, two of their relatives were found murdered.

When the youth were introduced, the audience gave them a standing ovation and clenched fist salutes. The Salvadorans responded in kind.

Bell claimed ignorance of the situation facing the Salvadoran youths present, as well as the thousands of others facing deportation by the INS.

"We have found no substance to the charge that refugees returned to El Salvador from the United States suffer discrimination or violence," he said.

Wipfler reminded Bell that of the 5,280 petitions submitted in the last two years by Salvadorans for asylum, only two have been approved. He also said that, "15,908 Salvadorans were rounded up by the INS in 1981 and were not informed they could have lawyers and pursue appeals. They were forced to sign a letter saying they waived their right to appeal and accepted immediate voluntary departure."

Panelist Rev. Thomas McCray, presiding elder of the Cleveland District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, questioned Bell on the plight of Haitian refugees seeking asylum in the U.S.

"We are in a sort of bind," Bell responded. "The government of Haiti is far from perfect on the question of human rights. But what are we doing with U.S. economic aid is trying to reach the poorest people in the country. We are trying to use that aid to pressure the government to change its policies on human rights. It would be wrong to end aid to pressure the Haitian government into changing its policies."

As the meeting was about to close, Dale Lindsey of the Cleveland Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in El Salvador took a straw poll of the audience to determine whether the State Department had defended its policies in El Salvador: the overwhelming majority of the audience opposed the government's policy.

## Castro speaks to revolutionary youth

Continued from previous page

instilled in our people, in our Party, in our leadership. On the contrary, our people feel quite at ease, quite serene, quite confident of themselves, quite convinced of their own strength, of their reasons, of their integrity.

Our Party and our Revolution are sure of their history and their glory as well as of their victory. They know that nothing can make us yield, nothing can defeat us, nothing can dominate us. They can sweep us off the face of the earth, but we are aware that if one defends a just cause, being swept off the face of the earth brings glory in its train. (APPLAUSE)

We do not negotiate our principles, nor do we feel any fear; we have our duties and responsibilities, we have our duties to the international revolutionary movement, to world peace and to our own people.

We also have our dreams, we hope our people can go on advancing, progressing, winning new victories. We do not dream as individuals, this is our collective dream, our people dream, our collective soul dreams, you yourselves dream, for the Revolution entails hard work, sacrifices, but it also entails satisfaction, happiness, the conviction of living a life well worth living, of living through an epoch well worth living in.

We feel the great dignity involved in our task and in our work. We're willing to risk anything for this, we are all willing to die for our independence, for our principles, for our Revolution.

That's why I said that peace will prevail if, among other things, the imperialists are aware we're willing to die for it, to struggle for it to our last breath. We live in the hope that peace will prevail, and if we can contribute to it by adding our grain of sand, we do so in all seriousness and in all responsibility.

### A new generation

I want to express to you, once again, our boundless confidence in our youth. We're very happy with the work you've done as reflected in your outstanding accomplishments, your truly outstanding accomplishments.

We're aware of the weaknesses of our own generation, which I mentioned when I began my speech, referring to what I said 20 years ago, what happened to us then. In those days I said we had difficulties in the politico-ideological field.

No one can suggest that the past turned out to be more difficult than the future maybe, the times you will be facing, I meant it in a different sense, in a political sense. Everything is different now and so, well, these are not mere

words: today we can count on a youth we didn't even dream of back then.

And something very important, very important indeed: whether we live in conflict or in peace with our northern neighbors, they'll go on being capitalists for a long time yet; there's no way their mercantilism is going to yield the right-of-way to socialism in the short term, no way. And we must go on being ever more socialist, ever more communist, whatever happens, whether there is violent confrontation or peace!

That's why we feel so certain of what we said, of what we wanted — that the new generation should be tougher, more revolutionary, more internationalist and more intransigent than our own Revolution.

### The 'Granma' generation

I was saying that we were willing to donate an eye, to donate anything necessary; but we, the generation who stormed the Moncada Garrison, who sailed on the *Granma*, who have lived through all these years of hard struggle, we want a donation when we pass away, we want the assurance that we have an increasingly revolutionary people (APPLAUSE) for when we no longer physically exist, to have as of this day the certainty that everything will turn out to be better, that everything will turn out to be safer, and that our Revolution will be increasingly solid and safe, and relying not just on the men and women, because our Revolution does not rely on men and women but on principles.

That is the donation which we are by

no means demanding of you, for it is you yourselves who by your conduct, your attitude and your spirit are offering it to us.

The physical body in itself is of no importance; but ideas are of great importance to us, the future of the country is of great importance to us. I am sure, it gives us satisfaction to think that when [José] Martí fell in Dos Ríos, when [Antonio] Maceo fell in Punta Brava, when so many of our comrades fell during the struggle, they would all have rejoiced to see young men and women like yourselves, a Congress like this one, and to see how far our people and our youth have advanced in their revolutionary spirit, in their sense of justice, in the highest and most humane values. I am certain of that.

We have great confidence — we know that our young men and women will always march on. They'll draw their inspiration from the ideas and the example of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Martí, Maceo, Mella, Abel Santamaría, José Antonio Echeverría, Frank País, Camilo and Che (SHOUTS OF "AND FIDEL!" AND APPLAUSE); from the ideas of the immense and admirable legion of pure, true revolutionaries, of so many marvelous men and women who have made their mark on the world and in our homeland. (APPLAUSE)

We have great confidence that our young men and women will build communism and forge a new world!

Patria o muerte!

Venceremos!

(OVATION)

## Hong Kong socialist arrested in China

Lau San-ching, a young Hong Kong socialist and activist in the movement in solidarity with the Chinese fighters for democratic rights, has been arrested by authorities in Canton.

Lau went to Canton December 24 to visit families of activists arrested since the government crackdown on the Chinese democracy movement that began last April.

Although Lau was to return to Hong Kong on December 27, no word has been heard from him. In mid-March, a family member went to the Public Security Bureau in Canton to ask about Lau's whereabouts. There a secret police officer confirmed that he had been arrested. The relative was told that Lau "has violated the law" and is "now undergoing investigation and cannot meet with anyone."

A defense committee has been set up in Hong Kong to press for information

about Lau and to demand his release.

Committee members met with representatives of the Peking government at the Hong Kong offices of the New China News Agency. They were told that Lau might be transferred from Canton to another location.

The defense committee fears, however, that Lau may already have been secretly tried and sentenced. Under the penal code of the People's Republic of China, a person cannot be held for investigation for more than three months, a period that has long passed in Lau's case.

Supporters of Lau San-ching's release urge that protests against his secret and illegal detention be sent to embassies of the People's Republic of China.

Copies should be sent to the defense committee: P.O. Box 89278, Kowloon City Post Office, Hong Kong.

**Obviously not truly needy** — A congressional hearing heard testimony on how people are being axed from the Social Security disability program. A



**Harry Ring**

Philadelphian testified he lost his benefits despite medical cer-

tificates confirming he had but one kidney, was blind in one eye, deaf in one ear, and has suffered depression.

**Old eagle eye** — "I'm delighted to see the Vietnam syndrome . . . is finally behind us." —Vice-president Bush.

**As logical as it's honest** — We're late in reporting it, but the April 28 *Miami Herald* advised, "President Reagan Saturday counted himself among demonstrators opposed to 'the unimaginable horror' of nuclear war' but simultaneously called

for support to his massive rearmament plan."

**Possible precedent** — An aspirant for the Ohio Democratic gubernatorial nomination admitted on television that he had once paid for the services of a prostitute. Now if we could find a major-party politician ready to admit that he gets paid for his services as a prostitute.

**Like the phone company?** — Prisoners in a Florida county jail tapped the phone company for \$7,000 in seven months by

figuring out a system for making long-distance calls. The sheriff said if only the prisoners "would turn all that ingenuity into honesty, they'd be very successful people."

**Ask the expert** — Textbooks from the Sadler publishing company dominate the Los Angeles Catholic education system. Msgr. John Barry, director of education for the diocese, has collected a half a million from Sadler in the past two years as a consultant and author. He wrote a book on morality.

**For who?** — "Safety is not an absence of hazard. Safety is an acceptable level of hazard." Fredrick Rarig, an industrial and agricultural chemical executive.

**Practically a toy** — Various California police units are using a new swivel-type nightstick. The manufacturer says it's safer because it's harder to beat someone on the head with. It reportedly swivels faster than the speed of a .38 caliber bullet and is capable of breaking a hickory ax handle with little effort.

## New Zealand unions protest U.S. warship

The following article appeared in the May 21 issue of *Socialist Action*. The conference of the New Zealand Labor Party that is referred to took place in Wellington May 10-14. It passed two resolutions opposing any participation by New Zealand forces in the British-U.S. war against Argentina.

BY JOAN SHIELDS

The nuclear warship USS *Truxtun* will be berthed in Wellington Harbour May 25-28.

A meeting of the management committee of the Wellington Trades Council on May 14 discussed the *Truxtun's* visit and passed a number of recommendations. The Trades Council is calling for a two-hour work stoppage by all affiliated unions on May 25.

A remit supporting this action was also passed at the FOL [Federation of Labour] conference.

The management committee also recommended that leaflets and a petition be distributed to all jobs through delegates' committees and affiliated unions.

A leaflet distributed by the Coalition Against Nuclear Warships (Canwar) in Wellington points out that the *Truxtun's* presence will be a violation of the Wellington City Council's recent decision to declare Wellington a nuclear weapon free zone.

"The USS *Truxtun* is a weapon of war.

Nuclear war," the leaflet says. "A protest against the *Truxtun* is a protest against the entire nuclear arms race."

The leaflet goes on to attack the Anzus alliance:

"Anzus is the expression of New Zealand's bondage to American military power. Bondage to an aggressive nation

likely to draw New Zealand into hostilities."

This call was also taken up at the Labour Party conference. A remit demanding "that New Zealand withdraw from all military alliances with nuclear weapons powers on a unilateral basis" was passed by a 2-to-1 majority.

## Voting rights march slams Reagan's racism

Continued from Page 20

human rights are fought for and won."

Wiley was roundly applauded when he said: "As we witness scene after scene of human tragedy and suffering and misery, and the victimization of Black people and workers and women, the elderly and youth in this country, it is not enough to change the actors. Brothers and sisters, is it time to rewrite the script. It is time for us to talk about fundamental structural change in this society."

Wiley then introduced Mel Mason, who is also a member and national leader of the NBIPP.

Mason connected attacks on the Voting Rights Act and other racist attacks on Blacks to the rulers' wars in Latin America (see story this page).

The featured speaker was Lowery of SCLC, who has been at many of the daily rallies during the march.

"America was born out of the struggle for voting rights," he said. "What did they say? No taxation without representation. Give me liberty or give me death!"

The march was a response, he went on, to the jailing of Julia Wilder, 70, and Maggie Bozeman, 52, for terms of four and five years, respectively, for "regis-

tering people to vote and aiding poor and elderly people to vote in a county that is 42 percent Black and never had a Black elected official."

"There was a message to [the government's] madness," he said. "They were sending a message to all the Black children: 'This is what will happen to niggers when they start organizing people to vote.'"

Lowery also blasted the Reagan administration and the Democratic Party Congress for cutting the budget and jobs programs while proposing a trillion-dollar military budget.

## —CALENDAR—

### INDIANA

**Gary**  
**U.S. Government vs. Workers' Rights: Defend the Antiwar Unionists.** Speakers: Harris Freeman, fired from McDonnell Douglas for his political beliefs; Rudy Lozano, organizing director, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union Midwest region; representative of Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization; others. Fri., June 4, 7 p.m. 1199 Union Hall, 745 E Ridge Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (219) 884-9509.

### KENTUCKY

**Louisville**  
**Britain and the United States vs Argentina: Behind the Malvinas War.** Speakers: Craig Honts, Socialist Workers candidate for 3rd Congressional District; others. Fri., June 4, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Boston**  
**Film: Cambodia: Year One.** Sun., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., Kenmore Square. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MINNESOTA

**Twin Cities**  
**No to Draft: U.S. War Drive and the Threat to Prosecute Nonregistrants.** Speakers: to be announced. Fri., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling, St. Paul. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### MICHIGAN

**Detroit**  
**Rally to Stop Deportations.** Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, socialist facing deportation from the U.S. for his political beliefs; Roberto Muñoz, Casa de Unidad; Adela Garcia, Latin American Task Force; others. Fri., June 4, 7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Church cafeteria,

corner of Labrosse and 6th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

### NEBRASKA

**Lincoln**  
**A Panel Discussion on Disarmament, Nuclear War, and the Wars in Latin America.** Speakers: Brian Coyne, coordinator, Nebraska Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Transportation Union Local 305. Sun., June 6, 7:30 p.m. Sacred Heart School, 530 N 31st St. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 475-2255.

### NEW MEXICO

**Albuquerque**  
**June 12 Rally and Festival for Peace.** To coincide with United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament and the demonstration in New York. Sat., June 12. Car caravan begins 11 a.m. from Tigeux Park. Rally 2 p.m., Tigeux Park. Ausp: June 12 Rally Committee. For more information call (505) 345-4809.

### NEW YORK

**Bronx**  
**United Assembly to Elect a United Committee for Puerto Rican Independence in the United States.** Speakers: Irving Flores, Puerto Rican nationalist hero; others. Cultural activity. Sat., June 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hostos College, Combo Room, 475 Grand Concourse. For more information call (212) 893-3802 or 538-6512.

### Manhattan

**Film: Decision to Win.** Filmed in areas liberated by El Salvador's armed rebels. Fri., June 4, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. P.S. 41, Sixth Ave. at 11th St. Also: Sun., June 6, 2 p.m. Museo del Barrio, Fifth Ave. at 104th St. Donation: \$4.

**Rally to Support Villa Sin Miedo.** Speakers: Ada Rivera, a leader of Villa Sin Miedo;

Irving Flores, nationalist hero, representing National United Committee for the Independence of Puerto Rico; Digna Sánchez, Puerto Rican Socialist Party; representative of Steering Committee for Puerto Rican Independentista Unity. Slides of Villa Sin Miedo and cultural presentation. Fri., June 11, 6:30 p.m. El Caney, 170 E. 116th St. Voluntary donation. Ausp: Steering Committee for Puerto Rican Independentista Unity, New York Committee to Support Villa Sin Miedo. For more information call (212) 893-3802.

### Schenectady

**Socialist Workers Campaign Open House.** Meet Peter Thierjung, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor, and Patricia Mayberry, SWP candidate for 23rd Congressional District. Wed., June 16, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. 323 State St. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (518) 374-1494.

### OHIO

**Cincinnati**  
**Britain vs. Argentina: What's Behind the Malvinas Islands War?** Speakers: Elena Blair, Argentine faculty member, Xavier University; Bill O'Kain, Socialist Workers Party member and activist in Latin American solidarity movement. Sun., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 2531 Gilbert Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 751-2636.

### Cleveland

**Stop U.S. Nuclear War Drive!** Speaker: Eric Flint, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 5, 7 p.m. 2230 Superior. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 579-9369.

### OREGON

**Portland**  
**Film: The American Way of Cancer.** Sun., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

**Film: Ecocide — A Strategy of War.**

Speakers: to be announced. Sun., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Philadelphia**  
**Rally for Political Rights: Speak-Out Against U.S. War Drive.** Speakers: Father Paul Washington, longtime civil rights leader; Jack McKinney, Philadelphia *Daily News* columnist, just returned from assignment in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala; Jack Hart, former international organizer, United Electrical Workers; Jean Savage, member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 709, fired by Lockheed-Georgia for her union and political activities; José Acevedo, member of United Auto Workers Local 92 and Young Socialist Alliance; Gerard Fèrère, coordinator, Coalition for Haitian Concerns. Sun., June 6, 7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. rally. Church of the Advocate, parish house, 18th and Diamonds Sts. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (215) 927-4748.

### UTAH

**Price**  
**Grand Opening of Socialist Headquarters.** Speakers: Kay Sedam, rail worker and SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Mary Zins, SWP Political Committee and YSA National Executive Committee; Agnes Chapa, coal miner and member, YSA National Committee; Jim White, chairman, Price SWP. Sat., June 5, 7:30 p.m. reception. Oliveto Building, 23 South Carbon Ave., Room 19. Ausp: Price SWP. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

### WEST VIRGINIA

**Charleston**  
**Disarmament and the New Antiwar Movement: What Strategy is Needed?** Speakers: to be announced. Sun., June 6, 7 p.m. 1584-A Washington St. E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (304) 345-3040.



# Irish activists tour U.S. and Canada

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — During the hunger strike by Irish political prisoners one year ago, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher constantly spoke about the "terrorism" of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

But the real terrorists in Northern Ireland are Thatcher herself and the British occupation army.

Since 1969, 83 IRA members and 120 unarmed civilians, mostly Catholics, have been killed by British troops and local security forces. More than 620 civilians — again, mostly Catholic — have been killed by loyalist (pro-British) paramilitary organizations, the largest of which, the Ulster Defense Association, is still a legal organization.

In an effort to get out the truth about British responsibility for the violence in Northern Ireland, the New York H-Block/Armagh Committee sponsored a tour of 15 U.S. and Canadian cities by Suzanne Bunting and Kathleen Stewart during the first two weeks in May.

Bunting was seriously injured when her home was attacked by a loyalist hit squad. Her husband Ronnie and a friend, Noel Little, were killed in the attack. All three were Irish nationalist political activists from Protestant backgrounds.

But more often, Bunting explains, the victims of right-wing violence are Catholics. Some of the bodies have been found with their eyes burned out, or with crosses burned on their backs.

Kathleen Stewart's son Brian was killed by a plastic bullet fired by British troops. He was 13 years old. The British army reports said that he was a leader of a stone-throwing mob of 500. But there was no mob, there was only Brian and two girls his age on the street when he was killed.

No one was prosecuted, and Kathleen Stewart's attempt to find justice through civil action in the courts has resulted in severe harassment of her and her family by the authorities.

This was in 1976, but the killings continue. In the past six months, 10 children have been killed by plastic bullets fired by British troops in Northern Ireland.

Bunting and Stewart are both members of Silent Too Long, a recently formed organization of families of victims of the loyalist gangs and the British troops. The tour was an important opportunity for Silent Too Long to break through the pro-British propaganda about Northern Ireland.

Bunting and Stewart were interviewed by TV and radio in several cities. The New York *Daily News* did a feature article on Bunting.

The largest meetings of the tour were on May 5, at activities commemorating the first anniversary of the death of hunger striker Bobby Sands. Kathleen Stewart spoke to 200 in Montreal at a meeting jointly sponsored by the Comité Quebec-Irlande, and the Quebec labor federation.

Suzanne Bunting spoke to a crowd of 300 at the Church of All Nations.

Also speaking at the New York meeting were: Leonel Recino from the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Octavio Calero from Casa Nicaragua; Wally Feather of the American Indian Treaty Council; Pumzi LiZulu from the African National Congress; and Rev. Herbert Daughtry, national chairman of the National Black United Front.



Kathleen Stewart and Suzanne Bunting

Militant photos by Marc Lichtman

## Justice demanded in racist killing

BY MINDY BRUDNO

MILWAUKEE — "City of Injustice" will be the theme of a nationwide publicity campaign to focus attention on the failure of officials here to grant justice in the killing of Ernest Lacy, an innocent Black youth, by police last July.

The Coalition for Justice for Ernest Lacy is planning to send its leaders to speak around the country, contacting the dozens of conventions that are scheduled to come to Milwaukee over the next few months, and bringing in nationally known speakers.

The coalition will be aided in its efforts by the Interreligious Foundation on Community Organization (IFCO), based in New York, and the Commission on Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ.

The national publicity campaign was announced at a May 12 news conference as part of a series of new legal and political measures by the coalition. The Lacy family announced that they had retained the Center for Constitutional Rights, a law firm based in New York, for their counsel. The CCR, in conjunction with local lawyers, is asking the Fire and Police Commission to move immediately to remove from the police force the three officers involved in Lacy's killing.

Officers George Kalt, James Dekker, and Thomas Eliopul have been suspended *with* pay since last July. The Fire and Police Commission said it would not take action on their case while they had criminal charges pending against them. Recently, all criminal charges against the officers were dropped.

On May 13, the day after the coalition announced its plans, Wisconsin Attorney General Bronson LaFollette announced that he would appeal the dismissal of criminal charges of misconduct in public office against officers Kalt and Dekker.

Since the appeals process could take

years, the coalition is demanding that the Fire and Police Commission not await the outcome of the appeal to act on the Lacy case.

The coalition also announced the suspension of the economic boycott of downtown department stores that it had organized for over a month.

## N.J. socialist addresses Black party

BY EDWARD JOSEPHSON

NEWARK — "I will mobilize the people of Newark to fight the big business government that spends billions on war and nothing on jobs for young people," said Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Laura Garza at a candidates' night sponsored by the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP).

Garza criticized her opponents' plan to give even more concessions and tax advantages to corporations in the hope of wheedling a few jobs for the people of Newark. Instead of concessions, Garza proposed a steep tax on corporate profits to provide funds for jobs programs and social services.

None of the three Black Democrats in the race appeared at the forum. The only other candidate there was Joseph Frisina, currently city tax collector.

The audience displayed a lively interest in Garza's ideas, questioning her on a range of subjects from crime to the state of the labor movement.

The two front-running candidates, Mayor Kenneth Gibson and City Council President Earl Harris, currently face a 141-count corruption indictment, yet

have made the fight against "crime" a centerpiece of their campaigns.

Garza called for fighting crime in City Hall, for getting cops out of the Black community and for establishing community-based patrols to replace them.

She pointed to the tragic deaths of seven young people in a recent Jersey City jail fire as an example of the basic injustice of the capitalist legal system. All of the seven who died were being held on trivial charges like smoking on the subway.

Garza stressed the need for a labor party based on the unions to challenge the big-business policies of the Democrats and Republicans. "The NBIPP," she said, "has set an example for the entire workers movement by breaking with the two capitalist parties."

She pledged, if elected, to use the resources of City Hall "to fight the Reagan administration's war policy, and to defend the thousands of young Newark residents who have refused to register for the draft." She urged the audience to protest U.S. war in Central America by joining the massive June 12 demonstration at the United Nations.

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 611 E. Indian School. Zip: 85012. Tel: (602) 274-7399. Tucson: SWP, P.O. Box 2585. Zip: 85702. Tel: (602) 622-3880 or 882-4304.

**CALIFORNIA:** Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

**COLORADO:** Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 1237 NW 119th St., North Miami. Zip: 33167. Tel: (305) 769-3478.

**GEORGIA:** Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

**INDIANA:** Bloomington: YSA, Activities Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405. Gary: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409.

Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

**IOWA:** Cedar Falls: YSA, c/o Jim Sprall, 803 W. 11th St. Zip: 50613.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

**LOUISIANA:** New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

**MICHIGAN:** Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.

**MINNESOTA:** Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 1012 2nd Ave. South, Virginia, Minn. Send mail to P.O. Box 1287. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.

**NEBRASKA:** Lincoln: YSA, P.O. Box 30209. Zip: 68503. Tel: (402) 475-2255.

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-

3341.

**NEW MEXICO:** Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494. New York, Brooklyn: SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. New York, Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 226-8445. New York: City-wide SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 925-1668.

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**OREGON:** Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Harrisburg: SWP, YSA, 803 N. 2nd St. Zip: 17105. Tel: (717) 234-5052. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 1102 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. State College: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Providence: YSA, P.O. Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

**TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 6333 Gulf Freeway, Room 222. Zip: 77023. Tel: (713) 924-4056. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 337 W. Josephine. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 736-9218.

**UTAH:** Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19. P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**VIRGINIA:** Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. Baltimore-Washington District: 3106 Mt. Pleasant St., NW., Washington, D.C. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7021.

**WASHINGTON:** Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

# State Department hands off June 12!

In a blatant attempt to disrupt the potentially huge outpouring against U.S. war policy on June 12, the U.S. government has denied visas to nearly 500 individuals from abroad who were planning to participate.

According to the June 1 *New York Times*, an unidentified State Department official revealed that the visas were denied on May 28 under the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act. This act permits the government to deny entry into the United States to members of organizations proscribed by the State Department because they allegedly advocate "the doctrines of world communism."

Three hundred Japanese citizens — including victims of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — have been told they cannot come. Others denied visas include representatives of a journalists organization, Japanese trade unionists, scientists.

Activists from Finland, Denmark, East Germany, Australia, Jamaica, India, and the Soviet Union have also been denied visas. They include such prominent individuals as James Lamond, member of British parliament, and Gen. Francisco da Costa Gomes, former president of Portugal.

A June 1 emergency press conference in New York, called to protest the visa denials, featured Cleveland Robinson, president of District Council 37 United Auto Workers, Ramsey Clark, and Ira Glasser from the American Civil Liberties Union. They blasted the

moves by the State Department as an attack on the First Amendment.

Sidney Peck, the executive director of the International Liaison Office, reported that when he called the Visa Issuance Section of the State Department, the officer on duty responded to his query concerning the visas by saying, "Oh, you mean about the disarmament conference. Well, that has been decided at the very highest levels of the department."

Peck further reported that Daniel Simpson, in charge of the South Africa desk at the State Department, revealed that the National Security Council had met several weeks ago and had developed a listing of disarmament organizations that would be proscribed.

In a related event, in Seattle, newspaper accounts reported that U.S. Naval Intelligence had played a role in the denial of a permit for a June 12 rally scheduled to take place on the Canadian-U.S. border.

The use of the McCarran-Walter Act to bar antiwar protesters from this country shows who this piece of witch-hunt legislation is really aimed at. The Reagan administration's intent is to intimidate those forces at home and on a world scale who are striving to build a powerful movement against imperialist war.

Working people, who have the greatest stake in seeing such a movement come about, should demand that the U.S. State Department keep its hands off antiwar activists at home and abroad. Grant the visas now!

# Campaign for Nicaragua flood victims

When the Nicaraguan people overthrew the U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza and established their own government in 1979, many U.S. working people responded by sending aid to the war-torn country. The United Steelworkers union organized a campaign to collect eyeglasses for the literacy drive launched by the new Sandinista government.

Another aid program for Nicaragua is desperately needed today. Floods in the country have left tens of thousands homeless, caused at least \$200 million worth of damage, wiped out crops, and paralyzed factories.

The Nicaraguan government has appealed to the world for help. The U.S. government's response has been to send a measly \$25,000. Last fall, Reagan approved a \$19 million program to organize CIA destabilization of Nicaragua.

The U.S. labor movement and all antiwar forces should respond to Nicaragua's call for help. A giant collection of funds, food, and clothing for the workers and peasants of Nicaragua will be a powerful answer to the U.S. government's continued war against that country. For details on the aid campaign, see page 6.

# Stop U.S.-British war on Argentina

**Continued from Page 1**

revolution in Nicaragua, despite a sustained, secret war on that country directed by Green Berets and CIA agents and organized through counterrevolutionary exile groups.

Nor has Reagan been able to intimidate the people of Grenada and Cuba, despite massive military maneuvers in the Caribbean and economic and diplomatic warfare.

To stop the advance of the socialist revolution in Central America and the Caribbean, Washington desperately needs to use its own troops, just as the British have done in the South Atlantic. The American warmakers are on a campaign to force the American people to accept this fact.

To confuse and derail the deep antiwar sentiment in this country, Reagan is talking "peace" fast and furious while he escalates war. As he departed for Europe June 2, the president said he was on a "quest for peace." He called for a reduction of nuclear weapons by Washington and Moscow.

At the very moment he spoke these words, the Pentagon was rushing war materiel to the nuclear-armed British fleet in the Malvinas.

The Defense Department, meanwhile, released a "strategy" paper on waging "protracted" nuclear war against the Soviet Union "over a protracted period." Key proposals in the document called for stepping up production of Trident II missiles, expanding the Rapid Deployment Forces, increased military aid to "friendly" nations, beefing up naval and air force power, and experimenting with arming Harrier warplanes with nuclear missiles.

The White House simultaneously announced plans to deepen its intervention in colonial countries by openly financing political parties, union officials, and newspapers friendly to Washington's interests.

The proposals leave no doubt as to who is threatening nuclear war. And they make clear Washington's central concern is how to better wield military force to put down revolutions in the colonial world, and to block the Soviet Union from aiding these revolutions with the blackmail of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

To stay the hand of the nuclear warmongers in Washington, antiwar forces must take a clear stand against the wars they are waging today — in Argentina, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the rest of Central America.

But some organizers of the June 12 rally have opposed raising the issue of U.S. wars at the action. Leaders of the June 12 Rally Committee have instead proposed that the action call for "a freeze and reduction of all nuclear weapons."

This idea, being pushed by numerous Democratic and Republican candidates in the November elections, takes the fire off Washington and diverts attention from its wars. It is a political trap for serious antiwar activists.

But a growing number of forces, spearheaded by Black organizations in the leadership of the Third World and Progressive Peoples Coalition, are organizing to bring thousands to the June 12 demonstration to say "no!" to the real warmakers.

The coalition's demands are for U.S. disarmament; no U.S. intervention in Third World countries; and funds for human needs, especially in the Black and Latino communities, instead of for the Pentagon.

Make your voice heard June 12. Bring signs and banners demanding hands off Argentina; U.S. out of El Salvador; an end to the U.S. war on Nicaragua; for unilateral U.S. disarmament; for dismantling the Pentagon's war budget; for an end to Reagan's war on Blacks, unions, and women.

In New York, join with the contingents that will bring this perspective to June 12.

The Third World and Progressive People's Coalition contingent will assembly at 9 a.m. on 48th Street between 1st and 2nd avenues.

The Hispanics for Survival and Disarmament contingent will assembly at 116th Street and Lexington Avenue at 11 a.m. and march directly to the rally in Central Park.

An anti-U.S. intervention contingent organized by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) will assemble at 50th Street, west of 1st Avenue.

All out against Washington's wars June 12!

# Argentine workers: history of resistance

BY CONNIE ALLEN

As U.S. involvement in the British colonial war against Argentina escalates, we should look at what the imperialist rulers are so afraid of. It is not the Galtieri regime, but rather the power of the Argentine working class and the direct threat that poses to capitalist domination.

Today opposition to the military junta is growing and would be strengthened by a victory in the Malvinas. This is a threat not only to the Argentine military, but also to imperialism, which has relied on the junta to keep the workers from taking power and following the path of Nicaragua, Grenada, and Cuba.

The Argentine working class has a history of combativeness. May 30 is the anniversary of the semi-insurrection in Córdoba in 1969, which opened a prerevolutionary period of struggle lasting for several years.

In 1969, a series of strikes and demonstrations had been occurring in Córdoba, auto center of the country, among transport and metal workers. They were joined by the teachers. The local General Confedera-

# OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

tion of Labor (CGT) called a general strike May 14, which resulted in clashes with the police.

At the same time, student demonstrations were escalating in response to economic pressures on students and military purges of faculty. On May 11 a demonstration opposing arbitrary increases of food prices in the student cafeteria took place at the University of Corrientes. On May 15 police killed a medical student, Juan José Cabral, during an attack on a demonstration.

The demonstrations spread to Rosario, where another student was killed. The workers of Rosario responded to appeals from the students and staged a solidarity strike that escalated into street battles with the cops. The demonstrations and massive confrontations with the police continued, and on May 21 a young metalworker was killed. The army moved in May 22, declaring martial law, and a general strike shut down Rosario that day.

The student demonstrations spread to Mendoza, Buenos Aires, Tucumán, La Plata, and other cities. Street demonstrations by workers in support of the students erupted in Córdoba.

Martial law throughout Argentina was declared May 29, and military tribunals were set up with the authority to impose the death penalty for refusal to follow orders from the military regime. The CGT called a 36-hour general strike that shut down the country May 30-31.

The strike was 98 percent effective in the main plants of Córdoba. Several thousand workers and students marched to the center of the city and a military showdown with the cops resulted in a victory for the workers. Police stations were attacked and burned down, barricades were set up, and the workers gained control of the city.

Worker-student committees began to appear that discussed how to coordinate their activity and how to resist the army. The slogan "Soldiers, you are our brothers. Don't shoot!" was raised. The target of the demonstrations was the national government and the clear political aim was to bring down the military regime.

When the cops were defeated, the army was sent in, and after another day of fighting was able to retake Córdoba.

The military government responded to this new stage in the class struggle with severe repression. Military tribunals handed out harsh sentences and union leaders were imprisoned. The workers continued to resist, and called a general strike June 17-18 demanding a 40 percent increase in wages and honoring those killed in the battles. Another general strike was called during August.

Prior to the May 30 general strike, some leaders of the CGT had collaborated with the military junta. During the course of the struggle, they were forced by the militancy of the ranks to call strikes and oppose the government. One of the outcomes of these battles was a struggle within the unions to replace the misleadership.

In 1973 the military rulers were kicked out. Through a coup in 1976 they returned to power. The Argentine workers are once again advancing in their fight to overthrow a military regime and establish their own government. That is why imperialism is afraid.



# 'American Labor' photographs: tools for change

BY DIANE JACOBS

Earl Dotter is a photographer of workers. He describes his subjects this way:

"What I try and have tried to do in all my pictures is highlight individuals, doing their best to cope, trying to improve their lot in life with self-respect and dignity. That way, even when I photograph people who are ill, or injured, or dying because of their work, the viewer has a bond of human dignity, a common

## PHOTOGRAPHY REVIEW

ground. That's important. You can't possibly change things if you view working people as victims, or objects."

His current exhibit, "American Labor," can be seen Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., through June 11 at Gallery 1199, 310 West 43rd Street in New York. He only shows in union galleries "because the hours are such that the people who work can attend."

Dotter was born in 1944. He worked as an advertising designer until he was radicalized by the Vietnam War and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

He joined VISTA to avoid the draft, and in that capacity went to the Cumberland Plateau to organize social service programs.

"I got to know coal miners," he explains in an interview in the *Village Voice*. It was 1968, a time when pensions were low and medical benefits negligible. The Farmington, West Virginia, mine disaster had just claimed the lives of 69 miners. A fight had begun to unseat the corrupt officialdom of Tony Boyle, then president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

"The miners began to demonstrate and whenever they did, I was there to take photos."

He published first in a dissident paper, *The Miners*

*Voice*, and after 1975 was hired as staff photographer for the official UMWA paper, *United Mine Workers Journal*. "We opened it up to the rank and file. They got a voice."

In 1978 he left the *Journal* and traveled to North Carolina to photograph J. P. Stevens textile workers fighting for union recognition. He is currently on the staff of the American Labor Education Center. "We're on the road a lot," he says, "going to make health and safety slide shows."

The 100 photographs in *American Labor* span Dotter's career. Some have explanatory titles: "Fired Textile Worker Reinstated To Her Job Having Won A Contract From J. P. Stevens"; "Once a Coal Miner, Now An Autoworker"; and "Her Husband Survived Vietnam To Die In A Coal Mine." Most are simpler: "Garment Worker, Long Island City"; "Tree Cutter"; "Cotton Picker, Age Ten."

A few pictures are accompanied by quotes. "Forge Worker On Compulsory Overtime" is a middle-aged, weary Black man sitting on a skid in front of a blackboard that reads: "9 hrs NEXT WEEK/WORK SAT." Beneath the photo is a typed caption: "Between overtime and weekend work and having to get two jobs to pay your bills — hardly anybody works just 40 hours anymore. And when you've got millions of people with no jobs at all — it just doesn't make sense."

Under a picture of a young chemical worker: "My uncle worked here 30 years and the day after I started at the plant, he died of lung cancer. He was only 50 years old. I started looking around, and I saw that hardly anybody lives long enough to retire out of this plant."

The quotes and titles are effective. They politicize the pictures and educate us; but they also make the subjects more human and accessible — these people are our relatives and co-workers.

Most of the photographs are head-on portraits; more than 80 are black and white, grainy, and richly textured. They reveal the grit, sweat, dirt, hazards, and monotony of the job; but they also convey their human

subjects' dignity, hope, and capacity to triumph over bad conditions.

This show should be seen by anyone who wonders how art can affirm the working class. No academic education is required to appreciate the power of Dotter's work — his photographs are tools to change consciousness.

And, as he says, "It's pretty rare in the labor movement for workers to experience art about themselves."



Garment worker, Long Island City

Earl Dotter

## LETTERS

### The real crooks

I found out about your paper through a friend. I'm an inmate and would appreciate receiving your paper on a regular basis.

I wish people would open their eyes and throw away our papers that are full of political propaganda. American imperialism is getting out of hand. It's a shame how quickly the American people forget. It may do them a world of good to read up on Watergate.

I read a book called *The Final Days* and it appears that Alexander Haig had a hand in the coverup. Where is he now? One of the most powerful men in America. When he should be right where he belongs — prison.

Also, I'd bet the majority of the people don't even realize that Britain took the islands from Argentina in the first place. This has to stop!

Yet when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan they were, of course, wrong in our leaders' eyes. Then they turn around and contradict everything they are supposed to believe in. What a joke!

A prisoner  
Pendleton, Indiana

### Militant materialism

I fell to thinking recently about this country's ruling class and its petty bourgeois ideologues who, at the bidding of their masters, have been developing and refining a wide variety of idealist and pseudo-scientific (all thoroughly reactionary) philosophies of late, all to justify mastery of the means of production by the capitalist class. Religion, fuzzy mysticism, and Kate Smith singing "God Bless America" seem to be the order of the day.

The one bright spot amidst this chaos has been the *Mili-*

*tant's* fine coverage of these trends and the excellent espousal of the materialist view of history and science that have come from its pages. Cliff Connor's articles are especially praiseworthy, being some of the best I've read of late (his essay on relativity should be issued as a pamphlet).

"Modern natural science," Lenin wrote, "will find in the Hegelian dialectics, materialistically interpreted, a series of answers to the philosophical problems which are being raised by the revolution in natural sciences and which make intellectual admirers of bourgeois fashion 'stumble' into reaction."

These words are especially important to us now as the ruling class attempts to beat back workers on all fronts; philosophical, economic, and political.

The answer to bourgeois idealism is materialism, militantly applied to everyday life. The *Militant* must, and has done well towards becoming, a "Society of Materialist Friends," to paraphrase Lenin.

On that point, may I suggest that this newspaper, in its campaign against fuzzy idealism, put out a button identifying the proud wearer as not only a 'materialist,' but a 'militant materialist'; 'militant' would appear as it does on your masthead.

Peter J. Krala  
New Haven, Connecticut

### Dallas protests

Beginning in March of this year there has been a sharp increase in protest marches, rallies and meetings in Dallas — in contrast to most of last year.

In March some 300 people marched in support of jailing the killer cops who murdered two young Blacks last June 10th in Mexia, Texas. Over 500 endured pouring rain to protest

U.S. involvement in El Salvador on March 27.

In April 700 came out to hear witch-hunt victim and civil libertarian John Henry Faulk speak for the thousands of "disappeared" persons throughout Latin America. On Ground Zero Day, 500 people again endured pouring rain to march against the threat of nuclear war.

In May over 1,000 people rallied on one week's notice against police harassment of gays in Dallas' Oak Lawn section.

And to top it off, one of the largest working-class mobilizations in two to three years occurred on May 8 when a defiant and angry crowd of over 1,000 Mexicanos, Latinos, and Chicanos marched and rallied against the recent INS raids of Dallas area factories to arrest undocumented workers.

Laced throughout the crowd were Mexicanos, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Latinos from many other countries, representing the thousands who toil away at minimum wage in the city's restaurants and garment shops, mow the lawns and trim the hedges, and work for the hundreds of fly-by-night construction outfits.

Hundreds of children marched in this action. Their presence spoke for the terrible impact the INS raids have on the families of undocumented workers.

On May 8 all the anger, frustration, outrage, and humiliation resultant from the gestapo-like activity of the INS raids came together in a spirited and inspiring action by the Chicano and Latino community.

And what came across most strongly among the protesters was a fighting, self-confident mood which is sure to give the ruling rich in this country a good tumble or two as they step up their drive against all our democratic rights so they can go to

war with less opposition at home.

Jim Kendrick  
Dallas, Texas

### 'Missing'

Costa-Gavras's film *Missing* deserves credit for its exposure of the Chilean coup by the military against the legal government of Allende in 1973.

The brutality of the coup and the collaboration of the U.S. government is well documented. Especially revealing is the comment of one State Department official who admitted that the lives of some American citizens and the thousands of murdered Chileans were of less importance than the investments of 3,000 multinational companies whose interests were in danger of expropriation.

However, missing from the movie, which would have made more revealing the failures of the social-democratic approach to political power, were flashbacks of the many speeches of President Allende assuring the masses that the military had promised him to remain loyal to his government. Allende was naive. The military caste re-

sponded to the appeal of the Chilean oligarchy when their economic interests were threatened by Allende's reforms and overthrew his government.

Joe Carroll  
Newark, New Jersey

### Antiwar GI

I read in a recent issue of the *Militant* of Robert Cuthbert's participation in a peace march while in uniform, in defiance of army regulations. I admire this courage and I tell people so.

I have written letters of encouragement to Robert, and letters to his commander, John Hudachek, urging leniency, or, better yet, the dropping of the charges. I received no reply from Robert, and assumed that he was still in the stockade and that my letter had been withheld from him.

I was pleasantly surprised to read in the May 21 *Militant* that he has been released, as I and many others had urged.

Enclosed is a \$5.00 check to help with more such work as this.

George La Forest  
Rockford, Illinois

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## Voting rights demonstrators denounce Reagan's racism, wars, cutbacks



Militant/Arnold Weissberg  
Winston-Salem voting rights rally

BY JIM CARSON

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — "Voting rights are human rights."

"Pick 'em up, put 'em down, we remember Vietnam."

"Jobs, not war."

"Reagan, Reagan, have you heard? This is not Johannesburg."

These were some of the chants and slogans as the voting rights march, sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), passed through Winston-Salem May 23.

Joining the march here were 250 people, most of them Black. Two hundred more joined to take part in a militant and enthusiastic rally to demand extension of the Voting Rights Act and oppose the government's war policy and budget cuts.

The march began in Tuskegee, Alabama, April 19 and has since traveled through towns in Alabama, Georgia, and South and North Carolina, organizing rallies and encouraging participation in the march.

Local support committees made up of churches, labor unions, and civil rights organizations have sponsored daily protests like the one here.

Speakers at the rally here included Rev. Joseph Lowery of SCLC; Leon White, state coordinator for the march; Dick Greenwood, assistant to International Association of Machinists (IAM) President William Winpisinger; Howard Wiley, Winston-Salem co-convenor of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP); and Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California and a socialist city councilman in Seaside.

Underlying the militancy of the crowd was the deep antiwar sentiment in the Black community expressed by all the speakers.

"Anytime a man and woman like Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan allow themselves to get tied up over a little island [the Malvinas], it's time to say no," said Leon White to roars of approval from the crowd.

Greenwood of the IAM blasted the

military budget and its effect on the economy.

"We are here today because we know that if Black people can't vote, trade unions can't exist. We know that if Black people are denied suffrage today, trade unions will be extinguished tomorrow."

"The only real full-employment program we have," Greenwood continued, "the only real youth employment program in this country is the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force."

"The only reindustrialization program we have today is to militarize the economy. And today we have an administration and probably three-quarters of the Congress of the United States telling us the same thing."

Howard Wiley of the NBIPP explained why the Black party solidarizes with the demonstration and fights for the Voting Rights Act.

"It is amazing. In 1982, 17 years after its passage, we are still talking about negotiating our voting rights. Our human rights are not negotiable. Our

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## 'We must disarm the monster in Washington'

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Mel Mason was well received when he spoke at a rally here as part of the march for voting rights.

Mason, a socialist city councilman from Seaside, California, is running an independent campaign for governor of that state.

"I am here because this struggle in the south is our struggle in California," Mason began. "As Malcolm X said, 'Everything south of the Canadian border is South.'"

"We launched our campaign for governor of California because we found that all those candidates for governor are for war. All those candidates are for taking our young Black people away and putting them in a war in El Salvador or Nicaragua to fight for Exxon."

"They are all for the draft and they are all for the death penalty, which takes so many Black lives and will continue to. All those candidates are for everything Black people and working people are against."

Mason outlined how the government is attacking democratic rights to prepare the masses for war.

"It is significant that the attacks on the Voting Rights Act occur at the same time that the U.S. government is involved in shooting wars in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Argentina. The attack on voting rights goes hand in hand with the wars of the U.S. government."

"Whenever the government prepares for war, the first thing it does is launch a full-scale attack on the democratic rights of the people of this country, in an attempt to make the people into sheep and con them into submission so that there will be no organized opposition to war."

He recalled an example before World War II, when a similar attack occurred against Blacks to stop opposition to that war.

"We find ourselves in that climate once again. Blacks have been lynched in Alabama and in Georgia. Two Black women have been jailed for the crime of assisting other Black people in exercising their voting rights. The rate of police brutality against Black people has reached an all-time high. Twenty-five

percent of all Black people and 60 percent of our youth are out of work, leaving young Blacks with only one option: join the U.S. military."

"And that is why this demonstration today has to be a demonstration for jobs for our people. It has to be a demonstration against the war and the draft. Because Black people have no stake whatsoever in wars against other peoples of color who are fighting for the same freedoms we have been fighting for in this country for the past 400 years."

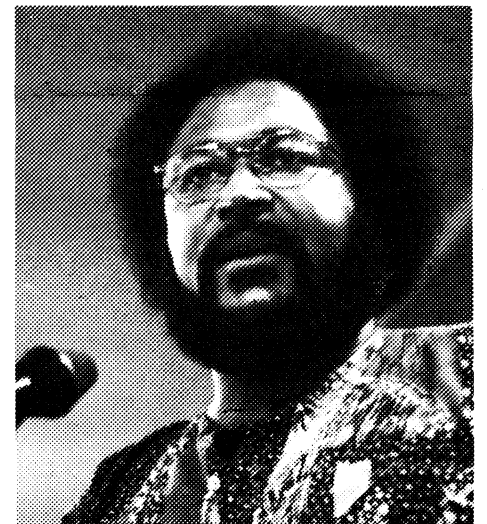
The audience roared with approval.

"We will organize the Black community," Mason said, "around disarming the monster in Washington. And we will organize Black people against the war. Because we know Black people suffer disproportionately from social ills caused by the war drive. We suffer dis-

proportionately from unemployment and the cutbacks in social services. And when the U.S. intervenes in other countries with troops, we are the ones who suffer disproportionately on the battlefield. What we have to understand is that militarism is racism."

"If Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were alive today, they would both be opposed to wars in the colonial world. So this demonstration today has to be a demonstration in which we solidary with people of color all over the world who are struggling against the same problems that we are struggling against in this country."

After the rally many people came up to Mason to express agreement with him. In addition, 35 people attended an open house for Mason at the Militant Labor Bookstore here.



Militant/Arnold Weissberg  
Mel Mason addressing North Carolina rally

## Socialist hits racist gerrymander

BY ANDY ROSE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A bipartisan attempt to slash Black political representation in Alabama highlights the need to extend and strengthen the Voting Rights Act, says Martin Boyers, Socialist Workers candidate for governor.

On May 6 the federal Justice Department rejected as racially discriminatory a plan for redrawing state legislative districts. The plan had been approved by overwhelming majorities of Democrats and Republicans alike in a special legislative session last October.

The state plan would eliminate one of the seven majority-Black districts in the Birmingham area. It would eliminate four out of five of the majority-Black districts in the "Black Belt" of western Alabama.

One Montgomery community with a 91 percent Black population was not assigned to any legislative district — that is, it would have no vote at all on state representatives.

Socialist candidate Boyers, a Birmingham steelworker, noted that the 1965 Voting Rights Act requires Alabama to win federal approval of all

changes in election districts. Without this "preclearance" provision, he said, "the disenfranchisement of thousands of Blacks would already be an accomplished fact."

Democratic Governor Forrest "Fob" James and a special legislative committee are now in secret negotiations with the Reagan administration to preserve as much as possible of the racist plan and still get a Justice Department OK.

Meanwhile, Black state legislators

have filed suit to block any statewide election until a nondiscriminatory districting plan is drawn up.

Boyers has made defense of voting rights a central issue of his campaign. Along with strengthening the Voting Rights Act, he calls for immediate freedom for Julia Wilder and Maggie Bozeman, two Black women convicted on frame-up charges for helping Blacks register in rural Pickens County, Alabama.

In a statement now being distributed, Boyers voiced support for the five-state voting rights march that began last month with a rally of 3,000 in Tuskegee.

"The attack on voting rights comes at a time when many workers and farmers — especially Blacks — are looking for alternatives to the Democratic and Republican parties," the statement says. "It's no accident that steps toward rolling back the right of Blacks to vote comes at a time when Black activists have formed the National Black Independent Political Party, a party with tremendous potential not only for Black people, but an example to all working people."



Militant/Willa Madden  
Socialist candidate Martin Boyers