

# Reagan gives the green light to Israeli war on Palestinians

## Fifty U.S. warships placed on alert in Mediterranean Sea



Devastation in Beirut, Lebanon.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The U.S. Navy has ordered a task force of 50 warships in the eastern Mediterranean to be ready for possible "rescue" operations in Lebanon.

This coincides with the Israeli regime's decision to break its latest "cease-fire" — the June 22 one — as Israeli planes, tanks, and artillery attacked Syrian positions just south of the Beirut-Damascus highway on June 23.

All signs point to a decision by the Zionist regime to go into western Beirut in an attempt to drive out the thousands of Palestinian combatants who are lodged there.

The U.S. embassy, which is in predominantly Muslim western Beirut, has closed, and all Americans are being urged to leave. In addition to sending a Navy transport to Lebanon, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy left open the possibility that some warships might move toward Lebanon "if needed."

The day after President Ronald Reagan received Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the White House, Israeli tanks and fighter planes began another large-scale, murderous offensive in Lebanon.

Reagan's statement that his June 21 meeting with Begin was "worthwhile," and that they shared an understanding "of the need to bring peace and security to the Middle East," gave the Zionist regime the green light to resume the fiercest fighting with Syria since the June 11 "cease-fire."

Syrian tank units suffered heavy losses on top of the extensive damage already done to their forces since the war began.

Israeli armed forces have been regularly bombarding Palestinian refugee camps and civilian neighborhoods in western Beirut. On June 22, estimates are that Israeli planes and artillery killed 27 people and wounded 80. Later that day, Israeli fighter planes unleashed a 30-minute barrage against two crowded residential areas of Beirut.

Once they finished their day's blood-letting, the Israelis quickly agreed to yet another "cease-fire" — at American request.

The Israelis claim that they have been observing the cease-fire all along, despite the fact that not a single day has gone by without some new report of Israeli aggression.

In his meeting with Begin, Reagan expressed his agreement with the imposition of a proimperialist government on the Lebanese people, using the thousands of Israeli troops stationed around the capital as a means of "convincing" the Lebanese people to go along with this.

And Reagan repeated that his administration is open to the idea of U.S. troops participating in a "peacekeeping" force that would occupy southern Lebanon.

Against the powerful assault of the Israeli army, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has put up heroic resistance.

And, in an inspiring act of internationalism, the embattled PLO has pledged to aid the struggling people of Nicaragua, who are in dire straits as a

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# Nicaraguans say flood devastation sets revolution back three years

BY OSCAR EDMUNDO TALMA

The following dispatch from Agencia Nueva Nicaragua, Nicaragua's national news agency, appeared on the editorial page of the June 16 issue of the Managua daily *Barricada*. The translation is by *Intercontinental Press*.

New and urgent appeals have been issued in Managua for international aid to confront the grave damage caused by torrential storms that flooded the western half of the country at the end of May. Some countries have sent substantial and timely aid to the Nicaraguan people. However, the majority of governments and social and humanitarian institutions in the rest of the world have either not done so or done so only partially.

Perhaps they have an incomplete appreciation of the situation, as Commander Jaime Wheelock, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista Front, suggested last Friday. But the truth is that the disaster is serious, very serious, and must be evaluated (or reevaluated) in its exact magnitude if worldwide solidarity is to flow abundantly to this suffering Central American nation.

### More severe than earthquake

It appears that many countries are looking at the catastrophe solely from the point of view of the number of deaths. These were relatively few (a little over 100), because of the measures taken by the Sandinista government to protect lives. If you look at things this way, from this single point of view, the tragedy would be less, say, than that of the December 1972 earthquake, which took the lives of tens of thousands of people, mostly in Managua.

But if you take an overall view, it is

clear that the effects of the recent floods were more severe than those of the earthquake. Not only were broader layers of the population affected, but tremendous damage was done to the country's agriculture and infrastructure — that is, to the heart of its economy.

Let us take another look at the statistics of the damage caused by the storm, figures that have been blacked out or purposely minimized by the international news agencies:

- More than 60,000 left homeless (a figure equal to the number of houses and buildings leveled by Somoza's air force and artillery in the final stage of its offensive against the Sandinista insurrection.)

- 25 cities and towns cut off from the rest of the country.

- Entire communities in the port of Corinto "swallowed" by the sea.

- A number of villages in the province of Estelí buried under tons of rocks and mud.

- 30 percent of the country's schools destroyed.

- 43 bridges damaged.

- 6,000 head of cattle killed.

- And worst of all, the loss of 60 percent of the harvest of basic food grains and more than a third of the main export crops (bananas, cotton, coffee).

### Back to first days

The conclusion that emerges from these terrifying figures is very sad for those who love the Nicaraguan revolution.

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# Steel union officials approve talks with bosses on reopening contract

BY LISA KANNENBERG

PITTSBURGH — Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Basic Steel Industries Conference Board met here June 18 to discuss the steel bosses' proposal to reopen and renegotiate the basic steel agreement. The steel contract is currently scheduled to expire in August 1983.

The steel companies want the USWA to accept lower wages and benefits and worsened working conditions, as auto, transportation, and other unions have done.

Sentiment against reopening the contract runs deep among rank-and-file steelworkers. Many steel locals sent their presidents to the board meeting with resolutions opposing contract concessions.

In deference to this sentiment, the proposal posed by the USWA leadership to the local presidents who make up the board did not call for the immediate reopening of the contract. Instead, it authorized the USWA to begin "discussions" with the industry on the "possibility" of reopening the contract. This resolution passed by a vote of 263 to 79, or 77 percent to 23 percent.

Lloyd McBride, president of the USWA, said talks with the industry "may lead in a number of directions." He said the union plans to counter the industry's concessions demands by raising its concern about massive unemployment in the industry.

Currently 100,000 basic steelworkers are on layoff while 25,000 are working

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# Camp David paved way for Lebanon war

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon is a direct result of the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords, which were signed by the Israeli and Egyptian regimes in 1978.

Those accords were widely touted as a first step toward "peace" in the Middle East. But in fact, they were intended by the U.S. and Israeli governments as a means of tightening their grip on the region. They knew from the beginning that this would require new wars.

The accords marked the first formal break in the Arab world's stance of opposition to the Zionist state since its creation in 1948. Under tremendous pressure from imperialism, the Egyptian regime of Anwar el-Sadat agreed to a separate treaty with Israel. By accepting the legitimacy of a colonial settler-state based on the expulsion of the majority of the Palestinian people from their homeland, Sadat betrayed not only the Palestinians, but the Arab peoples as a whole.

The accords constituted an important setback to the anti-imperialist struggle in the Middle East. Using the accords, the imperialists sought to isolate the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), weaken other anti-imperialist forces in the region, and deepen the rift among Arab governments by drawing other proimperialist regimes — such as those in Saudi Arabia and Jordan — into the Camp David framework.

## Iranian revolution

But the outbreak of the Iranian revolution upset these calculations. It inspired working people throughout the region and strengthened all the anti-imperialist forces. This made it more politically difficult for the Saudi and Jordanian monarchies to follow Sadat's example. As a result, the Egyptian regime found itself diplomatically isolated in the Arab world.

At the same time, the PLO's influence grew, both internationally and within the region.

Nevertheless, the accords marked an overall step forward for the imperialists. The treaty with the Egyptian regime enabled the Zionists to concentrate their military pressures against Lebanon, Syria, and the PLO, and to proceed with their preparations for annexation of the occupied territories, under the guise of establishing Palestinian "autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (which was one of the provisions of the Camp David accords).

## U.S. aid to Israel increased

The accords also provided a political cover for vastly increased U.S. military and economic assistance to Israel, and for Washington's own stepped-up military intervention in the region. Direct U.S. aid to Israel has been sustained at a level of several billion dollars a year, and the Pentagon has obtained new bases in Oman, Kenya, Somalia, and Morocco. The U.S. also established a direct military presence in Egypt, and

tightened its military links with Saudi Arabia.

On top of these obvious military preparations, the pressures that Washington applied against various Arab regimes also bore fruit during the invasion of Lebanon.

Basically the Palestinians had to rely on their own forces to confront the Israeli invaders. For the Israelis, the Egyptian regime's reaction to the invasion of Lebanon — mild verbal condemnation, while reaffirming its desire to maintain "peace" with Israel — was proof of Camp David's value. "The peace treaty between us and Egypt held up," Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin declared. "This was an important test."

In a radio address from Beirut, PLO leader Yassir Arafat pointed to the stance of the Arab governments. "I don't understand how the Arabs can be so ineffectual when the Israelis are knocking at the gates of an Arab capital," he said.

## A 'great understanding'

Throughout the invasion, the Reagan administration has sought to avoid direct political responsibility for the Begin regime's criminal actions and to preserve the mantle of a regional "peacemaker." But Washington's refusal to condemn the invasion or to halt its massive arms shipments to Israel exposed its true stance.

This has also been shown by the actions of Philip Habib, who was sent by Reagan as a special envoy to Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. As Thomas Friedman noted in the June 17 *New York Times* "Mr. Habib is essentially serving as the salesman for Israeli conditions."

During a news conference in Jerusalem, Begin was able to confidently proclaim, "In recent days great understanding has been reached between the U.S. government and the government of Israel."

In Lebanon, the invasion has made it possible for Washington and Tel Aviv to try to set up a new regime, for the first time since the end of the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war, which ended in an uneasy stalemate between the rightist Maronite Christian forces and the leftist, mainly Muslim groups, which were allied with the Palestinians.

With Israeli tanks parked not far from his presidential palace, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis has announced the formation of a new Council of National Salvation, to supplant the existing government. Both the U.S. and Israeli governments are seeking an agreement whereby Lebanese troops would go into West Beirut to disarm the PLO forces.

In addition, the imperialists hope to use the threat of an all-out war with Syria to force the Syrian regime to pull its troops out of Lebanon.

To provide a non-Israeli military force to police any political "settlement" that is hammered out in Lebanon, the Begin regime has been urging the formation of

a new multinational "peacekeeping" force.

Tel Aviv has suggested French and U.S. troops. French troops are already participating in the 7,000-member UN "peacekeeping" force that has been in southern Lebanon since 1978. And U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has told reporters in London that Washington was seriously considering sending U.S. troops to Lebanon as part of such a force. This would represent another major step in the escalation of the direct U.S. military role in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Begin keeps insisting that his regime has no territorial designs on Lebanon. Yet Israeli experts have already set up an occupation government in Lebanon modeled on the one in the West Bank.

Beyond the immediate situation in Lebanon itself, Washington hopes to breathe new life into the broader Camp David process.

These are the imperialists' aims. But realizing them will not be so easy.

## Reagan gives war green light

### Continued from Page 1

result of grave damage to their country from torrential storms.

The savagery of the Zionist regime's attack has brought cries of outrage and condemnation against Israel from every corner of the globe.

Even in Begin's meeting with the pro-Israel U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Begin got an angry response.

Much of it was a result of concern that the "excessive nature" of Israel's war in Lebanon was leading to increasing isolation of Israel, making it harder for these capitalist politicians to justify Washington's massive military and economic aid to Israel.

## Iran sends troops to aid Palestinians

In a powerful display of international solidarity, several thousand Iranian troops have arrived in Lebanon to aid the Palestinian freedom fighters.

According to the *New York Times*, they traveled through Syria and have been seen in Aleih, on the Beirut-Damascus Highway, some 10 miles east of Beirut. As of June 22, Israeli tanks were closing in on Aleih, in their bid to clear the Beirut-Damascus Highway.

Socialists in Tehran report that thousands of Iranians have responded to the appeal by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for volunteers to fight against the Israeli invaders.

Right after the invasion of Lebanon, Iran asked Iraq to grant passage for Iranian troops so that they could join the battle in Lebanon.

The Iranian government has also sent both medical aid and goods to the embattled Palestinians.

Already, Sarkis's attempts to set up a new Lebanese government has run into problems.

The longer the Israeli troops remain in Lebanon, the higher the political costs will be.

Internationally, Tel Aviv — and Washington — have come in for widespread denunciation.

And within Israel itself, doubts and criticisms of the Begin regime's war policies will increase.

The blows that have been inflicted on the PLO — and any other advances the imperialists make as a result — will not solve their long-term problems in the Middle East. All it will do is buy them some time.

The fact is that the PLO is not just a political organization or a military force. It is the expression of the aspirations of more than 4 million Palestinians who are fighting to regain their homeland. Those aspirations cannot be stifled as long as the Palestinian people exist.

Representative Clement Zablocki (D-Wis.) told Begin that his Wisconsin constituents had upbraided him for supporting Israel too long, and one group told him bluntly his hands "are as bloody as those of Israeli soldiers."

Begin refused to answer senators who asked about reports that cluster bombs — antipersonnel weapons designed to kill and maim people — were being used by the Israelis in Lebanon.

In an attempt to deflect the worldwide outrage against its war, the Israeli government is now disputing the killed and casualty figures that have been issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Israeli foreign minister is claiming that 470 civilians have been killed, 1,600 wounded, and 20,000 left homeless as a result of the war.

But the Palestinians estimate 10,000 killed and 600,000 homeless — a figure echoed by the Red Cross.

Many Israeli soldiers are themselves sickened by the job they have been sent to do. *New York Times* correspondent William Farrell reported June 17 on his interviews with Israeli troops. One soldier, wrote Farrell, "asked to describe what he had seen, just shook his head and said he did not want to talk about it."

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Media is playing down defeats suffered by U.S.-trained Salvadoran troops at hand of rebel forces.

# The media cover-up of Washington's war in Central America

Is news brownout prelude to sending GIs?

BY HARRY RING

"Out of sight, out of mind."

That's the basis of the strategy now being used by Washington to reduce public concern over U.S. involvement in Central American wars.

The reason for this ploy is that U.S. military intervention in Central America is continuing to deepen.

The strategy for reducing public concern is to take the issue out of the public eye.

The big-business media are playing a key role in this.

The media generally use a two-sided strategy in their efforts to manipulate public thinking. One is by what they print. The other is by what they don't.

For example:

Last March, elections were held in El Salvador. According to the official count, an astonishing number of people went to the polls — nearly 1.5 million.

The U.S. media went all out. For days on end there was saturation coverage in the press and on radio and TV.

They pounded at the theme that the Salvadoran liberation forces had been repudiated. The people were behind the government. Washington's military support to the regime was vindicated.

Then, some 10 weeks later, Salvadoran campus researchers released statistics establishing that the election had been a huge swindle.

The actual number of people who voted, they demonstrated, far from being some 1.5 million, was about half that number — 700,000 to 800,000 maximum.

Measure the column inches of type that story got in your local paper and compare it to the coverage of the election itself.

## Cover-up of assassinations

The media cover-up on El Salvador hasn't been limited to the vote fraud.

How many headlines have you seen about the stepped-up, government-sanctioned assassinations since the elections?

In an 18-day period in May, for example, 12 political activists were murdered — not supporters of the guerrilla movement, but Christian Democrats, a right-of-center party that had contested against the ultrarights in the rigged election.

Buried along with that story is the news of the moves of the new government to halt the token and almost totally phony "land reform" program of the previous junta. In addition to ending the distribution of what little land was slated to be given to peasants, strong-arms squads were driving peasants off the few scraps of land that had actually been distributed.

But the biggest cover-up has been the story of the ongoing civil war and the continuing difficulties of the government in trying to dislodge the guerrilla forces from areas where they have substantial strength.

This despite the fact that massive government forces have been committed to the fighting and led by the special units that had been brought to this country for military training.

The army has been fighting the rebels in Morazan and Chalatenango provinces for about a month and, by government admission, has failed to dislodge them.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration is escalating the flow of planes, helicopters, and other matériel.

One thing is for certain. The continuing inability of the right-wing junta to register gains against the insurgent forces increases the danger of a decision by Washington to commit U.S. troops there, even in the face of deepgoing domestic opposition and the outcry it would spark throughout Latin America and internationally.

And that isn't news?

## Nicaragua flood

Even more hidden from the American people are the events in revolutionary Nicaragua.

At the end of May, Nicaragua was battered by a torrential rain that left massive floods in its wake. More than 100 people have died in the flood, and 60,000 have been left homeless.

In terms of damage to crops and the economy as a whole, the flood is a bigger disaster than the 1972 earthquake there.

But since the earthquake occurred during the tenure of the "right" kind of government — the Somoza dictatorship — there was extensive media coverage of that event, and large sums of disaster aid were sent. Most of this, it was later established, was pocketed by Somoza and his thugs.

The present disaster in Nicaragua has received only the barest media coverage. Reagan has reacted typically. Because Nicaragua now has a government that represents working people, it was offered a paltry \$25,000 plus some surplus powdered milk by the U.S. government.

More directly ominous is the way the U.S. military operations against Nicaragua have been handled as non-news.

On June 7, a U.S. warship was sighted just three miles off the Nicaraguan coast. When a Nicaraguan patrol boat tried to approach the ship, an armed helicopter was dispatched. It returned to the warship only after the Nicaraguans fired warning shots.

Washington then brazenly declared the ship had been outside Nicaragua's

12-mile limit and "protested" the encounter, while ignoring Nicaragua's protest of the provocative incident.

It should be recalled that Lyndon Johnson claimed the Vietnamese had attacked a U.S. warship off their coast and used this to justify a massive escalation of the aggression against Vietnam.

The coastal provocation against Nicaragua comes in the context of a continuing series of military attacks against Nicaragua from across the border of neighboring Honduras. Operating there are up to 5,000 counterrevolutionary mercenaries, armed, trained, and directed by Washington. These heavily armed bands have conducted nearly 70 raids into Nicaragua in a six-month period.

The danger that these raids will escalate into a broader war is apparent. Yet you need a magnifying glass to find news about them in the U.S. media.

## 'National security' excuse

Back in 1961, the Kennedy administration was organizing Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba. The major media cooperated in handling this as non-news.

Later, the lame excuse was offered that this was necessary for "national security" — to keep the invasion plan from the Cubans.

But this was obvious nonsense. The Cubans were fully aware of the planned invasion and, as they demonstrated when they smashed it, fully prepared as well.

No, the purpose of that media blackout was to deceive the American people.

The same holds true today. The American people are the targets of a government-media conspiracy to keep them uninformed about wars already under way and bigger ones in the making.

In the period when the Salvadoran civil war was on the front pages, every poll confirmed that the great majority of the American people were against sending U.S. troops there. The significant turnout for anti-intervention demonstrations underscored that this was the stand of the American people.

That's the reason for the blackout. And that's why it's the urgent responsibility of those who do realize what's happening in Central America and the Caribbean to double and redouble their efforts to spread the facts as widely as possible.

## Welcome to our new readers

Some 800 participants in the June 12 peace demonstration bought introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*. This is by way of welcome to our new readers and to express the hope that many of you will decide to renew your subscriptions.

We believe that as regular readers you will come to find our paper invaluable. If you do, we urge you to renew your subscription at \$15 for 6 months or \$24 for one year.

For one thing, we're committed to telling the truth. That's worth noting. The article above indicates how the business-controlled media are helping to cover up Washington's war in Central America. And that's just one example of how they suppress, slant, and falsify the news.

We offer a lot of coverage you won't find elsewhere. We have regular first-hand reporting from our bureau in Nicaragua, where the workers and farmers are fighting to build a new, rational society.

We feature frequent reports from Cuba, which is blazing the trail in the struggle for a socialist world. Similarly, with our reporting from revolutionary Grenada.

Last week's issue of the *Militant* included a first-hand report from Tel Aviv on the developing opposition among Israeli workers, soldiers, and students to Begin's monstrous invasion of Lebanon.

Earlier, we carried first-hand reports from London on the response there to

the British war against Argentina.

We can't match the major media in wire services and news bureaus. But we provide more news than any of them on what's happening in the antiwar/antinuclear weapons struggle, the fight of unionists against the drive on our living standards, the resistance of Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed nationalities to their victimization.

We report regularly on such important developments as the National Black Independent Political Party. And we provide coverage to the struggle of women to win their rights.

The *Militant* offers a socialist analysis of political events and a program for working people and all victims of this crisis-ridden capitalist system.

You may not agree with all of our ideas, but we think you'll find them relevant and thought-provoking.

Our political stand reflects the views of the Socialist Workers Party. If you want to learn more about the SWP or the Young Socialist Alliance, which is politically associated with it, check out the directory on page 17.

The capitalist media can't tell the truth because it supports the ruling rich, whose policies, and deeds, can't stand genuine scrutiny. We can tell the truth because we're on the side of the working people, who will turn this country around. Truth — and history — are on our side.

— The editors

## Civilians still dying, Salvador panel says

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission has reported that more than 2,100 people were killed in the

## News Briefs

first four months of 1981, and has charged that the country's new government is not keeping a pledge to end political violence.

The commission, in a report made public Wednesday, said there were 2,149 slayings and 351 political kid-

## Nicaragua Clash Reported

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, June 19 (AP) — The Defense Ministry said nine members of a counterrevolutionary band died in a clash with Government soldiers in northern Nicaragua.

## Salvador Concedes Rebel Success

SAN SALVADOR, June 9 (UPI) — Military officials conceded today that rebels still hold the town of Perquin and half of northern Morazan province, despite a claim by the Defense Minister that the army had "total control" of the

## Salvador Rebels Say They Captured a Colonel

SAN SALVADOR, June 20 — El Salvador's Deputy Minister of Defense, Col. Francisco Adolfo Castillo, who had been reported killed in a helicopter crash, is alive, according to a rebel radio broadcast.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, June 10 (AP) — Twenty-one "counterrevolutionaries" and five soldiers were killed in battles near the Honduran border in recent days, Nicaraguan officials say. Most of the rightist groups near the border are made up of former national guard soldiers who fled to Honduras in 1979 when President Anastasio Somoza Debayle was overthrown.

day, 3,000-man sweep of northern Chalatenango province that involved three American-trained battalions. "The army has total control of all the country, and it will go where circumstances demand that it go," Mr. Garcia told reporters.

## Protesters in Guatemala Ask Inquiry Into Disappearances

GUATEMALA, June 19 (Reuters) — About 150 people demonstrated outside the National Palace on Friday to demand a government investigation into how and why thousands of people disappeared in recent years.

The protesters, mainly women and children, attributed most of the disappearances to security forces. A petition to President Efraín Rios Montt said that even during his short period in office illegal arrests and abductions had occurred. He took power as head of a three-man junta after a bloodless coup in March. Last week the military leadership dissolved the junta and named him President.

A sampling of news "briefs" on Central America.

# Reagan defends U.S. war policy before UN

## Cuban leader blasts imperialism's 'philosophy of plunder'



Cuban Vice-president Carlos Rafael Rodríguez (left) condemned Reagan's arms buildup and aggression around world.

BY SUZANNE HAIG

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Second Special Session on Disarmament opened here June 7 as Israel launched its savage invasion of Lebanon.

As the session was in progress, Britain dealt a military defeat to Argentina in the Malvinas Islands. Wars continued against workers and farmers in Central America and elsewhere in the world.

On June 12, five days after the disarmament session began, the largest anti-war demonstration ever in a U.S. city occurred here in New York, as a million people marched against nuclear weapons and for peace.

On June 15, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko addressed the UN and read a statement from Leonid Brezhnev, pledging not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and calling for a similar pledge by the other nuclear powers.

Two days later, Ronald Reagan arrogantly refused to respond to Brezhnev's proposal. He rejected the calls for peace made by many of the Third World nations and by the one million who demonstrated June 12.

### Reagan promises war

Instead, Reagan provocatively promised an even bigger war buildup, citing the "Soviet threat."

"The scourge of tyranny cannot be stopped with words alone," he said to the UN General Assembly. "So we have embarked on an effort to renew our strength that had fallen dangerously low. We refuse to become weaker while our potential adversaries remain committed to their imperialist adventures."

Reagan reiterated the proposals his administration has made for arms reductions: the elimination of land-based, intermediate-range missiles in Europe; a one-third reduction in strategic ballistic missile warheads; and a reduction in NATO and Warsaw Pact ground and air forces.

But his proposals ring hollow. Washington already has a clear military edge over the Soviet Union, and these initiatives are designed to further strengthen this advantage.

In his most hypocritical statement, Reagan asserted that "America has no territorial ambitions."

The United States, he continued, has fought "to defend freedom and democracy. We were never the aggressors. America's strength, and yes, her military power, have been a force for peace, not conquest; for democracy, not despotism; for freedom, not tyranny."

These remarks were made as Washington backed Israel's aggression in Lebanon and Britain's war on Argentina, and deepened its involvement in Central America. They were made by the head of state of a government that

has more than 2,500 military bases and installations in 114 countries.

Yet Reagan rabidly accused the Soviet Union of "aggression," "tyranny," and "ruthless repression." He claimed the source of war is an "East-West" conflict, one between the so-called free world and the Soviet Union, with Moscow being the aggressor.

"Soviet-sponsored guerrillas and terrorists are at work in Central and South America, in Africa, the Middle East, in the Caribbean, and in Europe, violating human rights and unnerving the world with violence. . . .

"Soviet oppression is not limited to the countries they invade," he continued, taking a shot at U.S. peace activists. "The Soviet Union is trying to manipulate the peace movement," he charged.

### Cuba responds to Reagan

Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Vice-president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, spoke the day before Reagan.

Unlike Reagan and the representatives of other imperialist powers, who talked only about peace in the abstract, Rodríguez began his remarks by referring to the wars in Lebanon and in the Malvinas.

While the UN session on peace and disarmament was taking place, he said, "a brutal and criminal war was imposed on two peoples who have had to confront the enormous military superiority with which they were attacked by the forces of colonialism and aggression that, in both cases, had the United States as an efficient ally and supplier of scientific technology."

Historically, it is the U.S. government that has blocked efforts at arms reduction, he charged.

Since the Reagan administration came to office, he noted, "the rate of arms buildup, which already worried our 1978 assembly, was multiplied. . . . The United States military budget, which was \$105 billion when we met in 1978, has now more than doubled; and within four years, according to the plans already announced, it will almost double the present amount."

Washington had not only "provoked and accelerated the arms race," Rodríguez said, "but they encourage dangerous focal points of war as well."

But Washington's military buildup has not escaped the judgment of public opinion within the United States and around the world, he said.

"Members of Congress, social activists, scientists, cardinals and simple priests, union leaders and feminists, began joining their voices, raising their protests to condemn the dangerous intention by Reagan and his associates to

conceive of arming themselves first to negotiate later."

He pointed out that even George Kennan, former U.S. ambassador to Moscow, had admitted that it is the U.S., not the Soviet Union, that has led the development of nuclear weaponry and used these fiendish devices.

Rodríguez hailed Brezhnev's no-first-strike pledge and called on Washington to do the same. He said that Cuba "strongly advocates immediate negotiations" on arms limitations and the prohibition of new weapons of any kind. He called for the dissolution of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force.

Rodríguez also voiced concern that Reagan's offer to negotiate with Moscow was "only a propaganda maneuver, a temporary concession to United States and world public opinion."

He noted that the Reagan administration had not even accepted the idea of a bilateral nuclear freeze.

"If the United States government took a sensible course toward negotiations," he said, "it would begin by accepting the nuclear freeze proposed to it and which by itself would bring peace of mind — for its content and its meaning — to all the peoples demanding it."

"It would give satisfaction as well to the 72 percent of United States citizens who, according to the polls, said they were in favor of that freeze."

### Philosophy of plunder

Rodríguez took up the Reagan administration's "tendency to present all developments of our times as if conditioned by the contradictions — regarded as insuperable — between East and West."

Instead, Rodríguez placed the cause of war on the "philosophy of plunder," the capitalist drive for greater profits.

"No one is attempting to hide the fact that the socialist and capitalist systems are substantially contradictory, and that they advocate different and opposed solutions to the social and political problems of our times."

"But to turn this ideological contradiction into an unavoidable military confrontation, to interpret the struggle born of the aspirations to social justice as a mere instrument of great-power policy, to attempt to record each political and social development anywhere on earth as a mere episode in a magnified battle between East and West, is to ignore the course of history."

Rodríguez continued:

## Rodríguez praises June 12

The following is excerpted from the speech of Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Cuban vice-president, before the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament. The speech was delivered June 16. The translation is by the Cuban mission to the UN.

Those of us who come together at this meeting with a genuine desire to promote negotiations and achieve détente have good reason to entertain a historic optimism. In all parts of the world, a common cry now begins to grow, saying *no* to the arms race, *no* to nuclear deployment, *no* to the nefarious invention of new weapons of mass destruction, calling for a freeze of nuclear arms as the first step.

The great universal wave that helped stop the holocaust in Vietnam now reappears with an even greater impulse. The hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in Bonn and West Berlin, who marched in defense of peace and disarmament during the president of the United States' visits, expressed their hatred not for a man, and much less for a country, but for all that fosters the spirit of war and the inclination to abandon what

"No one will convince the Salvadoran peasants who take up arms — desperate from long decades of misery, oppression, humiliation, spurred on by hunger, by maltreatment — that their struggles, begun 52 years ago, are a consequence of the emergence of a socialist Cuba, some hundreds of miles from El Salvador, that is manipulating them at the behest of the Soviet Union, which is acting thus at a distance of 8,000 miles from the Salvador scene."

He pointed out that the Malvinas war found its origin in the same philosophy of plunder, perpetrated by Britain, who "refuses to realize that colonialism is outdated in our times, and attempts to recover by force what it is not entitled to by right."

He also cited the threats to Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, the U.S. backing of South African mercenaries, and Washington's intervention in El Salvador as further instances of this philosophy of plunder.

### Right to self-defense

While calling for peace, Rodríguez explained why it was not contradictory for Cuba at the same time to be strengthening its military forces. "In the past few months," he said, "Cuba received what many might term huge quantities of modern and sophisticated weapons. . . . Why have we strengthened our military capability, almost doubling it in one year?"

Rodríguez cited the persistent attacks on Cuba since its revolution in 1959, noting that the Reagan administration has stepped up this aggression.

"The experience of the Malvinas and of Lebanon demonstrates . . . that criticism of smaller countries for contributing to the arms race by their purchase of weapons is not always right."

"To arm oneself in order to attack one's neighbors is reprehensible; to arm oneself in order to exercise the 'legitimate and undeniable right to self-defense,' mentioned by Fidel Castro, is necessary against the philosophy of plunder."

### Peace in hands of the people

Rodríguez regretted that nothing in the Special Session "allows us to expect that the peace we need, and that the world demands, could result from our deliberations, which seem destined to be fruitless."

Continued on Page 16

must be done to halt the course toward catastrophe.

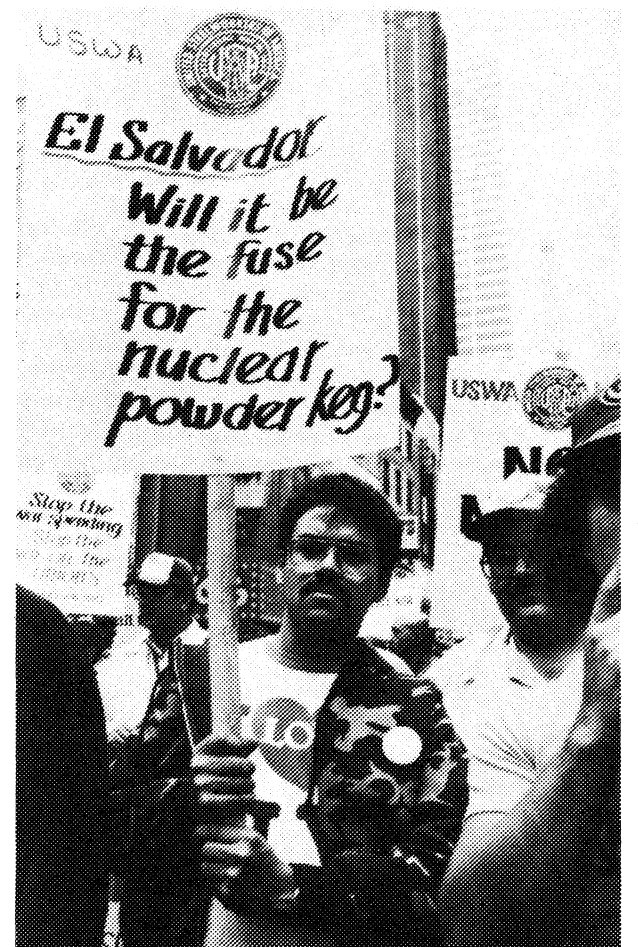
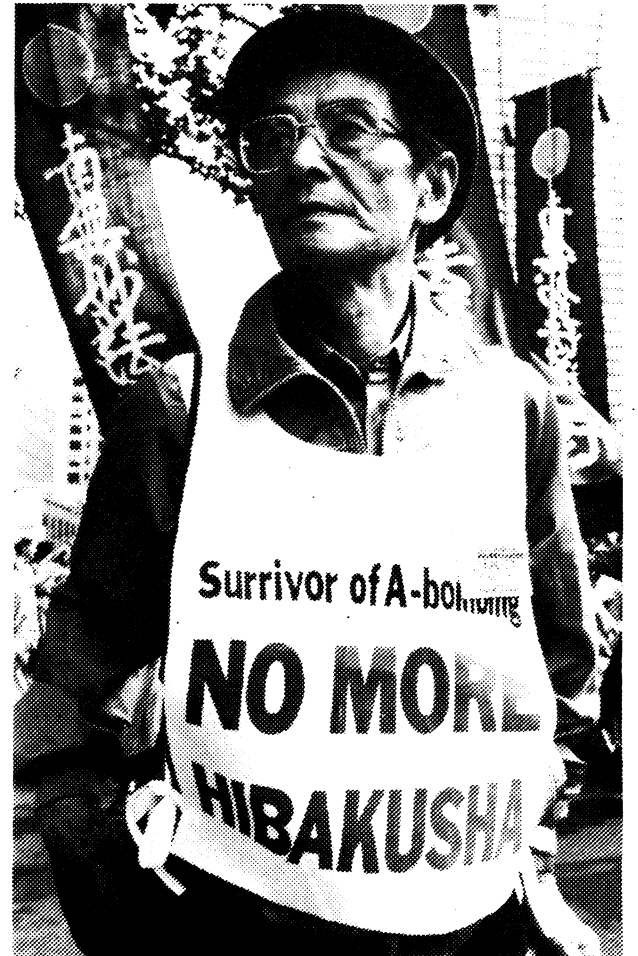
Our conviction that peace can be preserved is affirmed by having been able to witness, last Saturday [June 12], the most powerful public demonstration in the entire history of the United States. Almost a million citizens marched down New York streets to rally in Central Park.

They represented, as has been said, all the strata of United States society. There were children and elderly; we saw whites, Blacks and Indians, Puerto Ricans and Chicanos together; scientists, artists, workers, and even soldiers; men and women from all parts of the United States and even beyond, from the most remote regions of Asia and Africa.

But it was the young people above all who gave their own accent to that impressive demonstration. Young people who proclaimed their right to live, young people who refused to be besieged day after day by the despair of being unable to fulfill their aspirations, by the fear that a simple order to fire the first shot or, even worse, a technical error, will condemn them to die consumed by nuclear fire. We, Mister President, have a responsibility to these young people.



# June 12: They came from near and far



Militant photos by Lou Howort, Holbrook Mahn, and Roberto Kopec  
The million people who assembled in New York to protest the war drive and threat of nuclear annihilation came, quite literally, from near and far. One contingent marched from the Latino community in New York's East Harlem. Members of Steelworkers District 31 came by bus from the Chicago-Gary area. An unprecedented number came from abroad, including many from Japan and Quebec. International participation would have been even greater but, despite protests, the State Department denied visas to many.



# No peace with apartheid, UN is told

## South African raid victims address disarmament session

BY SUZANNE HAIG

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — In the debate occurring here at the Second Special Session on Disarmament, which began June 7, a number of countries in the Nonaligned Movement have targeted Washington and its allies as responsible for aggression in the world today and for the threat of nuclear war.

Among these nations, several from Africa have called attention to the threat to peace emanating from the racist regime in South Africa.

The minister for external relations of the People's Republic of Angola, Paulo Jorge, spoke June 10. He pointed out that it was the Reagan administration, its allies, and "their favorite tools and agents, namely the Pretoria and Tel Aviv regimes, who are to be blamed for the deterioration in the international situation."

"No socialist or progressive country," he continued, "no country that cherishes peace and justice, would start a nuclear war or use other weapons of mass destruction, because the survival of mankind, international peace and security, and the independence of peoples are for these countries their primary principles and objectives."

### 'Fire in a lunatic's hand'

The minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, stated June 14 that the current possession of nuclear technology by South Africa is "like fire in the hands of a lunatic," given the nature of the regime.

South Africa has engaged in major armed raids into Angola and has threatened other countries in the region in an

attempt to destabilize them and force them to withdraw their support to the liberation struggles being waged by the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. Angola has been forced to request the aid of Cuban troops to help safeguard the country from these attacks.

These actions by the apartheid regime were attacked by Chissano as well as by representatives of Angola, the Seychelles, Ghana, Algeria, the Congo, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Madagascar, Nigeria, and others.

Paula Jorge pointed out that the apartheid regime in South Africa enjoyed the support and connivance of Washington and its allies.

He likened the Pretoria regime to the government in Tel Aviv, which had dared "once again with insolent arrogance to defy the international community by carrying out an armed invasion deep into Lebanon on the flimsiest pretext."

### Seychelles speaker

Madame Giovinnella Gonthier spoke as chief delegate of the Republic of the Seychelles, a group of 92 islands in the Indian Ocean 1,000 miles east of Africa. She pointed to the threat of war from South Africa, "a country that, despite an arms embargo against it, continues to receive arms from sources all over the world."

She called South Africa "a country that continues with impunity, and perhaps with the blessing from some, in its wide design of destabilizing several independent African states, unleashing its own armed forces and mercenaries to punish those states for their independent and principled stands."

"My own country," Gonthier continued, "having recently been a victim of this type of aggression from South Africa, shares with so many other African countries the untold sorrow and misery that aggression inflicts upon our

population and infrastructure."

The apartheid regime was behind an abortive attempt by a band of mercenaries to overthrow the government of the Seychelles Islands last November.

Gonthier, as well as other representatives from countries in the Indian Ocean region, condemned the U.S. arms buildup there, particularly the gigantic base at Diego Garcia Island.

"One can expect anything with all those marines hovering around," Gonthier said. "We certainly don't believe that they are on holiday or picnicking at Diego Garcia or elsewhere." The Indian Ocean is dotted with many small islands with small populations who feel terribly vulnerable. . . . If we are to perish, we will not do so without first having kicked, yelled, screamed, and cried out for this madness to stop."

Mozambique Minister of Foreign Affairs Chissano pointed to the causes of war and defended the right of the peoples in the colonial and neocolonial world to defend themselves against attacks by South Africa and the imperialist countries.

### Armed to defend liberty

"Our arms aim at assuring us that our children will no longer be barbarously massacred, as is happening to thousands of South African children who are systematically decimated by the racist regime. Our arms aim at defending liberty, human dignity, and peace."

"As long as there will be oppressed peoples, there will be no peace in the world. Disarmament in Africa runs, necessarily, though the eradication of colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, and imperialism. The material, diplomatic, and political support to the liberation movements is an essential component in the struggle for peace and disarmament."

It is regimes like South Africa and the imperialist powers that "constitute the threat to international security and hinder the process of disarmament."

Along these lines, the conditions to achieve peace in the Middle East necessitate "the total elimination of Zionism and the reestablishment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people," he said.

In Latin America, peace can be achieved when the sovereign rights of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, and other countries are respected."

Peace there also means "the elimination of fascist and dictatorial regimes, the eradication of oppression and humiliation, so that once and for all, the peoples of Chile and El Salvador, among others, can lay down their arms."

"It implies respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries such as Guyana, Argentina — whose territory comprises the Malvinas Islands — and Belize, which is an independent and sovereign country."

"In Asia," he continued, "peace and disarmament mean, among other things, the unconditional withdrawal of the occupationist foreign troops in South Korea and the peaceful reunification of Korea."

### Importance of June 12

The arms buildup by Washington has not been accepted by the peoples of the world, Chissano noted, who "particularly in the United States of America, have determinedly mobilized themselves against the arms race."

"The rally in favor of disarmament which took place last Saturday in New York signifies the culmination of a series of the people's activities for the struggle for peace."

It is the responsibility of the representatives assembled in the UN "to respond positively to the anxieties and clamors of the hundreds of millions of human beings who from outside cry: 'No to the arms race. No to nuclear weapons. No to the neutron bomb. No to war.'"



Mozambique Foreign Affairs Minister Joaquim Chissano and Paulo Jorge, minister for external relations of the People's Republic of Angola.

## 100,000 in Greece march against Reagan, demand 'NATO, U.S. death bases out!'

BY ARIS HARAS

ATHENS — Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets of Athens on June 10, on the occasion of Reagan's visit to Europe and the opening of the Second Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly. The demonstrators came to protest U.S. war policies and to show their solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in their struggle against the savage Zionist army.

The demonstration was called by the Greek Committee for International Peace and Détente (EEDYE), which is one of four major peace committees that exist in Greece. Each of the four committees is identified with one of the major political parties. The EEDYE, which is led by the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Greece, is the most massive and active of these committees, and has a broad base within the trade unions.

Two marches began in the afternoon. The first was kicked off with a rally outside the Ellinikón U.S. military base in Athens. Best received of the speakers was a Lebanese representative who condemned the murderous Zionist invasion and Washington's support for the Israeli regime.

Slogans at the rally included "Americans and their bases out now!" "Zionists out of Lebanon!" "Begin — fascist murderer!" and "Out of NATO forever!"

After the rally, a three-hour march to the center of Athens began. Thousands of people joined in as the march made its way through their communities. Steelworkers, construction workers, hotel workers, and other trade unionists were

heavily represented, as were students.

At the center of Athens, the march joined with a second one that had begun in the neighboring city of Piraeus. The crowd of about 100,000 people marched outside of the parliament, demanding that the PASOK (Panhellenic Socialist Movement) government get Greece "Out of NATO now and forever!"

Other popular slogans were "The enemy is one — imperialism!" "Hands off Palestine and Lebanon!" "U.S. death bases out!" and "Begin and [Turkish dictator Gen. Kenen] Evren, murderers of the people!"

At the U.S. embassy, the marchers broke into powerful shouts of "Amer-

icans, murderers of the people!" and "The people do not want you, get your embassy out!" "Reagan, Begin — murderers of the people!" "The time has come to get out of NATO!" "No to the Pershing and Cruise missiles!" and "No to war, yes to peace!"

There was no mention of the U.S. war in Central America or the U.S.-British war against Argentina. But the demonstration was a powerful anti-U.S.-imperialist, anti-NATO, and pro-Palestinian action. It was also a powerful answer to the announcement of the PASOK government's intentions of maintaining its ties with NATO. Another demonstration of the same kind drew about 10,000 people in Thessaloniki.

From Intercontinental Press

	<p><b>South Africa</b> <b>White Rule/Black Revolt</b> <b>Ernest Harsch</b></p> <p>This is the history of South Africa's Black majority. Its fight for freedom — for the right to vote, for an end to pass laws, for decent education and living standards, for the right to organize into unions, and for majority rule. \$6.95</p> <p><b>Pathfinder Press 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 (include \$.75 for postage and handling.)</b></p>
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# Fairfield steel plant is shutting down

## Company says three years of concessions are 'not enough'

BY MELISSA MORIARTY

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — This month U.S. Steel Corp. is completely shutting down Fairfield Works, the largest steel-making operation in the South.

Three years ago the plant employed nearly 10,000 steelworkers. Now the 3,000 who had managed to hold onto their jobs through waves of layoffs are being thrown onto the already-long Alabama unemployment lines.

Since the turn of the century, U.S. Steel has been the economic center of the Birmingham area. The shutdown of Fairfield comes when Alabama's official unemployment rate is already second only to Michigan's.

U.S. Steel had threatened to close Fairfield for several years, claiming the plant was losing money. The company's decision to go ahead with the shutdown "came immediately after negotiations with the union over work-rule concessions broke down," according to United Steelworkers (USWA) Subdistrict Director E.B. Rich.

### Concessions for 3 years

With the club of a shutdown over their heads, the 14 USWA locals at Fairfield had agreed time and again to concessions during the past three years.

But U.S. Steel wanted more. In May it proposed a new set of takebacks, including the "right" to combine jobs, the "right" to assign hourly work to supervisors, and the "right" to hire outside contractors to perform hourly work. The concessions would have eliminated at least 750 jobs.

In Pittsburgh, the USWA charged U.S. Steel "purposefully presented to the union a proposal that it knew the USWA could not and would not agree to."

This time steelworkers said no. The corporation's proposal was unanimously rejected by all the local union presidents and grievance committee chairmen. Many of them had been newly elected to their posts. In the April USWA local elections, dissatisfied steelworkers ousted incumbent leaderships in several Fairfield locals.

One union official said: "The union has already made so many concessions, all with the expectation that U.S. Steel would keep Fairfield stable and provide jobs. Now, the feeling of our people is that all our past cooperation has not done a bit of good — for us. We feel that further concessions cannot be justified."

U.S. Steel's response was swift and hard. Within 24 hours it notified all employees that they would no longer have jobs the next month.

Everyone agrees that U.S. Steel's decision will have a devastating effect on the area. Small businesses in the town of Fairfield are already going broke. Miners at U.S. Steel's Alabama coal mines are laid off. Alabama workers, whether they are laid off or not, whether they work for U.S. Steel or not, are worried.

## 'Reopen the plants and run them for human needs, not profits'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Martin Boyers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Alabama and a steelworker, said shut-down plants at Fairfield and Bessemer "should be reopened and run for human needs, not profits."

"Corporations like U.S. Steel that blackmail workers with threats of layoffs and closings should be nationalized. Their books should be opened up so we can see what's going on. Workers in the plants can surely run production better and more safely than capitalist management.

"In Alabama alone thousands of laid-off steelworkers want to work. There is a need for their products. All that stands

in the way is the capitalist rule that no one can work and nothing can be produced except for profit. We believe the need for jobs and a decent standard of living for all is more important than profits for the rich.

There is not agreement, however, on why U.S. Steel is making this callous move or on what to do about it. Militant salespeople talking to Birmingham steelworkers have found many to be confused by the anti-import propaganda that is pushed by the corporations and echoed by union leaders. At the same time there is widespread disbelief in the company's cries of poverty. And workers are nearly unanimous in pointing to U.S. Steel's real aim: "to bust the union."

Curtis Eason, 28, is one of those recently laid off for "an indefinite time." He had worked at Fairfield's tin mill six years.

In the recent years' concessions, he explained, "the company cut out laborers, so classified workers had to pick up the slack. They cut out transportation. Then folks had to walk a couple of miles out of the plant, on our own time."

### 'They'd rather you died'

Speedup was intense. "They had those cats thinking they had to work even before they punched their time card," Eason said.

"They cut every way they could. 'Trimming off fat,' they call it. I call it 'cutting out labor,' knocking us out every chance they got.

"They'd rather you died than not make the production schedule," he said.

And that's exactly what happened. On May 15, just days after the news of the shutdown, Marvin Robertson was crushed to death between two giant rollers. He had worked at Fairfield almost 20 years. The USWA is suing U.S. Steel, charging company negligence in his death.

### 'Trying to kill union'

"Nobody except U.S. Steel knows why they're shutting down the plant," Eason said. "The company blames it on the workers. It's not our fault. We sacrificed a lot. I don't see how we can sacrifice any more. And it doesn't work, because if

you give them an inch they'll take a mile.

"They say they're going broke. Well, where did all the money go? They've got billions. Now we say, enough.

"I don't think the problem is really foreign steel, like they tell you all the time. What's really going down, what U.S. Steel is really up to with all this, is they're trying to kill the unions.

"They'll shut this place down. Then they'll open it back up later with whoever they want, and no union. Just like they're trying at Pullman Standard."



Militant/Lou Howort

Chicago-Gary steelworkers marching in June 12 antiwar demonstration in New York.

## Steel union OKs contract discussion

Continued from Page 1

short workweeks. As of April of this year, 224,000 were working, a record low since at least 1933.

McBride said that, in his view, talks with the industry "may require some adjustment of the agreement." He claimed, however, that steelworkers' problems must be addressed in any "accommodations" reached with the industry.

Richard Grace, president of USWA Local 1408, at U.S. Steel's National Works in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, told the *Pittsburgh Press* he had a mandate from his membership to vote "no."

Grace, referring to McBride's prop-

osal, said, "We don't like it. I don't care how you term it, we'll be back within a month . . . to vote on a reduced contract."

His remarks express the sentiments of many larger Pittsburgh-area locals.

A group of 200 steelworkers demonstrated against the concessions while the meeting was going on. They were unimpressed with McBride's two-step slide into concessions talks. Dennis Shattuck, representing USWA Local 1010 of East Chicago, Indiana, told the crowd: "We already know what the industry wants. Concessions. We don't need to meet with them to find out."

The Local 1010 leadership was recently reelected on a platform of opposing givebacks.

Speaker after speaker at the demonstration blew holes in the notion that unemployment can be solved by concessions. The Pittsburgh area alone provides several prime examples to the contrary.

One speaker, representing Local 1270 at U.S. Steel's American Bridge plant, told the rally that his local was forced to yield concessions in 1980 when U.S. Steel threatened to shut down the plant. In 1980 American Bridge employed 1,280 steelworkers. Today, 175 still have jobs.

Ron Weisen, president of Homestead Local 1397, issued a statement a couple of days before the meeting expressing often-heard steelworker sentiment. "We have no assurance that basic steel will not use the funds they receive from concessions to further diversify into other,

Pullman Standard, in neighboring Bessemer, Alabama, shut down in February 1981. Three thousand rail-car workers were laid off. The company recently decided to reopen the plant, yet it refuses to recall the laid-off workers, members of the United Steelworkers. Pullman Standard openly states its determination to run the plant nonunion.

"Maybe U.S. Steel can pull it off," Eason said. "Maybe not. At least it'll make people think. The steelworkers might stand their ground. We fought too hard for the union to let them run us out of Alabama."

more profitable, businesses, such as the recent \$7 billion purchase of Marathon Oil by U.S. Steel. We are being asked to finance the elimination of our own jobs.

"If we agree to concessions at this time, we can be sure that the companies will be back for more at a later date," Weisen added.

Clearly the steel industry is planning to capitalize on the current depression to increase their profits at the expense of steelworkers. They're hoping that by now heavy layoffs in the industry will have terrorized steelworkers into granting concessions.

Can they pull it off? There is significant opposition in the union to concessions. At the demonstration, Mike Stout of Homestead Local 1397 summed up the feelings of many: "We have given up enough. We won't give up another red cent. If they want a fight, by god, they've got a fight on their hands."

### N.Y. jobs protest set

The New York State AFL-CIO and the New York City Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) have called for a mass rally at the capitol in Albany on Tuesday, June 29, 1982 to protest mass unemployment in New York State. The capitalist economic crisis has severely affected construction, textile, automobile, steel, printing, and other industries, driving unemployment in New York State to the one million mark.

The rally is scheduled to assemble at the capitol in Albany at 12 noon.

# Mason solidarizes with gay rights fight

The following statement by Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California, was released for the June 27 International Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco and other cities in the state.

Hundreds of thousands of lesbians, gay men, and supporters of gay rights are marching today in a demonstration of solidarity and determination to win full rights for gay people.

Discrimination against gay people in housing, jobs, and virtually every institution in society persists in the country and in this state. Antigay prejudice and violence is fostered. Police harass and entrap gay people, and are often the perpetrators of violent attacks known as "gay-bashing." The immigration cops harass gay people trying to enter the country.

This year's demonstrations are taking place in a climate of stepped-up attacks on the rights not only of gay people but of women, Blacks, Latinos, and all working people. Continued resistance to granting full democratic and human rights to gay people is part of this overall pattern.

The Democrats and Republicans have scuttled the Equal Rights Amendment, launched an offensive against abortion rights, and attacked voting rights of Blacks and Latinos.

They have launched a racist sweep of undocumented workers, smashed the air controllers' strike, and gutted affirmative action for women and oppressed national minorities.

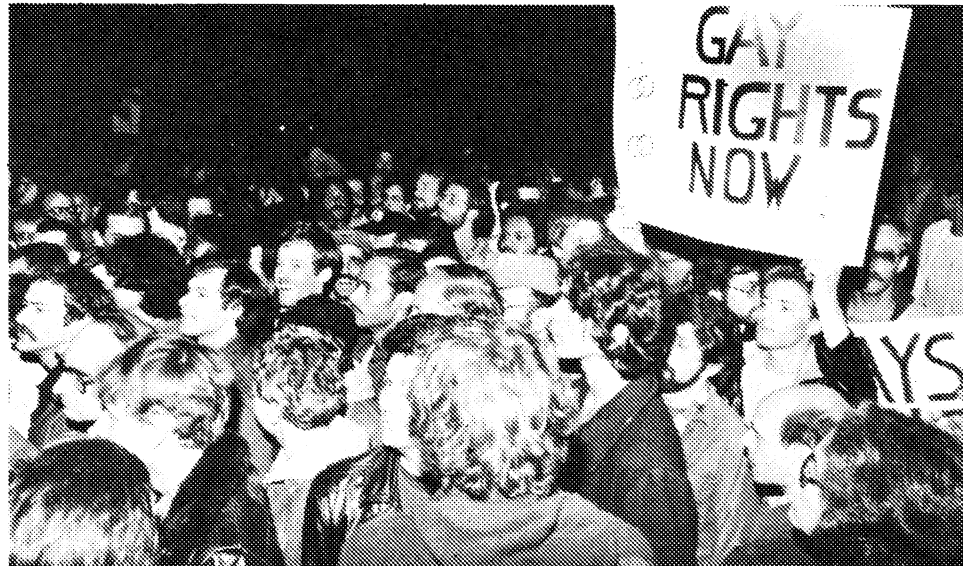
And they have more in store for us. Gay people have a stake in opposing this offensive on the rights and living conditions of all working people. Not only do most gays suffer directly from these attacks — as women, as Blacks, as Latinos, as workers — but gay rights in and of themselves are under attack as part of this overall offensive by the ruling rich and the parties that represent them.

The oppression of gay people is deep-seated, rooted in the ideology of capitalist society, which is based on exploitation and oppression. It is no accident that virulent antigayism goes hand-in-hand with political reaction.

Capitalism as a world system is in crisis, here in the United States and abroad. Massive unemployment and inflation are symptoms.

At home, those who own the giant corporations and banks are intent on making the rest of us pay for this crisis. They're driving to take away past gains, lower our expectations, and drive us back. This includes an attack on our political rights, to hamper our ability to fight back.

At the same time, step by step, they are dragging us into a new Vietnam-



Militant/Lou Howort

Rulers' stepped-up attacks on gay people are part of overall attacks on working people as Washington drags us into new Vietnam-style wars.

style war in Central America. Just as they are intent on limiting our rights and living conditions here, they seek to crush working people in Central America and elsewhere who are fighting to improve their lot.

Their attacks on our rights, including their attacks on gay people, are part of their preparations for wider and wider war.

We must oppose them on all these fronts.

The Democrats and Republicans, as parties, represent the very rich. That's why these parties are carrying out an assault on the great majority of Americans and are leading us into war. We need to break their political monopoly.

Look at the record of my opponents on gay rights. For example, George Deukmejian, California attorney general, has done nothing to stop the oppression of gays, and Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley's cops are notorious.

I call for the formation of a new type of party, a mass labor party based on a revitalized trade union movement. Such a party could fight for the type of government — a workers and farmers government — that would come down on the side of working people. Such a government would eliminate discriminatory laws and all other forms of oppression of gay people, women, and the oppressed minorities. It would uproot every aspect of prejudice.

It would begin to reorganize the economy in the interest of the producers. It would come to the aid of the colonial peoples rather than wage war against them.

This is the kind of society my campaign stands for. We urge everyone to join us in demanding:

- End all forms of legal discrimination against gay people!
- Stop police harassment and violence!
- Full civil and human rights for lesbians and gay men!
- Not one cent, not one soldier for Washington's wars in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the rest of Central America!

## S.F. gays win suit against 'la migra'

BY MARGARET JAYKO

In a victory for democratic rights, Judge Robert Aguilar of the Federal District Court in San Francisco rejected immigration rules that bar homosexuals from other countries from entering the United States.

In his June 17 ruling, Aguilar said the rules violated the constitutional rights of free speech and association for lesbians and gay men.

The class-action suit had been filed in June 1981 by the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Committee.

Aguilar had agreed that "significant constitutional questions" were raised by the suit and granted the committee a preliminary injunction.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) filed an appeal. But Aguilar ruled that the INS "has asserted no legitimate governmental or public interest in its policy of excluding homosexual aliens on the sole grounds that they are homosexuals."

Aguilar wrote, "Homosexuals pose no threat to national security merely because they are homosexuals. Nor do they pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the American public."

# Calif. voters deal stunning defeat to agribusiness rip-off scheme

BY DICK ROBERTS

SAN FRANCISCO — California voters stunned the big-business rulers of this state by overwhelmingly defeating the Peripheral Canal (Proposition 8) in the June 8 primaries.

The canal's defeat, by 62 percent of those voting statewide, was termed "a big victory for workers and working farmers" by Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California and a socialist city council member in Seaside.

The defeat also stunned the big-business press. In a June 10 front-page story, the *San Francisco Chronicle* said "the colossal margin of defeat . . . had political and social scientists shaking their heads in wonder."

In 48 counties, the *Chronicle* pointed out, the canal "was not just defeated, it was destroyed."

In those 48 counties, the vote was 91.9 percent against. This vastly outweighed the vote of 61 percent for the canal, 39 percent against in eight of California's southernmost counties.

The proposed canal would have diverted water from the Sacramento River in northern California into the State Aqueduct which supplies part of the water used by central and southern California, including Los Angeles.

Utility, oil, construction, real-estate and corporate agribusiness interests had

a giant stake in the enterprise.

Distribution of water in southern California is controlled by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), a non-elected board of officials who historically have acted in the interests of the ruling rich.

The MWD sells water to cities, especially Los Angeles, at very high prices. It sells the "surplus" at very low prices to corporate agribusiness and real-estate developers.

"In recent years, Los Angeles has received from the MWD an amount of water ranging from 1 to 3 percent of the MWD's total allocations, but it has paid about 25 percent . . . of the district's property-tax bill," Robert Gottlieb wrote in the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* February 25.

Real-estate developers also use this cheap water to supply their suburban "planned communities" in countless suburbs stretching north and south of Los Angeles. Some of these condominium-type villages are among the most expensive and exclusive communities in the country.

Major interests here include the Irvine Company and the Tejon Ranch. Irvine — a big Reagan backer — built its 120-square-mile ranch in Orange County into the world's largest planned community.

The Tejon Ranch, fourth largest land-

owner in California, is controlled by the Chandler family. The Chandlers own the *Los Angeles Times* and are the most powerful backers of Los Angeles Democratic Party Mayor Tom Bradley, who was given the Democratic primary nomination for governor in the June 8 election. Bradley was an outspoken supporter of the Peripheral Canal.

On top of this the building of a canal would have poured billions of dollars into the state's construction companies. The project also requires tremendous amounts of electric power. That is the main reason the rulers of California pressed for the operation of Diablo Canyon, the state's notorious nuclear power plant, built on an earthquake faultline.

Other major backers of the canal were Chevron, Getty Oil, Shell Oil, Tenneco, Southern Pacific, and the state's major banks, all major landholders and exploiters of workers and working farmers.

Gubernatorial candidate Mason explained that the canal "was in fact the latest round in a long fight over water in this state in which the ruling rich have tried to force workers and working farmers into paying for expensive projects — the canal would have cost at least \$20 billion — while only the rich benefit."

Especially threatened by the canal were working farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta is one of the few places in California where there are still working farmers.

The canal would have wiped out the delicate water-control system of the Delta, on which the livelihood of these farmers depends.

The people of southern California were once again inundated with a multimillion-dollar media campaign to convince them they would run out of water if the canal didn't pass. This Big Lie was less effective in southern California than in previous water-scare campaigns. It didn't fool 39 percent of the voters in Los Angeles county, which also surprised the "experts."

"Clearly," Mason said, "this victory shows that millions of Californians are sick and tired of how the arrogant monied interests run this state."

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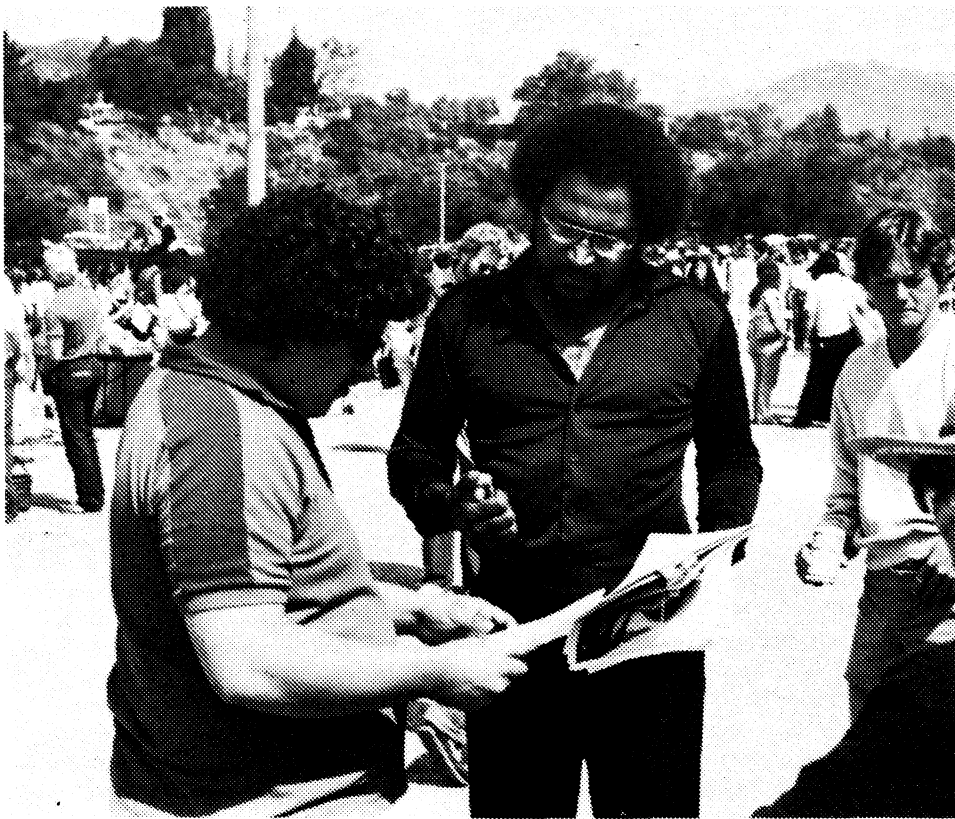


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California independent gubernatorial candidate Mel Mason (right) petitioning in Los Angeles.

# Mason petition drive tops 100,000 mark

BY DICK ROBERTS

SEASIDE, Calif. — There is an outpouring of support here in Mel Mason's hometown to help put the independent gubernatorial candidate on the California ballot in November.

At the end of the second week in a five-week petitioning campaign, more than 4,500 people had signed Mason petitions here.

The statewide total was 100,702 for the two weeks, including 22,000 signatures that were gathered earlier this spring. The goal of the campaign is 180,000, well over the legal requirement of 113,000.

A big boost to the signature campaign is coming from GIs at the Fort Ord Army base next to Seaside.

The overwhelming majority of the GIs approached oppose U.S. intervention in El Salvador. "He's against the war? I'll sign," they say.

Initially, the Seaside Mason for Governor Committee set a 4,750-signature goal for the five-week drive. They have raised this goal to 8,000.

The success of the petitioning drive so far and the opening of a new headquarters for the Mason campaign were celebrated at a Sunday afternoon barbeque June 20. About 95 people attended.

## City council candidate

A high point was an announcement by Henry Fryson that he would run for Seaside City Council in the November election. Fryson is a longtime collaborator of Mason's in the struggle to improve conditions in this city. He managed Mason's 1980 campaign for city council.

"We are all in this struggle together, and the Democrats and Republicans have written us off," Fryson said at the barbeque.

"I'm not here just because I'm running for city council. I'm running for the people who seem to have no hope, that seem to have given up: The kids out there in the streets, the dope problems here. There's a whole lot of things we can do besides build more neutron bombs.

"We need jobs, not bombs. We need better education for the young instead of giving Exxon a free ticket home. The stockholders are crying for profits, and the people are crying for jobs.

"So we should get out and work that much harder. We have a whole lot to do and a short time to do it in. We've got a bunch of signatures to get that we don't have in yet."

At the new headquarters, this reporter talked to one of the people working fulltime on Mason's petitioning campaign in Seaside. "The situation has changed from the first few days of petitioning," he said.

"At first, people didn't know exactly what the petitions were about. But then, as word got around that they're to put Mason on the ballot, and people discussed what Mason stands for, people began coming up.

"There are many supporters of [Los Angeles Mayor Thomas] Bradley," he said. Bradley is the Democratic Party candidate for governor.

"But they know very little about Bradley. They don't know about police brutality in Los Angeles, that Bradley is for the draft, and that he does what big business tells him to.

"The main reason people sign Mason petitions is because of his antiwar stand. They look at the leaflet on the petition board and see that Mel is against the draft, he's against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, he's antinuke — this is why they sign."

Seaside is a 30-percent-Black coastal city of 39,000 located on the Monterey Peninsula some 110 miles south of San Francisco. The peninsula is world-renowned for its luxury resorts and golf courses, especially Pebble Beach, where the U.S. Open tournament recently took place. Seaside is where the people live

who work at these resorts and military bases.

Mason was elected as a socialist to the Seaside City Council in 1980. He has been fighting the council majority's cutbacks in jobs and services for working people in Seaside.

## Fighting racist cutbacks

One such fight came up after Mason returned from a week of campaigning in the San Francisco Bay Area. The phones began ringing almost as soon as he got back.

Mason learned that Chris Berden's job had been terminated. Berden is the Black manager of a neighborhood improvement program. His job is to make sure that trash is picked up. It is an experimental job that has been highly praised by Seaside residents. A city council majority had eliminated the job after one year.

"This guy really worked," Mason said. "They took advantage of my absence and changed some aspects of the budget to eliminate this job."

Mason brought it up at the next council meeting June 17. The four-member majority refused to change the budget or restore Berden's job. Mason used the opportunity to explain the racist character of the cutbacks in the budget.

After the meeting, one person who had attended it said, "I look up there and I see Mason and four white sheets." The council is majority white.

Mason said: "It's not me who gets things done. It's when the council looks over my shoulders and sees the people out there who want changes."

## Visit to sugar plant

On June 18 Mason and his supporters went to the Spreckels sugar plant in nearby Salinas. For weeks the management had been threatening to close it.

Mason applied for permission to tour the plant and talk to workers.

The request was turned down, although Bradley had toured the plant a few months earlier. Mason responded by going to the plant entrance to hand out leaflets calling for an end to plant closings and layoffs.

"We can fight this," Mason said, "by demanding that Spreckels open its books to public scrutiny. If they refuse, we should press the demand that they be nationalized and run by democratically elected boards in the interests of working people."

Mason's nonstop battle in defense of working people is inspiring to many. An example is a Black student who has volunteered to help the campaign during his summer break.

This student told the *Militant* Mason "has a no-compromising attitude. A lot of people still vote for a candidate because he's Black. But there's a little more to it. Mel goes for what he wants. He doesn't play games. People see this and are attracted to the campaign."

## Help Mason fund

You can help the campaign to put Mel Mason on the November California ballot.

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Paid for by the Mel Mason for Governor Campaign

# Texas officials refusing ballot spot to SWP

BY STEVE MARSHALL

SAN ANTONIO — The state of Texas is refusing to allow the names of three socialist candidates for U.S. Congress to be on the November ballot.

The socialists and their supporters gathered more than enough signatures on petitions to be on the ballot.

But first, the state requires a "declaration of intent to run." And the socialists' "declaration" has been ruled invalid by Secretary of State David Dean.

Dean claims the forms are invalid because they were not accompanied by a "loyalty oath," they were not notarized, and they were not received on time.

Further, he has declared, there can be no appeal of his ruling.

But Shirley Peña, a San Antonio garment worker and socialist candidate in the 20th Congressional District, pointed out that Dean's office is responsible for any technical "shortcomings."

"Since the fall of 1981 Dean has refused to cooperate with our campaign committees," Peña said. "First, he delayed giving us the necessary forms."

Then, she said, "he dreamed up a new rule about the submission of a 'loyalty oath.'"

"And then, in an outrageous act of discrimination, he notified only the Democrats and Republicans of a court-ordered change in filing deadlines."

The other SWP candidates are Lee Oleson, a Dallas steelworker running in the 5th Congressional District, and Gary "T" Trabue, a Houston oil worker running in the 18th Congressional District.

Oleson, Peña, and Trabue are forced to run as independent candidates because Texas election law virtually excludes working-class parties from being listed by name on the ballot.

The candidates had to collect the signatures of 1,500 registered voters. In a drive whose success surprised even its organizers, they wound up with more than 6,000 signatures.

The move by Dean is the latest in a series of attempts by the ruling rich in Texas to maintain the ballot monopoly of their two parties.

When that monopoly was challenged in 1974 by La Raza Unida Party, a Chicano party whose gubernatorial candidate Ramsey Muñiz drew more than 6 percent of the vote, the Texas legislature rewrote the election laws to set much higher requirements for permanent ballot status.

In 1980 the Socialist Workers Party filed petitions whose 38,000 signatures far surpassed the 24,000 legally required for a place on the ballot.

Then-Secretary of State George Strake, a Houston oil millionaire, worked with a federal judge to again rewrite the law, shifting the burden of proof for a petition's validity from the state to the petitioner.

Peña said the "unprecedented interest in the antiwar, prolabor stance of the socialist candidates, as shown in the success of the petitioning drive," was the reason the state is trying to keep the socialist candidates off the ballot.

"The Democrats and Republicans know our program is more popular in these days of their war-austerity drive, and they're more determined than ever to prevent workers from hearing our ideas."

She said the socialists are launching a response against Dean's ruling, to include legal action, publicizing the secretary's undemocratic ruling, and seeking endorsements throughout the state for the right of workers to run for office.

campaign supporters have been broken into, as has the campaign office itself. Financial and other records were removed in one case, and a suitcase of Mason's was taken in another.

Mason, a Black socialist city councilman from Seaside, was himself a victim of an attempted police frame-up in Detroit May 7, when federal narcotics agents stopped and searched him on suspicion of carrying drugs. The charges proved immediately baseless. No drugs were found.

Following the most recent break-in here, the Mason for Governor Campaign issued an appeal for Mason's right to campaign free of harassment.

# Calif. campaign office burglarized

BY ARNOLD WEISSBERG

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Mel Mason for Governor state headquarters here was vandalized for the third time in two months on the night of June 19.

Files were scattered around the office, checks ripped up, and a typewriter and cash stolen.

The incident was the latest in a string of acts of vandalism and break-ins that Mason supporters and his campaign offices have suffered. Oakland police, however, suggest that the latest incident was the result of some kind of "personal grudge."

In Los Angeles, cars belonging to

# Israel: history of aggression against Palestinian people

BY WILL REISSNER

Once again the Middle East is at war. Israeli troops are in Lebanon. Israeli jets are bombing Beirut. Large areas of that city have been reduced to rubble. Thousands of people have been killed. Hundreds of thousands are homeless.

The Israeli government claims that all this is being carried out in retaliation for the shooting of an Israeli envoy in London. There are few in the world who believe this fantastic claim.

For years, Israeli representatives were remarkably successful in convincing many — especially in Western Europe and the United States — that Israel was the innocent victim of Arab aggression.

These racists portrayed Israel as a beleaguered oasis of democracy and civilization in the Middle East, a tiny outpost of decency constantly threatened by hordes of bloodthirsty Arabs so blinded by their anti-Jewish hatred that they refused to leave poor little Israel in peace.

Any criticism of Zionism or of Israeli policy was branded as anti-Semitism. Zionist leaders used the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis in Europe to justify their own crimes in the Middle East.

## Changing perception of Israel

But over the years there has been a drastic shift in the way that Israel is seen. The brutal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967, and the sight of Israeli troops regularly gunning down young, unarmed Palestinian demonstrators, has helped to expose the real character of the Zionist state and to focus world attention on the plight of the Palestinians.

Moreover, Israel's role as a bulwark of reaction all over the world has also begun to have a bigger and bigger impact. The Zionist government, which backed the French colonial war against the freedom struggle in Algeria and the U.S. war in Vietnam, is today providing arms for the most brutal dictatorships in the world.

In El Salvador, for example, it was Israel that supplied most of the arms to the Romero dictatorship, which was overthrown in October 1979. That regime was so brutal that Washington preferred not to be openly identified with it. The Zionist regime has also played the same role in Guatemala. And when Washington cut off arms sales to Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1978, the Israeli government stepped into the breach, providing Somoza with 98 percent of his weapons.

Tel Aviv has also developed a close relationship with the apartheid regime in South Africa, providing it with advanced missiles, electronic warfare equipment, patrol boats, small arms, and other matériel. The Zionist regime has also collaborated with South Africa

in the development of nuclear technology.

There are good reasons why more governments today have relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) than with the state of Israel.

Most people in the world have recognized that the real source of continuing conflict in the Middle East is not Arab fanaticism, but rather the colonial settlement of Arab lands by Europeans and expulsion of the Palestinian population.

## Expulsion of Palestinians

The Zionists always claimed that the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland in the 1948 war that established the Israeli state was an unfortunate and unplanned side effect of a just struggle.

But the brutal occupation of Arab territories seized in the 1967 war, as well as the formal annexation of the Golan Heights, the continued Zionist colonization of the West Bank, and the most recent of many invasions of Lebanon have made it clear that the 1948 expulsion of the Palestinians was not an aberration, but an essential element of Zionist policy.

Although Israeli leaders use the Nazi holocaust in Europe to justify their claims to the Middle East, the Zionist movement arose long before the Nazis came on the scene.

For the early Zionist movement, which arose at the end of the 19th century, at a time when the imperialist powers were dividing the world among themselves, the idea of establishing a Jewish state somewhere in the colonial or semicolonial world reflected a much larger movement of colonial settlement.

By 1900 there were 750,000 European colonial settlers in "French" North Africa. Similarly, after the establishment of British rule over south-central Africa in the 1890s, a colonial-settler population was established in Rhodesia, now the independent state of Zimbabwe.

Palestine was part of the declining Turkish Ottoman Empire until the end of World War I. The possessions of the Turkish sultan were an obvious candidate for redivision among the European imperialist states, and Theodore Herzl, the foremost leader of the early Zionist movement, expected to find an imperialist sponsor for his scheme of Jewish settlement in Palestine.

## "Bulwark of civilization"

Herzl reasoned that "for Europe, we would constitute a bulwark against Asia down there, we would be the advance post of civilization against barbarism."

Herzl found his imperialist sponsor in Britain. During World War I, Britain and France had secretly decided to di-

vide the Ottoman Empire's Arab possessions between themselves when the war was over. The British took Palestine, Jordan, and Iraq, while the French got Lebanon and Syria.

The British decided to encourage Jewish immigration to Palestine in order to use the Zionist settlers as a counterweight to the Arab population, with its aspirations for independence.

As Sir Ronald Storrs, the first British civil governor of Jerusalem, bluntly put it in his memoirs, Jewish immigration could form "for England 'a little loyal Jewish Ulster' in a sea of potentially hostile Arabism."

A symbiotic relationship developed between the British colonial power and the Zionist movement. The British used the Zionists as a local base of support against the Palestinian Arab population, and the Zionists supported British colonial rule — because an independent Arab Palestine was incompatible with their idea of eventually seizing the country for the establishment of a Jewish state.

As late as 1935, at the 19th Zionist congress, David Ben-Gurion, who would later be Israel's first prime minister, declared: "Whomever betrays Great Britain betrays Zionism."

## Jewish state, Arab majority

Under British sponsorship, the number of Jewish settlers slowly rose. By 1922, Jews amounted to 11 percent of the population of Palestine; by 1931, nearly 18 percent; by 1936, nearly 28 percent; and by 1943, 31.5 percent of the population, still less than one-third.

Most of the Jews who came to Palestine in the 1930s, fleeing the terror of Nazism in Europe, went to the Middle East only because Britain and the United States refused to allow them entry. The same was true for the refugees arriving in the aftermath of World War II.

But even in 1948, the year the state of Israel was established, there were still twice as many Arabs in Palestine as Jews.

The task of establishing a Jewish state in a territory with a non-Jewish majority posed problems for the Zionist movement. The dilemma was eloquently expressed by Judah Magnes, who was president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem before the establishment of Israel and later left the country in disgust.

Magnes argued that "a Jewish state can only be obtained, if it ever is, through war. . . . You can talk to an Arab about anything, but you cannot talk to him about a Jewish state. And that is because, by definition, a Jewish state means that the Jews will govern other people, other people who live in this Jewish state."

Unless the Arab population was forced out, the new Jewish state would be like South Africa, with a minority population ruling over the majority.

## Expulsion of the Palestinians

Joseph Weitz, who was head of the Jewish Agency's Colonization Department, addressed this problem in his 1940 diary. But Weitz did not shrink from the obvious solution to the problem. "Between ourselves," Weitz wrote, "it must be clear that there is no room for both peoples together in this country. . . . And there is no other way but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighboring countries; to transfer all of them; not one village, not one tribe should be left."

That policy was carried out in the 1948 war, when 750,000 Arabs were driven from their homes, creating an in-



In order to create the Zionist state of thing had to be done with the Palestini there. Many were forced into refugee rounding Arab states (far right). Since t continued to annex more territory. ( soldiers remove table from Arab restau owner for closing during Palestinian n protest. Above: occupying army annou Ramallah on the West Bank (formerly

stant Jewish majority inside Israel.

But the new state of Israel, founded on the basis of expulsion of the Palestini-ans, could not help but be a tiny enclave cut off from the rest of the Middle East. This fact had tremendous implications.

This enclave could never hope to survive without developing a close military and political alliance with imperialism, agreeing to protect imperialist interests in the region in return for military and economic support.

## Zionist expansion

But even with this imperialist support — now from Washington — such an enclave, cut off from its natural economic partners in the Middle East, cannot develop a viable economic life. As a result, there has been a constant push toward territorial expansion, toward increasing the amount of Arab land under Israeli control in order to provide a basis for the Israeli economy.

When the Israeli army seized the Golan Heights, the West Bank of the Jordan, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula in 1967, these new territories and markets led to a temporary boom in the Israeli economy.

But at the same time, the seizure of these territories brought with it the renewed specter of a Jewish state with an Arab majority. Today nearly 2 million Palestinians live under Israeli rule. If present population trends continue, within two decades there will again be a Palestinian majority in the area now occupied by the Zionists.

Many Israeli leaders openly acknowledge that their goal is to force another mass exodus by the Palestinians. In January, Reserve Gen. Schlomo Gazit, former head of Israeli military intelligence and now president of Ben-Gurion University, gave a speech outlining his goals for Israel. Gazit views "Eretz Israel" — the Land of Israel — as encompassing all the territory now occupied by the Zionist state, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The goal, Gazit argued, must be to "ensure that historic Eretz Israel will remain entirely under Jewish control and, moreover, that it will remain a basically Jewish state."

To maintain this Jewish state, Gazit went on, "a full solution to the problems of the Arabs of historic Eretz Israel . . . must be found outside historic Eretz Israel."

## Jewish workers pay a high price

Fewer and fewer Israeli workers still believe that another round of expulsions of Palestinians, or the present war against the Palestinian resistance movement in Lebanon, can provide a lasting solution to Israel's problems.

The Jewish population has had to pay a high price, and not only in blood, for its role as the bulwark of imperialism against the Arab revolution.

As presently constituted, Israel is a colossal economic failure. Despite the

## For further reading

### How Can the Jews Survive?

A Socialist Answer to Zionism  
By George Novack, 22 p., \$.25.

### Israel: A Colonial-Settler State?

By Maxime Rodinson, 128 p., \$3.95.

### Leon Trotsky on the Jewish Question

By Leon Trotsky, 31 p., \$.95.

### Socialists and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism

By Peter Seidman, 31 p., \$.60.

### War in the Middle East

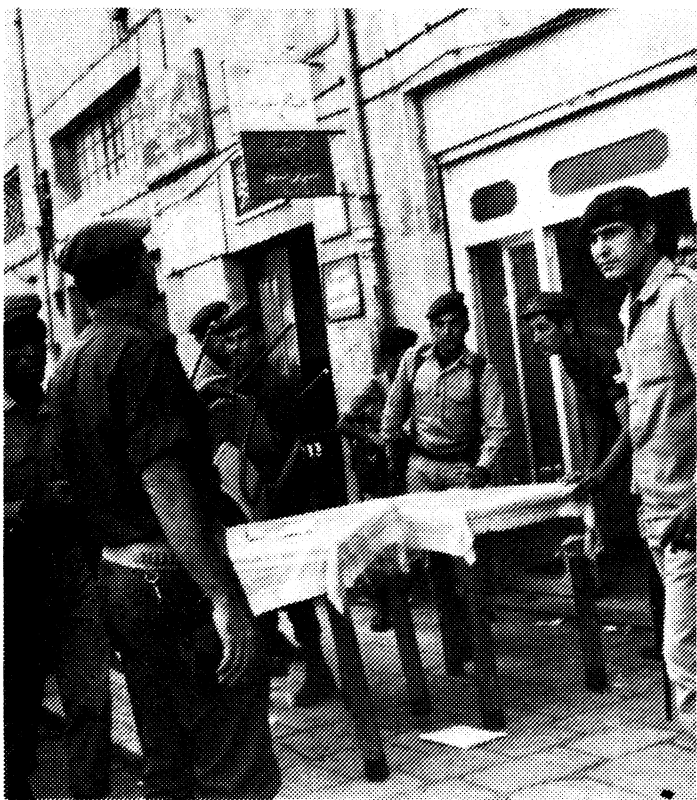
The Socialist View  
By Dave Frankel, Dick Roberts, and Tony Thomas; 31 p., \$.60.

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Zionist mythology about making the deserts bloom and creating an oasis of plenty amidst Arab poverty, Israel is an economic basket case totally dependent on huge U.S. subsidies.

Without the infusion of U.S. aid and subsidies, the Israeli economy would collapse. Washington pumps in \$6 million per day in economic and military aid, making Israel by far the largest recipient of U.S. aid in the world. The subsidy amounts to about one-third of the Israeli national budget, nearly \$1,000 per year for every Jewish inhabitant of Israel.

But even with this massive U.S. subsidy, the Israeli economy is staggering under the burden of several straight years of triple-digit inflation. Living standards of Jewish workers are dropping and unemployment is on the rise.

#### Jews leaving Israel

For the Jewish population of Israel, Zionism has turned out to be a dead end. Dramatic evidence of Zionism's failure is the massive emigration of Jews from Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have left the country, while there are few new immigrants to what Zionists claimed would be the gathering place for all the Jews of the world. Today there are more Jews in New York than Tel Aviv.

The few immigrants attracted to Israel today are largely drawn from far-right Zionist groups in the United States.

Although most Jews around the world have an emotional identification with Israel, active Zionism has always been a minority current. Very few Jews have chosen to settle in Israel of their free will. Most who went to Israel did so because alternative destinations were closed to them.

Nearly all the Jews who left Algeria when that country won its independence from France chose to go to France rather than Israel. And today, 80 percent of the Jews who leave the Soviet Union choose not to settle in Israel.

#### Israel at an impasse

Today many Jewish workers in Israel recognize that the country is at an impasse, that things cannot continue as they have. Many of the fundamental tenets of Zionism are being questioned by Israeli workers.

But until the Jewish workers break out from the dead end of Zionism, from the maintenance of a Jewish state based on the oppression and expulsion of the Palestinian Arabs, Israel will be trapped in the vicious cycle of wars against the Arab people.

There can be no permanent solution in the Middle East until Israeli Jews reject their role as oppressors of the Palestinians and as counterrevolutionary shock troops for Washington.

The era of colonial-settler states is coming to a close. The French settlers no longer control Algeria. British settlers

in Rhodesia must now adjust to being Zimbabweans. Someday South Africa will become Azania.

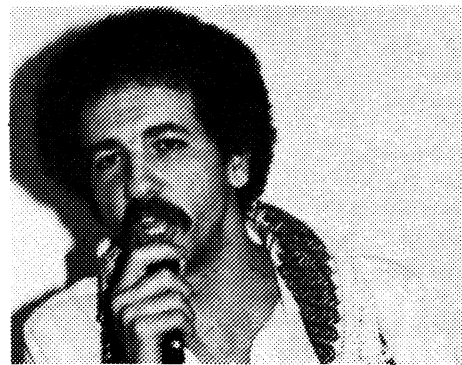
And someday, too, Israel must again become Palestine. The Palestinian refugees will eventually win their struggle

to return to their homeland. How long their struggle takes, and what forms it takes, is dependent on both the pace of the revolution in the Arab world and the development of the class struggle inside Israel.

But one thing is certain. Until the Zionist state is dismantled and a Palestinian state of Arabs and Jews is established, there will be no lasting peace in the Middle East.

From Intercontinental Press

## Protest held in N.Y. Arab community



Neil Saad

Militant/Lou Howort

#### BY EDWIN FRUIT

BROOKLYN — Some 200 people rallied in support of the Palestinian people and against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon at the Arab Social Club here June 18. The event followed a militant demonstration of 2,500 people at the United Nations that day in protest of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's appearance at the Second Special Session on Disarmament.

The evening meeting, sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, attracted UN demonstrators, including a large number of Arabs.

Neil Saad, a member of the local coordinating committee of the Palestine Congress of North America, chaired the meeting and was the first speaker. He explained how the Israeli invasion had already left 30,000 civilians killed, 500,000 people displaced, and every major town and city in southern Lebanon destroyed.

He took up the origins of Zionism, how the British rulers envisioned the Zionist movement as a bulwark against Arab nationalism, and how the overwhelming majority of Jewish people rejected this course for their people.

The Zionist movement, said Saad, received its main impetus from the fact that the Western imperialist powers refused Jewish immigrants after World War II, leaving Palestine as their only alternative. In 1948, with the Jews in a minority in Palestine, the artificial state of Israel was set up by the United Nations with absolutely no input from the Palestinian people who were the majority there.

Saad ended his talk saying, "They can bomb hospitals and schools but they cannot bomb the determination of the Palestinian people for the total liberation of Palestine."

Zehdi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative to the UN, had been scheduled as the main

speaker of the evening, but was unable to attend due to the pressing events in Lebanon. Terzi had addressed the UN disarmament session earlier that day on the war in Lebanon.

Eva Chertov, Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 21st Congressional District in the Bronx, called the Israeli invasion a new holocaust. She charged that the U.S. government was every bit as responsible for the devastation of Lebanon as were the Israelis. The Israelis are armed to the teeth with U.S. weapons, and without U.S. military and economic aid the state of Israel would not exist, she said.

Chertov pointed out how the attempted crushing of the PLO was part and parcel of U.S. war policy, which is aimed not only at the Palestinians but at the Salvadoran liberation struggle as well as the existing revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

Chertov also explained that there is a new openness among the American people toward the Palestinian struggle and a changing perception of the role of Israel in the Middle East.

Jitu Weusi, a national coordinator of the National Black United Front (NBUF), gave greetings and solidarity on behalf of the central committee of his organization. He said NBUF has been a longtime supporter of the Palestinian struggle and its members have traveled to the Middle East numerous times.

Weusi said he felt a personal loss in that he had met a PLO representative in Rome while attending a conference in 1980 and had just learned that this freedom fighter had been assassinated the day before.

The Israeli goal of destroying the PLO is of clear imperialist design and emanates directly from Washington, Weusi said. NBUF and other progressive organizations in the Black community realize the importance of getting out the truth about the Middle East, he stressed. He pledged that NBUF was available for organizing to help the Palestinian struggle.

Muntu Matsimela, New York State coconvenor of the National Black Independent Political Party, spoke as a representative of the NBIPP. He first asked that the audience give a hand to those in West Beirut fighting the Israeli onslaught. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

Matsimela pointed out the irony of Begin coming to the UN and proclaiming, "I am a man of peace." He compared the Israeli claims of liberating Lebanon

with those made by Hitler as his troops marched into Paris during World War II.

He issued the PLO an invitation to come to Harlem to talk to the Black community in order to lay the basis for further support to the Palestinian struggle. He ended by saying that the Black community is firmly behind the Palestinians and that the NBIPP will support the PLO until the complete victory of their struggle.

In a lively question and answer period, Neil Saad explained that a prolonged occupation of Lebanon would deepen the social and economic crisis in Israel itself. He said there were reports of demonstrations occurring in Israel by both Arabs and Jews, calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Saad received a resounding response from the audience when he explained that the ultimate aim of the PLO was to fight for a Palestine where Jews, Arabs, and Muslims could live together in social and political equality.

A question was asked about the fate of Ziad Abu Eain, a Palestinian who had been extradited by Washington to Israel on trumped-up terrorist charges. Elias Ayoub, a Palestinian who the U.S. government is also trying to deport, answered from the audience that Ziad Abu Eain had recently received a sentence of life imprisonment. This was in spite of the fact that the only witness against him confessed under duress and later recanted his testimony.

Greetings were read to the meeting from the Committee for Human Rights and Democracy in Turkey. One member of the audience explained how her sister was imprisoned there without charges. She compared U.S. support to Israel to its military aid to Turkey, a country where a military dictatorship permits no human rights or democracy.

The meeting itself, which was attended by a significant number of people from the Arab and Black communities, showed the potential that exists to do the kind of educational work necessary to get out the truth about the war in Lebanon.

The sentiment of those present was that the Palestinians are fighting the same battles as their compatriots in Namibia and El Salvador, while the direction of Zionism is toward greater expansionism and war, in alliances with South Africa and above all the United States — the real threat to world peace today.



Militant/Lou Howort

## Brisk sales at June 12

Final figures are now available for sales at the massive peace protests that took place June 12 in New York and other cities.

In New York, 5,348 people bought a copy of the *Militant* or one of our other publications. This includes 3,615 copies of the *Militant* and 795 subscriptions, 298 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 52 subscriptions, and 588 *Young Socialists*.

At an open house following the rally at the Socialist Workers Party campaign headquarters in Manhattan, more than 300 people attended, including 4 members of the Iowa Socialist Party.

Since the demonstration, we've received 10 subscription requests from people who bought the *Militant* on June 12.

The Manhattan headquarters of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance has received many phone calls from people who met the socialists on June 12 and want more information. Several

have stopped by the bookstore. Some have attended a class series sponsored by the YSA. Two people have asked to join the YSA.

After selling 12 copies of the *Young Socialist* on the Boston "Peace Train" June 12, one young woman was so enthused by the positive response she got that she has now decided to join the YSA.

In San Francisco on June 12, socialists concentrated their efforts on collecting signatures to place independent gubernatorial candidate and socialist city councilman Mel Mason on the ballot. Over 7,000 signatures were collected in this effort. In addition, 200 copies of the *Militant* and *PM* were sold along with \$400 in Pathfinder Press literature.

Salt Lake City socialists sold 72 *Militants*, 25 YSs, and \$50 in literature at a local June 12 protest.

In Tucson, Arizona, 29 *Militants*, 3 subscriptions, and 6 copies of the new pamphlet by Fidel Castro, "The U.S. War Drive and the World Economic Crisis," were sold.

Portland socialists traveled to

a protest in Salem, Oregon, and sold 34 *Militants* and 30 YSs.

## Protests against Israeli invasion

Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel was met with a large, angry crowd of Palestinians and their supporters June 18 when he came to the United Nations to speak.

The *Militant* was well received at this demonstration. Close to 100 copies were sold. Interest was high in the article from Tel Aviv that provided an eyewitness account of the anti-war mood in the Israeli working class.

Chicago socialists report selling 20 papers at a sendoff for those protesters who were on their way to New York for the anti-Begin demonstration.

## Summer sales opportunities

This week's scoreboard reflects sales for the week that began with the June 12 protests. It is the final week of the spring sales drive.

Many areas have already outlined plans to continue sales.

Baltimore socialists have adopted a summer weekly goal of 80, with special emphasis on maintaining their industrial plant-gate sales.

Philadelphia socialists have taken on a goal of 85, and plan on having regular Saturday sales teams that include campaigning for local SWP candidates.

— Nancy Rosenstock

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Militant issue #23, PM issue #11)

Area	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold	Total Goal/Sold	%
Newark	120/712	20/44	140/756	540
Manhattan	150/580	40/84	190/664	349
Brooklyn	140/524	30/38	170/562	331
Seattle	80/191	3/5	83/196	236
Houston	50/115	10/15	60/130	217
Wash., D.C.	70/153	20/38	90/191	212
Boston	140/301	10/17	150/318	212
Cleveland	65/127	10/1	75/128	171
Baltimore	110/175	0/5	110/180	164
Schenectady	90/139	0/4	90/143	159
Pittsburgh	150/233	0/2	150/235	157
Philadelphia	140/202	15/17	155/219	141
San Jose*	60/70	20/40	80/110	138
Twin Cities	135/185	5/0	140/185	132
Dallas	25/36	15/11	40/47	118
Lincoln	40/47	0/0	40/47	118
Atlanta	100/115	0/2	100/117	117
Phoenix	90/110	45/48	135/158	117
Birmingham	90/104	0/0	90/104	116
St. Louis	90/95	0/0	90/95	106
Milwaukee	90/99	10/2	100/101	101
Iron Range	40/40	0/0	40/40	100
Piedmont	85/85	0/0	85/85	100
Portland	40/40	0/0	40/40	100
San Antonio	35/50	15/0	50/50	100
Price	45/48	5/1	50/49	98
Salt Lake City	90/85	5/4	95/89	94
Cincinnati	70/61	0/1	70/62	89
Louisville	80/68	0/0	80/68	85
New Orleans	85/70	0/0	85/70	82
Tucson	30/13	20/25	50/38	76
Morgantown	70/52	0/0	70/52	74
San Diego*	30/22	5/4	35/26	74
Harrisburg	50/37	0/0	50/37	74
Toledo	50/33	0/0	50/33	66
Kansas City	105/65	5/5	110/70	64
Los Angeles*	140/78	25/23	165/101	61
Chicago	125/54	15/0	140/54	39
Gary	75/27	5/0	80/27	34
Charleston	50/14	0/0	50/14	28
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,930/5,270</b>	<b>408/436</b>	<b>4,338/5,706</b>	<b>132</b>

Areas not reporting: Albuquerque, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Oakland\*, San Francisco\*, Tidewater.

\*Petitioning to put socialist candidates on the ballot.

# Iranian workers confront profiteering, hoarding

The following article discusses a problem that plagues working people throughout the world, and especially in the colonial and semicolonial countries — inflation and artificial shortages of goods contrived to boost prices even higher. Written by an Iranian revolutionary, it reports on the crisis of inflation and hoarding in war-torn Iran, and proposes measures the workers and peasants can take to combat this crisis.

The article appeared in the May 4 issue of *Hemmat* (Determination), the newspaper of the Workers Unity Party, one of three organizations affiliated to the Fourth International. The translation is by *Intercontinental Press*.

BY MIRIAN DAOUD

TEHRAN — "If the past year was officially known as the Year of Legal Government, then the economic terrorists and the wide scope of their activity turned it into the Year of Hoarding and Overpricing."

This truth, stated in the April 15 issue of The Tehran daily *Ettela'at*, indicates the extent of the counterrevolutionary activity of the pillaging hoarders and capitalists. Innumerable goods, from general provisions to necessary spare parts, construction tools, and so on, are being hoarded. This underscores the point that hoarding and overpricing are among the most important issues facing Iran and the revolution. They must be remedied without delay.

The hoarder's aim is nothing less than to plunder the masses of people and damage the revolution. Merchants create a black market and artificial price increases by taking advantage of the wartime conditions in the country. By storing away necessary commodities, they pocket a colossal profit.

But it is not only their immediate ma-

terial interests that drive these counter-revolutionary capitalists. They seek to put the masses under as much economic pressure as possible. Like the imperialists, they want the revolution to face immense shortages and thus discourage the masses from continuing the struggle.

### Widespread hoarding

Last year, for example, a huge quantity of goods needed by the people was discovered to have been hoarded. It included 5 tons of slaughtered chickens, 700 tons of onions, 21 tons of cheese, 20 tons of sugar, 50 tons of tomato paste, and large quantities of wheat, sugar cubes, powdered sugar, and corn oil.

The hoarding of work tools, which the country needs more than ever to increase production levels, is another front on which the merchants and capitalists are doing their destructive and counterrevolutionary work. A telling example of this was the discovery of a large cache of plow blades last November.

But the crimes of the hoarders have a still greater scope. Greedy and counterrevolutionary merchants even hoard medical supplies needed at the war front. Thus they place themselves on the side of Saddam Hussein's invading Iraqi regime. According to a report in *Kayhan* last October, 12,000 syringe tubes, 6,550 syringes, 300 units of serum, and a large quantity of medicines were discovered to have been hoarded in Zabol.

The destructive and hoarding capitalists, with their hands on the distribution channels, have sought to use their influence in the state apparatus and the laws that are on the books to give their criminal acts a legal mask.

One example of this was reported in *Sohb-e Azadegan* on February 1. Millions of rials [1 rial = US\$0.012] in

goods, including 200 million rials' worth of high-quality pistachio nuts, more than 90 tons of peas, and 3,340 kilos of chicken, had rotted in the central warehouse of the Qods market and had to be destroyed. According to the report, Mr. Salehshur, acting manager of the market, used his legal position to deceive members of the Baseej [volunteer militia] who were in charge of protecting the security of warehouses.

On the same subject, the April 15 *Ettela'at* said: "Storing in government warehouses goods needed by the people is in fact a blatant form of hoarding, particularly when this goes on for months. The country's customs regulations state that imported goods may be stored at Customs for two to four months. It must be said that many importers deliberately postpone the release of their goods from customs as a way of hoarding them legally."

The file of complaints against hoarders becomes thicker every day. According to Mahmoudi Ashteyani, chief of the second branch of the Court of Guild Affairs, his court receives some 100 complaints about hoarding every day. This is just one indication of the severity of the problem and the lack of an effective response to the hoarders.

The first step should be the immediate arrest and punishment of hoarders and the confiscation of all their capital by the state. At a time when the country's youth do not flinch from shedding their blood to defend and continue the revolution, how is it possible to ignore the profiteering and sabotage of the counterrevolutionary merchants?

But an effective response requires cutting off the merchant's hands from the channels of distribution. This means a state monopoly over the distribution of basic necessities, implemented under the control of the mass organizations. Government spokesman Mr. Behzad

Nabavi, admitting the ineffectiveness of the regime's current tactics against hoarding, has said, "This problem will not be solved by arresting a few hoarders; rather, the state must look at the basic means of distribution."

### Need to mobilize toilers

At present, commerce consists of a large number of hoarders who import necessary items from abroad and then take advantage of various laws — such as the customs regulations — to hoard "legally." In response, foreign trade must be put totally into the hands of the government — that is, nationalized. All laws that enable merchants to hoard should be abolished. For a decisive battle against the hoarders, it is necessary to mobilize the workers and toilers in a mass struggle against this destructive practice.

Despite a positive plan for the just distribution of basic goods, many items such as rice and cigarettes are still sold on the free market at a price several times higher than the regulated price. Therefore, in addition to a monopoly on the distribution of all basic goods by the state, it is necessary to prevent the continuation of profiteering and the abuse of the state apparatus by providing resources for organizing the workers *shoras* [committees] and those in the countryside and neighborhoods to control distribution. In this way, the workers and toilers can make known who is hoarding and bring them to justice according to the law.

Only through mass mobilizations of the workers and toilers, and the strengthening of their independent organizations, can a decisive struggle be organized against hoarding. In this way, the hands of the destructive capitalists — these allies of the imperialists — can be cut away from the country's economy in this time of war and revolution.



# Firsthand account of Nicaragua devastation

BY JANE HARRIS

CORINTO, Nicaragua — Traveling around Nicaragua with diplomatic representatives from 36 countries, this reporter found the damage from recent torrential rains more devastating than mere figures could describe.

Here in the northwest port of Corinto, where 60 percent of Nicaragua's imports and exports pass through, storm-swollen tides smashed many of the docks into kindling wood. The mainline railway track could be seen sliding under water. It will cost millions to repair.

Over 100 families' homes are crumbled into ruins. Ambassadors on the tour commented that the houses looked more like an earthquake had hit them instead of a rainstorm.

In León and Chinandega, we saw countless roads hanging in midair where bridges used to be. One car repair shop I mistook for the city dump — all the vehicles were upside down or turned over and rusted.

In poor barrios in Managua, particularly near Lake Managua, the rains had washed away entire homes.

There is "a real threat of massive unemployment that could put some 60,000 people out of work," Commander Henry Ruiz, minister of planning, told a meeting of some 500 state workers employed by the water company in Managua June 9.

The commander urged tenacity on the part of workers, explaining that destruction by the relentless rains had included:

- Road and bridge damage totaling \$100 million.
- Vast erosion of top soil, affecting a still-unknown quantity of fertile land in the western half of the country.
- One hundred tons of cotton seed.
- One hundred and ten tons of rice destined for planting.
- Four thousand five hundred tons of sugar.

## Flood sets revolution back 3 years

Continued from Page 1

tion. Its economy has been mortally wounded. The greatest fruits of the heroic efforts made by the people, under the leadership of the Sandinista Front, to finish with the sorrowful economic legacy of 40 years of Somoza's tyranny, have been practically razed to the ground.

Commander Daniel Ortega, a member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, summed up the situation clearly and dramatically: "We have been taken back to the first day of the triumph of the revolution. For Nicaraguans, this tragedy means starting over again, as if we had never gone through the last three years."

On top of the attack by the blind forces of nature, recent weeks have seen an increase in activity by external enemies of the revolution. The attacks by counterrevolutionary bands from Honduras continue and are becoming more aggressive.

Also increasing are the attacks and threats from Washington. An example was the recent ominous warning by the U.S. commercial attaché in Managua, Roger Gamble, that the Pentagon might invade Nicaragua following the incident between a powerful U.S. ship (stationed in Nicaragua's national waters) and a Sandinista coast guard vessel.

All this has been combined to deepen the problems of the people who are boldly fighting to be totally free to make a better future for themselves.

We cannot discount the possibility that, under the cover of the internal problems caused by the storm, the counterrevolution may pass over to bigger actions, not merely to destabilize the country, but to unleash an open war against the popular and democratic government.

It is also possible that on this basis, and taking advantage of the climate of tension in the world, deepened by the British aggression in the South Atlantic

- More than 1 million crates of bananas.
- Ten thousand head of cattle.

Losses in industry were less severe than in agriculture, totaling approximately \$11 million, he explained.

Nicaragua hopes the visiting diplomats will take a cue from revolutionary Cuba, which even though hit by the same storm, has set an example of international solidarity for the entire world.

"We are going to do two things — aid Nicaragua and repair the losses caused here by the floods," said President Fidel Castro June 10.

With the exception of aid from Cuba, the Soviet Union, Mexico, and France, and some aid from the United Nations, very little has arrived here.

And what little aid has come in from the United States has been directed toward the big-business outfit, the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), or the Red Cross, which is mismanaged by COSEP. In effect, Commander Jaime Wheelock pointed out June 10, the United States is treating COSEP as an "alternative government."

Without the tremendous organization and contributions from Nicaragua's own unions, defense committees, churches, women's associations, and Sandinista Youth, the rains' effect would have been far greater. Revolutionary determination and spirit continue to be high, as was evidenced recently when over 13,000 construction workers volunteered their labor free of charge for two weekends a month to rebuild the country.

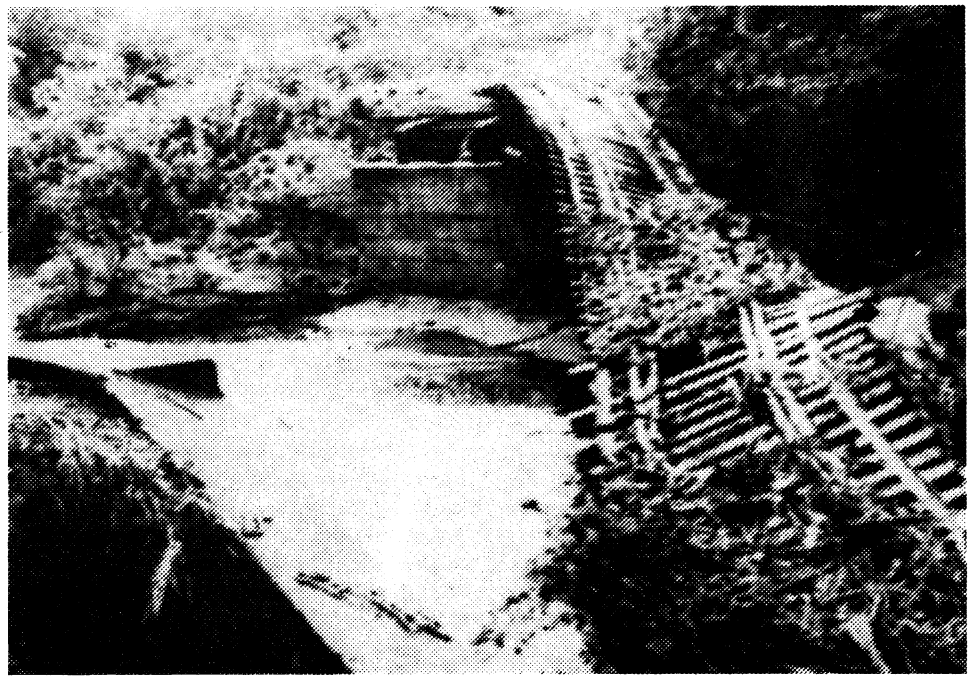
These construction workers and others are depending on international solidarity to help purchase the materials they will need to rebuild their country.

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

and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the ruling circles in the United States may carry out the threat made by Gamble — fabricating some pretext, like the "Vietnamese attack" on a U.S. ship in the Gulf of Tonkin in the 1960s.

In these complex circumstances, international aid to Nicaragua has a dual and precise meaning. It can help repair its economy and guarantee food to its people; at the same time, it can help defend Nicaragua's sovereignty, independence, and the social conquests won at the cost of so many sacrifices.

Up until now, very few countries have responded fully to the appeal for solidarity, most notably Cuba, France, Mexico, and the Soviet Union. But that is not enough. Solidarity must be universal. Alongside the cooperation of all progressive governments and humanitarian organizations must be added the actions of the world's peoples through national campaigns for the shipment of money, food, medicine, hospital equipment, and clothing to Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan people, who are carrying out one of the most important revolutions of our time, deserve this and much more.



Barricada

Floods have caused massive destruction of bridges and roads

## Nicaragua puts clamp on price gougers

BY JANE HARRIS

MASAYA, Nicaragua — Shoppers in this town 26 kilometers east of Managua have more than a few consumer advocates to protect them from the monopolies and price-gougers — they have a revolutionary government behind them, determined that no one will go hungry.

While the Nicaraguan government has heavily subsidized basic food items such as rice, corn, beans, and milk, and standardized their prices for some time, certain unpatriotic merchants recently decided that their own personal profit was more important than the needs of society.

The occasion?

The fact that agriculture and transportation of crops has been disrupted owing to a disastrous 34 inches of rain, which fell in only six days.

The first step that the revolutionary government took was to demand that all shopkeepers report their inventory of basic foodstuffs immediately to enable the country to take measures to ensure ample food for all Nicaraguans.

However, not every shopkeeper took the government seriously. In the central province of Chontales some 200 merchants out of an estimated 500 did not report their stocks to the Ministry of Commerce. While the junta, the Sandinista police, and the neighborhood defense committees are meeting to decide what to do about this, including the possibility of closing these stores down, other steps are being taken to ensure consumer rights.

The government has empowered the local Sandinista Defense Committees (CDSs) to form people's inspection teams to check prices in their neighborhoods. The committees report to the police who, collaborating with the Ministry of Commerce (both are also empowered to inspect prices), do not hesitate to slap heavy fines on these merchants.

In fact, the merchants are lucky if all they get is fines.

Special laws are in effect providing for prison sentences of up to four years. Storekeepers who alter the prices of their goods also face the confiscation of those goods.

Here in Masaya, as elsewhere around the country, these greedy merchants are in hot water. They wake up in the morning and find their names and offenses printed in the daily paper.

Things are beginning to break down quickly along political lines between those storekeepers who are with the revolution and those who are not. Two owners of vegetable stands *Intercontinental Press* spoke with here were furious that the government thought it could dictate prices. How could they make the money they were used to raking in if this was enforced?

Others are enjoying increased popularity owing to their voluntary fairness. Quite often one can spot these stores by the red and black Sandinista flag flying outside.

With the defense committees, the police, and the Ministry of Commerce keeping an eye on the marketplace and the highways (especially the roads to Costa Rica, where government-subsidized medicines are sold to Costa Ricans at four times the Nicaraguan price), things are looking up for the consumer.

Additionally, discussions in neighborhood defense committees and other mass organizations have given rise to two other proposals that are now being discussed in the Council of State.

The first is to give the government the right to control prices and profit margins on all goods and services.

The second is to add three items — corn, beans, and rice — to the sugar guarantee card Nicaraguans already have.

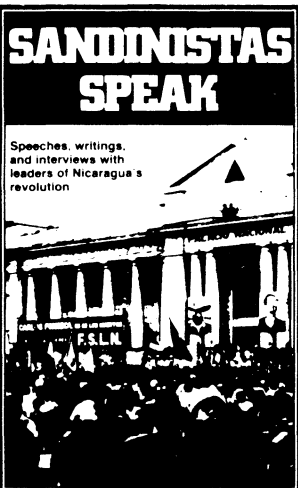
The truth is that right now shortages do not exist of these basic and popular food items, with the temporary exception of corn.

Yet shoppers often find them unavailable in the supermarket. In fact, not much is in the supermarkets except long lines of people.

This is because unpatriotic shopkeepers pay children and others next to nothing to clean out the shelves of these well-stocked markets. Having created an artificial shortage, the speculators resell the products they have hoarded at exorbitant prices.

Expanding the guarantee card would cut down on the effectiveness of these professional standers-on-lines who are capable of emptying a well-stocked supermarket in less than 24 hours.

From *Intercontinental Press*



**NEW!**

## Sandinistas Speak

Speeches, writings, and interviews by leaders of Nicaragua's revolution

by Tomás Borge, Carlos Fonseca, Daniel Ortega, Humberto Ortega, and Jaime Wheelock

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# Gov't victims rally against war drive

## Atlanta meeting defends political rights

BY MICHAEL PENNOCK

ATLANTA — Solidarity in the fight against U.S. war. Solidarity in the fight for workers' rights. These were the themes of the "Reagan vs. Workers' Rights" rally here May 22. It was sponsored by the Atlanta Political Rights Defense Fund.

The lead-off speaker was David Smith, who had been discharged from the Army at Fort Benning, Georgia, a few days earlier.

According to his brigade commander, Smith's public activities in opposition to U.S. intervention in El Salvador "were detrimental to the command morale, order, and discipline." The post commander at Fort Benning, Maj. Gen. Wetzel, claimed Smith's televised anti-war statements "have enraged the Fort Benning populace and embarrassed its leadership."

Smith had participated in civilian dress in a January 24 demonstration against the training of Salvadoran troops at Fort Benning. He later helped to organize the Concerned Citizens for Latin America in Columbus, Georgia, the site of the army base.

### New murders in Atlanta

Venus Taylor, a leader of the Atlanta Mothers Committee to Stop the Child Murders, also spoke. Her daughter was one of those slain in the wave of killings of Black children.

The local media reported recently on a series of 7 to 20 murders of women in the Atlanta area. Activists in the mothers committee say that the total over the past two years is closer to 40.

Under the pressure of many who are concerned about these reports, Mayor Andrew Young has established a police task force to investigate the new murders. He has told the media to downplay these cases. They don't want the community "alarmed."

Taylor pointed out that these are murders of both Black and white women. It will take a united Black and white fight to stop them.

Taylor put no faith whatsoever in the task force controlled by the mayor and the police. One of the latest murder victims, a 17-year-old woman, was an A and B student, stayed at home, and rarely went out, said Taylor. Acting Public Safety Commissioner George Napper said she was "just a hooker."

"Outrageous," said Taylor.

"Outrageous that he could call this honor student a hooker."

"Outrageous that a public safety commissioner could say a murder wasn't important because the victim was 'just a hooker.'"

"Even if they were all hookers, so what?"

"They still haven't told me who killed my own baby," Taylor said. "So I don't care if they are setting up a task force, I don't trust them to do anything."

Taylor tied the fight against racism at home to the fight against Washington's wars in Central America.

### 'Our war is right here'

"Don't let your sons sign up to go to Reagan's war as a way out of the ghetto. In the Army you'll come back with some disease you'll never get rid of, either mental or physical, if you come back at all."

"If I had five sons I'd rather see them all go to prison than go to war."

"We have a war to fight, alright, and it's right here in this country!"

She sat down to the strongest applause of the evening.

Tom Fiske, a worker at Lockheed-Georgia aircraft plant and member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 709, said:

"The average worker in the plant sees that the United States has no business at all fighting for the British over the Malvinas Islands."

"How can islands just off the coast of Argentina, islands that are two weeks' sailing time away for the British fleet, possibly be British?"

Fiske is also the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Georgia secretary of state. Among the younger, draft-age machinists in his work area, opposition to the war in El Salvador is high.

"They say, 'Hell no, I won't go. I'll go to Canada first.'"

### 'A bad attitude'

Fisk continued: "According to the boss, workers have a bad attitude. A bad attitude toward their work, an unwillingness to sacrifice for the sake of corporate profits. And a bad attitude about being dragged off to war."

"It's by mobilizing this 'bad attitude' that American workers will defeat Washington's attacks on our democratic rights and their armed attacks on other countries."

André Kahlmorgen chaired the rally. She was fired by Lockheed 18 months ago, one of the first victims of the Pentagon's drive to silence critics of its wars in the war industries.

She introduced the featured speaker for the evening: Mel Mason, a socialist city councilman of Seaside, California. He is running an independent campaign for governor of California.

### 'War' plants or 'defense' plants?

Mason discussed the case at Lockheed.

"They call these places 'defense' plants, but they're not. They are war plants and right now at this moment the United States is at war. It's involved in a bloody battle in the South Atlantic over the Malvinas Islands."

"What a joke it was to see Secretary of State Alexander Haig hopping around the globe trying to make peace," he said.

"The U.S. wasn't involved in trying to get peace. Trying to get a *piece* of someone else's territory, but not peace."

Mason talked about how wars abroad bring down attacks on democratic rights for workers at home. He used the recent raids conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to illustrate this point.

The government is attempting to create a climate to prevent working people from speaking out, Mason said. He pointed to the recent lynching of a Black man in downtown Atlanta, and the lynching of a Black GI in Social Circle, Georgia, as well as attacks on the Voting Rights Act.

### Workers' right to campaign

Government officials and employers have made it as difficult as possible for Mason to campaign. Until recently, he has been denied a leave of absence from his job to campaign. He was threatened by federal agents with arrest in Detroit on phony drug charges. His supporters must gather a huge number of signatures, 180,000, just to get his name on the ballot.

"Just like the government is involved in wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua and the Malvinas, just as it is harassing and threatening the revolutionary governments of Cuba and Grenada, it is harassing and threatening my campaign and its supporters. Why? Because our campaign speaks out against these wars, makes it harder for Washington to get into them, and harder for them to fight them."

"It seems like a tough fight," Mason said. "But it's a fight we can win."



Militant photos

Speakers at Atlanta political rights rally included Venus Taylor, whose daughter was slain in wave of murders of Black children, and Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers candidate for Georgia Secretary of State.

# Labor, Black leaders defend rights in Cinn.

BY VALERIE LIBBY AND MORRIS STARKSKY

CINCINNATI — The right of trade unionists and Black activists to speak out against attacks by the employers and the government was the focus of a successful rally here May 23.

The rally was organized to defend Jean Savage, one of 15 workers fired from the Lockheed aerospace plant in Atlanta, Georgia.

Savage was on a tour of nine cities to win support for union and political activists who are being harassed and fired in plants with Pentagon contracts. The tour was sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, which is waging a campaign to expose government and company spy operations against labor unions in this country.

Walt Zimmer, a leader of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 212, convened the rally and welcomed the audience of more than 70 people to his local's meeting hall.

Savage, a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 709 and the Socialist Workers Party, was introduced by Al O'Connor. He is president of IAM District 34, and a worker at General Electric's giant aircraft engine plant in Cincinnati.

### Reagan vs. air controllers

In his remarks, O'Connor pointed out that while Reagan praised the Solidarity movement in Poland he "destroyed the lives" of thousands of air traffic controllers "who gave many years of service to the government. This was deliberate, and the first step in breaking the unions," O'Connor continued.

O'Connor's son was one of the air controllers fired by Reagan. "He was fired," said O'Connor, "for striking for things he thought he should have and for the safety of the entire United States."

He concluded: "we must be free to speak of these issues without fear of repression, regardless of our political beliefs. We may not support the beliefs of a political party, but we must surely defend the right to have a voice. Freedom must not die."

Savage picked up the theme of O'Connor's closing remarks. She pointed out that along with fighting for the social issues raised by the other rally speakers "there is a parallel fight that we have to wage, and that is the fight for our right to organize around these issues."

Portions of Savage's speech were shown on the local NBC and ABC affiliates' news shows. In a separate interview, she discussed socialist support for Argentina in the Malvinas Islands war on the ABC affiliate's late news show.

Greetings were read to the May 23 rally from the Cincinnati chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP).

"The Cincinnati chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party supports Jean Savage in her fight to get her job back at Lockheed. We are aware of the government's attempts to interfere with union business and their attempts to bust unions. We stand in support of the IAM and all the organizations here tonight who support Ms. Savage in her endeavors."

The message was signed by Essie Hughes, cochair of the Cincinnati chapter of NBIPP.

### Repressive history of U.S.

"Is it any wonder when you have a country that has had social and economic policies throughout its history as repressive as ours that you need a strong police force to keep the lid on?"

The question was raised by Art Slater, education director of the Cincinnati NAACP. Slater, who was victimized for opposing police shootings of unarmed citizens, said he felt like he was in good company when he stopped "to consider people like Bill Haywood, Paul Robeson, Angela Davis, Martin Luther King."

Slater said that although none of us are safe from the FBI and the local police — "they can come and get any of us anytime they get ready" — there is no need to be paranoid.

"What all of us in this room have to do . . . is decide that before we will become a slave we will lie dead in our grave."

Bill Merritt, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7A, was at the rally. Merritt's local has been on the front lines fighting Kahn's Meats' blackmail threat to shut down its plant in Cincinnati unless the workers take unreasonable, intolerable contract concessions.

In his remarks, Merritt declared that "the labor movement is being attacked on all fronts." He outlined the situation facing his union and called for support from the labor movement in the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana area.

Tim Burke, vice-chairman of the Hamilton County Democratic Party, pointed to some local victims of the government and the bosses' attacks.

He pointed out that the ways of silencing dissent are not always as dramatic as firings. "This administration right now is trying to still the voices of dissent in other, much more subtle ways. They attempt to close off dissent by closing off knowledge." Burke went on to explain attacks on the Freedom of Information Act.

### Blacks no longer sole target

Sarah Gardner, a member of the United Auto Workers and the national board of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, spoke. She is Cincinnati president of the CBTU.

Continued on Page 15



# Forum publicizes secret war on Nicaragua

BY OSBORNE HART

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The secret U.S. war against Nicaragua was brought to public attention by a forum held on Capitol Hill May 27.

Sponsored by the Campaign for Political Rights, American Civil Liberties Union, Nicaraguan Solidarity Network, and others, the event was called "U.S. Covert Operations Against Nicaragua." It was organized in response to the covert action plan against Nicaragua authorized last year by Reagan.

"Covert operations is not an abstract term," stated Patricia Hynds before television cameras, journalists, and spectators packed into a Senate hearing room.

## Maryknoll missionary

Hynds, a Maryknoll lay missionary and researcher for the Central American Historical Institute in Managua, recounted the bombing of a Nicaraguan jetliner in Mexico, a bomb explosion in the Managua airport, and two Nicaraguan bridges destroyed by explosives.

In addition, coordinated attacks along the Honduran border by counterrevolutionary, pro-Somoza bands have escalated since December — the month the covert plan was instituted.

Citing a death toll of more than 100, Hynds added, "Covert operations have real human consequences," taking lives as well as diverting resources from reconstruction efforts in Nicaragua.

Hynds denounced the Reagan administration for painting a "distorted picture" of Nicaragua. "It's not a horrendous, repressive regime.

"I'm very comfortable in Nicaragua, as opposed to other [countries] with regimes that our government supports in Latin America.

"Our concern is over U.S. intervention in all of Central America," she stressed. "It is still intervention in the internal affairs of other countries."

Reports of covert intervention in Nicaragua surfaced as early as last June, related Maureen Bunyan, an anchor woman with the local CBS television affiliate's news department. Bunyan, who has covered Central America and the Caribbean, presented a chronology of news accounts and revelations about the Reagan program. President Reagan authorized a \$19.95 million CIA covert operation including paramilitary force to "destroy vital Nicaraguan targets, such as power plants and bridges, in an effort to disrupt the economy and divert attention and the resources of the government."

Xavier Gorrostiaga, director of the Institute of Economic and Social Investigation in Nicaragua, supported Hynds' evidence. "[The attacks] couldn't exist without a well-developed plan," he said.

Gorrostiaga explained that the cur-

rent U.S. plan is "nothing new. It was planned before this administration came to power.

"The majority of the people in Nicaragua feel this threat," he said, "because of the experiences in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Chile."

## International terrorism

Labeling the U.S. campaign an "international form of terrorism," Gorrostiaga added that the mobilization of the people is "the only way to handle this undeclared war."

Gretchen Eick of the United Church of Christ read a statement signed by 112 national Black, Latino, religious, civil liberties, and other organizations.

The statement said in part: "President Reagan's reported authorization of a plan to covertly destabilize the internationally recognized government of Nicaragua is a serious and dangerous act of aggression."

"For these and many other reasons, we call upon the President to abandon the U.S. plan for covert destabilization of Nicaragua and upon the Congress to repudiate this plan and provide for full and public debate of U.S. policy in Central America."

A similar statement by 100 law professors was also read to the gathering.

The political intent and consequences of covert operations took up a considerable part of the discussion among panelists.

Morton Halperin, a senior staff member of the National Security Council during the Nixon administration, said that covert actions are "meant to be secret from the American public and the American political process. The purpose is to subvert the democratic process in the United States."

During a short speech, Representative Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) said, "Covert operations are another aspect of war. Secretly to overthrow the government and destroy it — that is war."

Harkin, who has visited Nicaragua, stated that the "war footing" in that country is "the logical response [for Ni-



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

**Members of Nicaraguan State Security display weapons seized from counterrevolutionaries.**

caragua) to defend itself against the United States."

Likening Reagan's program to Nixon's secret war in Cambodia, Harkin drew sustained applause when he called for the public to "pressure the U.S. to end covert operations" and a "peace movement to stop war against Nicaragua."

Not all the speakers opposed CIA covert action programs.

During his keynote address, former U.S. Senator Frank Church argued, "There is no doubt that we need a strong CIA, but one which operates abroad, not at home; one which gathers and analyzes information about foreign governments, but does not try to overthrow them; and one which spies on potentially hostile foreigners, but not law-abiding Americans."

## Guidelines for CIA?

Church offered some guidelines to "confine" covert action.

"Laying aside situations which involve the overriding security interests

of the United States . . . criminal activity on our part should be stopped. . . . They should not involve efforts to subvert democratic governments. . . . Any covert operation undertaken by the United States should be regarded as a rare occurrence."

Former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Robert White not only justified the use of covert actions, but accused the Nicaraguans of forcing Reagan to respond with his destabilization plan.

"There is nothing intrinsically wrong with covert action," White said.

He referred to "our objective" as being to "destabilize Nicaragua, eliminate Nicaragua and Cuba as a source of revolution," and achieve "military victory in El Salvador and Guatemala over the rebels."

Commenting on the Nicaraguan mobilizations to defend their country, he stated that "there is nothing that says that Nicaragua has to react in an immature fashion."

The audience voiced its disapproval with moans and groans.

# Salvadoran ballplayers fight deportation

BY M.J. RAHN

CINCINNATI — Three 19-year-old Salvadoran baseball players are pleading for political asylum in the United States. A hearing was held here May 18 before a federal judge.

Erick Urquilla, Orlando Custodio, and Enrique Zamora joined El Salvador's team playing in a World Friendship Baseball Tournament in Newark, Ohio, as a way to get out of El Salvador and escape the junta's violence.

Zamora was taken by government soldiers to a jail in May 1981, beaten by masked guards, and threatened with death. Erick Urquilla has been placed on a blacklist at the San Salvador airport. Custodio was witness to government troops entering his school, searching students for weapons, and demanding students admit they were guerrillas.

When asked by the immigration judge, Adolph Angelilli, if they supported their government, all three youths

said no. But the judge apparently does, because he said evidence of government violence against citizens is irrelevant in the decision whether or not to grant the baseball players political asylum.

The youths' request for political asylum was denied last December 16 by a district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). They were told to leave the country by December 25.

Eugenia Hauber, their lawyer, appealed the decision and sought a hearing with an immigration and naturalization judge.

Jackie Rubio, coordinator of the Cincinnati Central American Task Force, was present at the hearing and reported that the judge kept rushing and interrupting Eugenia Hauber while she tried to explain the Salvadorans' case.

The State Department lawyers made much of the fact that the youths had "preconceived plans" to come and stay in the United States, Rubio said. This is apparently a crime for victims of dictatorships, but not for Somocista exiles training in Florida for an invasion of Nicaragua, or former Grenadian dictator Eric Gairy.

Enrique Zamora said he first heard of the term "political asylum" when Nicaraguan former national guardsmen applied for it in El Salvador.

There is another hearing on the case set for June 25. The INS had a busy day in court, as Judge Angelilli also denied Mohammad Soulat, an Iranian, the right to stay in the United States. The INS said he violated his student visa by accepting employment July 1 to November 30, 1979.

# Labor, Black leaders defend political rights

Continued from Page 14

"It is now 1982, and Blacks and others who would speak out against the wrongs of today's society are facing the same repression. In the '50s and '60s it was 'un-American.' Today it is 'domestic terrorism.'"

Gardner alerted the rally to the danger of the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism and Reagan's unleashing of the CIA and FBI "to carry out domestic surveillance and disruption of organizations not engaged in criminal activity but in peaceful, political activity."

"The target once was the Black man," she concluded. "Today it is not the Black man alone. It is everyone who perceives right and justice to be anything other than the policies of the 'new federalism.'"

Brewster Rhoads, director of the Cincinnati Ohio Public Interest Campaign and editor of *The Chronicler*, Cincinnati's AFL-CIO labor council's newspaper, spoke about a local "right to know" law

that forces employers to disclose the toxic and hazardous materials that workers come into contact with. Supporters of this law, he said, are "going to be seen as an enemy of industry in this community, and I think will be targeted for different kinds of blackballing and different kinds of repression."

Margaret Kelly, a member of the United Steelworkers of America and the Young Socialist Alliance, traced the history of government and big-business attacks on the foreign born. She introduced the cases of Héctor Marroquín, Hamid Sodeifi, and Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh — three young socialists facing deportation.

## Defense Investigative Service

The following day, Savage was invited to attend the meeting of IAM District Council, where she explained the activities of the Defense Investigative Service (DIS), a government agency that spies on unionists in plants with Pentagon contracts. Many of the delegates to the

council never heard of DIS, and began to discuss possible DIS intervention in IAM-organized shops and organizing drives.

On May 27, Savage traveled to Dayton, Ohio. She got an enthusiastic response at Ohio Civil Service Employees Association Local 5710. At the end of the meeting, many present signed petitions in her behalf, and then decided to take extra petitions to circulate to union members unable to attend the meeting.

While in Dayton, Savage met with economics professors at Wright State University and attended a reception hosted by the Labor Studies Department of Sinclair Community College.

Savage also spoke to 50 people at a meeting May 28 of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 240, which is predominantly Black sanitation workers. She got a good response and 15 people signed protest petitions.

On June 2, Savage addressed the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council.

**Godspeed** — Local opinion is divided in Reagan's hometown of Dixon, Illinois. Business-



**Harry Ring**

people think he's doing fine. The opinion of working people was voiced by a Carpenters local official: "Your businessman in town thinks Reagan can walk

on water. Personally, I wish he would try it — in some deep water."

**Sounds reasonable** — Rep. Donald Mitchell of New York accused people of exaggerating the aftereffects of nuclear explosions. He said it would mean "only a 2 percent increase in the cancer rate." Could be. If most people are dead, that would limit the number who get sick.

**Free-enterprise diet** — A Canadian researcher has developed garbage chips. Fungi are set to gorging on sludge and oth-

er garbage and then dried into assertedly high protein chips. A French company is preparing to market them for animal and human consumption in poor countries. But, it's suggested, they can also be used as exotic party snacks.

**Israel's allies** — Pat McGuire, one of two contenders for the gubernatorial nomination in Wyoming, announced he had received a message that if anyone tried to interfere with the Israeli invasion of Lebanon they would be dealt with by an "extraterrestrial force." But maybe

the message was garbled in transmission and it was just from the Pentagon.

**We've often wondered too** — Turnbull & Asser, shirtmakers to Prince Charles of England, are now offering their wares at Neiman-Marcus stores. From \$85 to \$135 per shirt. The company director says every wardrobe should include at least a dozen dress shirts. "I don't see how anyone can exist on less than a dozen," he says.

**Political trend** — Our man

at Turnbull & Asser advises that as a result of global tensions and recession, men's suits are becoming more conservative and shirts dressier. "The world, he explains, is getting to be a more serious place."

**Pure Americana** — Upward bound business and professional people in Austin, Texas, can enlist in the Winners Circle, a ten-week seminar led by a "financial and prosperity consultant." The emphasis is on "integrating the spiritual and material worlds." The weekly bite? Ten percent of your income.

## —CALENDAR—

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Israel's War Against Lebanon.** Speakers: Ruth Lamonte, Fulbright lecturer in Jordan, recently returned from Middle East; Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 26, 8 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Oakland

**What Marx and Engels Taught Us on the Fight for Black Equality.** Speaker: Thabo Ntweng. Tues., June 29, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. class. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation requested. Ausp: Mel Mason for Governor Campaign Committee. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

**Racism and Immigration in U.S.: The Fight Today for Equality.** Speaker: Marilee Taylor. Thur., July 1, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. class. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation requested. Ausp: Youth for Mel Mason. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

#### San Jose

**Three Classes on the Black Struggle.** By Clifton DeBerry, chairman, San Jose Mel Mason for Governor Campaign. Wed., June 23: "Black Nationalism"; Wed., June 30: "Independent Black Political Action"; Wed., July 7: "The Combined Character of the Coming American Revolution." All classes 7:30 p.m. at 46½ Race St. Ausp: Mel Mason for Governor Campaign. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

**Nuclear Weapons and the Bilateral Freeze.** Speaker: Fred Halstead, author of *Out Now: A Participant's Account of the American Movement Against the Vietnam War*. Sat., July 3, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Mel Mason for Governor Campaign. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Israel: A Threat to World Peace.** Speakers to be announced. Sat., June 26, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**Film: Ecocide: A Strategy of War.** Speakers: David Welters, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

**In Solidarity with Congolese Liberation Struggle.** Victory to the Congolese National Liberation Front! Down with Mobutu! Defeat U.S. imperialism! Demonstrate June 30 at: New York, Zairian Mission, 866 Second Ave., 4-6 p.m.; Los Angeles, Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles St., 12 noon; San Francisco, assemble at 4:15 p.m., Montgomery and Market — rally, 5 p.m., CIA office, 555 Battery; Washington, D.C., for information call (202) 543-3969. For more information contact Material Aid Campaign for ZANU, (212) 868-3330.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Rights and Lives in Danger: A Speakout on Abortion Rights.** Speakers: Steve Rivelis, Planned Parenthood; Octavia Roberts, chairperson, Women's Advisory Committee, United Steelworkers Local 2610; Robbie Scherr, Young Socialist Alliance; Jenny Shofield, Section 12, Towson State University; Carolyn Finney, Catholics for Free Choice; Lisa Jablon, Baltimore National Organization for Women. Sun., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**How to Stop the U.S. War Drive.** Speakers: Russ Bellant, cochair, Committee Against Registration and the Draft; Ismael Ahmed, director, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services; Pam Jones, Communist Workers Party; Pancho Medrano, Mexican-American Local Organizations; Susan Apstein, member, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks and Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., June 27, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**The Women's Movement at the Crossroads.** A speakout: panel to be announced. Sat., June 26, 8 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

## Thousands rally at Canada border June 12

BY MIKE SHUR

PEACE ARCH PARK, Wash. — Fifteen thousand people rallied here on the U.S.-Canadian border June 12 against war and nuclear weapons. Sponsors of the event were End the Arms Race, a Canadian antinuclear organization, and the Peace Arch Rally Project, a Washington State antinuclear coalition.

The crowd, which was overwhelming Canadian, heard speeches against nuclear weapons and listened to five bands. The keynote speaker was Ed Kennard, executive director of the Central Labor Council of British Columbia. Kennard, like most of the other speakers, called for support to the bilateral nuclear freeze plan.

Demonstrators were very concerned about Washington's war on El Salvador. This was reflected in the response to the anti-intervention contingent, organized by the Seattle Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). More than 700 people at the rally signed a petition demanding a halt to U.S. military aid to El Salvador. Over \$300 in literature was purchased from the CISPES table.

The anti-intervention contingent was organized out of a send-off rally in Seattle June 11. The rally, attended by 80 people, was organized around the demands "U.S. out of El Salvador," "No nuclear weapons," and "No U.S. intervention in the Third World."

Speakers included José Colato, repre-

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Winston-Salem

**Stop the Draft! Youth and the Fight Against Reagan's War Drive.** Speakers: Katie Winship, Community Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament; Tom Kane, Triad Citizens Concerned for Central America, recently returned from Nicaragua; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 26, 7:30 p.m. 216 E. 6th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (919) 723-3419.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**Socialist Campaign Rally: Jobs, Not Bombs! Stop the War Moves at Home and Abroad!** Kurt Landefeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Ohio governor; Alicia Merel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Joe Lombardo, SWP candidate for 2nd Congressional District. Sat., June 26, 6:30 p.m. reception and buffet, 8 p.m. rally. Greenwich Tavern, 2440 Gilbert Ave. Donation: \$5, \$1.50 rally only. Ausp: Ohio Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (513) 751-2636.

### TEXAS

#### San Antonio

**Socialism: What It Is and How to Fight For It.** Two classes: "What is the Soviet Union?" Sun., June 27, 1 p.m.; "How to Make a Socialist Revolution in the U.S." Sun., July 4, 1 p.m. 337 W. Josephine St. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1982 Texas Campaign. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

### VIRGINIA

#### Newport News

**The Women's Movement and the Fight Against War Today.** Speakers to be an-

senting the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador (FDR); Mazan Malik, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students; Martin González of Seattle CISPES; and Lynn Domingo, secretary-treasurer, Cannery Workers Union, ILWU Local 37.

Mazan Malik explained how the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was "backed entirely by the U.S. government."

José Colato of the FDR said that the threat of nuclear war was very real in Central America. "Any time the U.S. government becomes involved in a war, it involves the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons. This is true today in El Salvador," he said.

Lynn Domingo spoke about how the U.S. war policy affects working people here at home. "The money being used for military intervention in El Salvador is being taken from working people here at home. When social services here are cut, the funds go to the Pentagon. We have to oppose both the U.S. war in El Salvador and the attacks here in the United States."

In other actions on June 12, 1,000 rallied in Salt Lake City, 200 in Phoenix, and 75 in Birmingham.

In Phoenix, demonstrators heard speakers from the National Organization for Women, Teamsters Local 274, Coalition Against U.S. Aggression, Arizona Educators Association, Young Socialist Alliance, and Citizens for a Non-Nuclear Future. A Salvadoran re-

nounced. Sat., June 26, 7:30 p.m. 111 28th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Washington's Secret War Against Nicaragua.** Speakers: Jim Levitt, Socialist Workers Party, toured Nicaragua in 1980; Beverly Bernardo, reported for *Intercontinental Press* in Managua; Teresa de Renteria, Friends of Latin American People; slide show. Sun., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WISCONSIN

#### Milwaukee

**Jobs Not War! Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Peter Seidman, SWP candidate for governor; Cheryll Hidalgo, SWP candidate for 5th Congressional District. Sun., June 27, 6:30 reception, 7:30 rally. VIP Lounge, 4704 W North Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Wisconsin Socialist Workers 1982 Campaign Committee. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

fugee also spoke.

In Birmingham, the rally was held in a Black community center. Rev. Abraham Woods, president of the Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said, "The children of this country are asking for bread, the very necessities of life, and Reagan is giving them military hardware."

## Reagan at the UN

Continued from Page 4

Nevertheless, he said, his faith in the cause for peace had not weakened, referring to the demonstrations around the world and particularly the June 12 New York protest.

It is "in the hands of the people" that "the decisive force" for peace lies.

"The peoples need food, schools, medicines, hospitals, factories, and not tanks, battleships, and nuclear arsenals. Let us, then, join the action of all peoples to condemn these harbingers of death who are the same ones that for centuries have taken advantage of the peoples' misery.

"If we persist," he concluded, "it will be possible to impose upon them the decisions that today remain fruitless and mere useless papers. And we must persist, with the confidence that behind us, awaiting our leadership, there are hundreds of millions prepared for this battle for disarmament and peace."



# Indochina: 'Aftermath' of the U.S. war

**Aftermath: The Struggle of Cambodia and Vietnam**, by John Pilger and Anthony Barnett. New Statesman Report.

BY ANNA BRADLEY

If journalism prizes were handed out for professional valor as much as for professional excellence, Australia's John Pilger would have a chestful of ribbons by now. Of the army of reporters that quit Vietnam with the last departing boatload of American troops and spooks in 1975, Pilger is one of the few who looked back, wondering what was in store for the peoples of Vietnam and Kampuchea. He has kept looking ever since.

Unfortunately, the people who have the most to learn from his vivid reportage — the Americans —

## BOOK REVIEW

have probably been the least aware of it. Even his technically spectacular television documentaries, "Cambodia: Year Zero" and "Cambodia: Year One," never got on U.S. public television, which generally will broadcast anything British TV throws in the bin.

Apparently American audiences are deemed mature enough to derive some educational benefit from watching a frontally nude Admiral Nelson frolicking in a Neapolitan bathtub with a dorsally nude Lady Hamilton — that, after all is History, albeit reconstructed and re-enacted.

### Too strong for prime time

But a film that documents the recent criminal behavior — and its atrocious consequences — of such exalted figures as Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger is considered too strong for prime time. This book, if you are lucky enough to lay hands on it, will show you what we've been missing.

*Aftermath* opens with a mid-1978 report on Pilger's first trip to Vietnam since his admittedly "graceless" exit in April 1975. It is exaggerated, emotive, a bit off balance, as if Pilger could not quite find his bearings in a Vietnam no longer awash in a sea of foreign interlopers. As he says, the state of Vietnam north of the 17th parallel to the outskirts of Hanoi completely undoes him.

### From rice paddies to moonscapes

Pilger knew, of course, that the Americans bombed those already poor and struggling provinces over and over again. But what that meant to the land and to the people only now becomes graspable, looking at the "moonscapes" that were rice paddies, the tunneled labyrinths that were homes, schools, nurseries, hospitals, and workshops for thousands of North Vietnamese for years.

He finds that the survivors have rebuilt their flattened towns as clusters of bamboo huts and exist on *three kilos* of state rice a month, scrounging for whatever other food can be grown in craters or in fields contaminated by briny water leaking in through damaged dikes.

In this period, the war with Pol Pot's Kampuchea forces the abandonment of fertile fields in Tay Ninh, and brings the continued conscription of Vietnam's

young men and the intensification of Vietnam's efforts to normalize trade and diplomatic relations with the United States.

Pilger perceives the beginnings of the realignment of China with the United States, but can't quite get Pol Pot into the picture properly. A kind of reflexive "underdog" sympathy creeps in as he tries to describe the border conflict with "Democratic" Kampuchea. He even has some faith that the World Bank may come to Vietnam's rescue, attributing to Robert McNamara the capacity to profit by bitter experience. Pilger is wrong on many counts, but his heart and mind are clearly in working order, if not fully coordinated.

### China invades Vietnam

The muzziness burns away when China invades Vietnam and the Americans chip in with Carter's "human rights" offensive that sank so many boat people.

Now Pilger analyzes, excoriates, and substantiates. This man can name names and lay blame. The "Boat People and the U.S. Blockade" and "Why the Deer Hunter is a Lie" lay the groundwork for the Pilger exposés of the attempt to throttle the fledgling People's Republic of Kampuchea, setting the survival of the Khmer people once more in danger.

What had seemed to Pilger like paranoia on the part of Vietnam during his 1978 visit turns out to be clear-sightedness. What was confused becomes clear. Pilger documents the tragedy of the Khmer under Pol Pot, the role of Vietnam in the liberation and reconstruction of Kampuchea, the resilience and vitality of the Khmer, doing so in a way that makes a politically and emotionally complex situation accessible to the vast majority of readers (and viewers!) who can't tell the revisionists from the Cultural Revolutionaries, Phnom Penh from Luang Prabang.

### Famine aid

These reports, in the *New Statesman* and the *Daily Mirror*, and their television versions raised millions of pounds sterling for Oxfam's outstanding program of famine and reconstruction aid to Kampuchea.

Pilger was astounded when he came to Kampuchea in 1980 to find that the children he had described and filmed as skeletal anatomies of death the previous year had been fed and fattened on rice and vitamins shipped in as a result of his efforts. The same kids he had thought doomed were playing soccer and learning their first songs.

Pilger's final piece is a brilliantly conceived essay on the fate of American Vietnam veterans and the coming U.S. war in Central America.

### Life under Pol Pot

Anthony Barnett's pieces — more detached, at least in style — on the Chinese invasion of Vietnam and the U.S.-orchestrated farce of United Nations recognition of the Pol Pot rump regime are judicious and lucid, spiced with engaging idiosyncrasies that seem prerequisite for publication in the *New Statesman*.

After the reader is informed, for instance, of what young Khmer go for in aphrodisiacs, Barnett introduces the confessions of Pol Pot's first minister of information, Hu Nim. The confessions were made under

torture before Hu Nim was "crushed to bits" in the hellhole of Tuol Sleng Prison.

Hu Nim admitted that he advocated the use of tractors — decadent, capitalist, CIA-inspired *tractors* — for use in agriculture. For this and equally heinous ideas, both he and his wife were executed in 1977.

Another of Barnett's reports describes an encounter between Elizabeth Becker, armed with a copy of Hu Nim's confession, and Ieng Sary in the hallowed halls of the UN. Ieng Sary admits that Pol Pot, his brother-in-law, "knew the accused were killed. Personally, I wasn't aware of the deaths."

### More 'confessions'

Another "confession," that of Hing Sokhom, who was invited to return to his native land in 1976 by Thiounn Prasit, present-day sitter in Kampuchea's UN seat, tells of the crimes he was later murdered for after months of torture.

"I liked to talk about having sweet rice soup, or think about making different kinds of cakes," Sokhom wrote. "I would always talk a lot, joke a lot, about this, about that."

So much for Sokhom, crushed to bits for talking, for joking, for thinking about eating.

Less somber is the review by Bruce Page of Henry Kissinger's memoir *The White House Years*. Since Kissinger's criminality is common knowledge by now, it is refreshing to see him demolished, not as a statesman but as an intellectual. Lousy prose and lousy politics, says Page, and the K misquotes Kafka!

Barnett finishes him off with Le Duc Tho's comments. Tho may not know Kafka, but he knew Kissinger. "I told him once that 'you are a liar.' Even his close associates . . . confirmed that he 'tells lies because that is his nature.'"

*Aftermath can be ordered from Ted Peacock, New Statesman, 10 Great Turnstile, London WC1. Cost is £3.50 (US\$6.10).*



**Bomb craters in Vietnam: "moonscapes that were rice paddies."**

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

**Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets**

**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.

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## The two wars of U.S. big business

U.S. business is waging two interrelated wars today — a war abroad against working people in the colonial and semicolonial countries and a war to drive down the standard of living of workers at home. Both have millions of casualties. Both are motivated by the same consideration: profits.

The most immediate and direct battleground in its war abroad is Central America and the Caribbean.

Washington is giving millions of dollars to the counterrevolutionary forces waging war against Nicaragua. From bases in Honduras, these ex-Somozaists, CIA agents, mercenaries, and an increasing number of U.S. military “advisers” are conducting raids across the border with the ultimate goal of toppling the popular government. U.S. warships provocatively patrol Nicaraguan waters.

In neighboring El Salvador, the U.S.-supplied and U.S.-trained army of the military dictatorship is ruthlessly trying to prevent the workers and peasants from establishing the kind of government that now exists in Nicaragua — one that puts the interests of the majority of people first.

Washington also is aiding the wars being waged by its allies.

It backed up its verbal commitment to Britain's war against Argentina by providing the use of its base on Ascension Island and supplying surface-to-air missiles. And it is supporting the Israeli regime's monstrous war against the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Washington's policy of waging wars, supporting its allies' wars, and preparing for new wars will cost the American people \$1.5 trillion in the next five years. Billions of dollars will go to maintain the Pentagon's warships and aircraft carriers stationed in every ocean. It will help finance 2,500 military bases and installations that it maintains in 114 countries and 12,000 nuclear warheads and 500,000 armed troops that it has stationed outside the United States.

In the face of this huge overseas police force, unmatched by any other nation, President Reagan, in his June 17 speech to the United Nations Second Special Conference on Disarmament, asserted that “America has no territorial ambitions. We occupy no countries. . . .”

This bit of hypocrisy was followed by the empty generality that “Our commitment to self-determination, freedom, and peace is the very soul of America. That commitment is as strong today as it ever was.”

Coming out of the mouth of Ronald Reagan these platitudes are a cover-up for the real objectives of the employing class that he represents. For them “freedom” and “self-determination” mean the right of U.S. big business to squeeze as many profits as they can out of the vast majority of the world's people. For them “peace” means the toiling masses should halt their struggles for social justice and accept the super-exploitation and misery imposed on them.

But there will be no peace on this basis. As history has definitively shown the oppressed will not stop rebelling against the horrendous conditions created by imperialism.

At the same time that the employing class carries out its wars for profits abroad, it is waging war at home.

Among the casualties are 10 million unemployed, including many whose jobless benefits have run out.

In industry after industry the employers are succeeding in reopening union contracts and taking back important gains in wages and working conditions won by the working class.

Billions of dollars of cuts in medicaid, food stamps, social services, and disability benefits have worsened the situation for millions.

Blacks, Latinos, and women are especially victimized by this employers' offensive, suffering the heaviest brunt of the economic and social attacks.

In the rural areas bankruptcies and foreclosures by banks are driving tens of thousands of farmers off their farms.

The wars at home and abroad are totally interconnected and the fight against one is part of the fight against the other.

Furthermore, when U.S. big business scores a victory against the workers in another country it strengthens them against working people in this country. The old adage of the American labor movement that “an injury to one is an injury to all” applies equally well to the international working class.

In order to wage its wars abroad, the ruling rich must attempt to stifle opposition at home. This means stepping up their surveillance, harassment, and firing of dissidents in “war” industries which ultimately includes all industry.

To effectively fight against the employers' attempt to drive down living conditions, we must also actively oppose what they are doing to workers in other countries.

It means fighting for the withdrawal of all U.S. military installations around the world, mobilizing against every concrete aggression carried out by Washington, fighting for unilateral nuclear disarmament, and opposing the reinstitution of the draft. Not one cent, not one person for the imperialist war!

By stopping war spending we could finance a massive public works program that would provide millions of jobs by constructing badly needed hospitals, schools, low-cost housing, public transportation, parks, and libraries.

The work week should be shortened with no reduction in pay in order to spread the available work.

Wages, pensions, and social security payments should be raised and cost-of-living escalator clauses adopted to help keep up with the scourge of inflation.

The expropriation of family farms by the banks should be ended by making all land public property, thus abolishing the exploitative system of rents and mortgages. As producers and guardians of the soil, working farmers should be guaranteed the use of their land.

But how can this all be accomplished? All these measures require governmental action and the present government is the tool of big business and the banks.

The only answer is that the present government be replaced. The workers and farmers of this country must organize a massive struggle to replace the government of the ruling rich with their own government.

This is not an easy task. Above all, it will require an understanding that this is what is necessary. But it is an absolute certainty that the deepening crisis of the capitalist system is going to force the majority of working people to draw this conclusion.

One thing is for sure, and that is that the Democratic and Republican parties cannot be counted on to do the job. They are the partners of big business.

Working people must create our own party. The trade unions provide the ready-made organizational foundation for this party. As a first step unions could run their own candidates in the November elections.

## What position should peace movement take on actual wars?

The debate in the peace movement today is whether the movement should take up the actual wars that Washington is waging in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and those it backs in Israel and Argentina. A similar debate arose in the peace movement in the early 1960s when the U.S. government launched the Bay of Pigs invasion against revolutionary Cuba and step-by-step started sending “advisers” into Vietnam. Below are excerpts from an article by Peter Allan in the Summer, 1961, *Young Socialist*, titled “Who Will Fight for Peace When the CIA Goes to War?”

The nation-wide protest actions against the CIA invasion of Cuba led by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee marked a new departure in the antiwar movement in this country. Thousands of Americans, including a large contingent of student youth, rallied to the defense of the Cuban Revolution and marched in opposition to the war of the United States government against Cuba. Although these actions were not part of the organized “peace movement,” the whole past year has seen no more direct, militant, or effective challenge by Americans to the drive toward war.

If an indispensable component in the struggle for peace is a correct understanding of where the true cause of war lies — and this can surely not be denied

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

— then the antiwar campaign protesting the Cuban invasion must serve as an example of how to fight against war by identifying its causes and abettors.

Nevertheless, the leading “peace” organizations maintain a steadfast refusal, on principle, to adopt political action and concrete political demands in their activities. They fear that an insistence on such tangible antiwar measures as withdrawing U.S. bases and troops from foreign soil, recognition of and trade with China and Cuba, ditching foreign despots, and unilateral scrapping of nuclear weapons will drive away many layers of the American population and prevent the growth of the “forces for peace.” Therefore, they reason, we must build a “broad,” non-political antiwar movement and gather all segments of the people together in a massive call for peace. Then the government of our country will be forced to listen and obey just by the sheer weight of our “broad” numbers.

In this manner, the leading “peace” organizations align themselves with sections of the Democratic Party, a party of big business, ready and willing to carry out the aims of the Cold Warriors. So, when it came to a real war — as in the C.I.A.-sponsored invasion of Cuba — these “peace” leaders remained silent. Thus it was demonstrated that the self-imposed alliance of the antiwar movement with the Democratic Party and the Kennedy Administration brought the government no closer to a peaceful foreign policy, but rather served to silence the “peace-lovers” as soon as the fire was turned on under the cold war.

Clearly, if we are to come any closer to a goal of world peace, the antiwar movement will have to make a break from the war makers — the capitalist class and its representatives — and that means all sections of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

One of the first steps in the direction of a break with capitalist politics is to make the demands of the peace movement more concrete, to point to the actual steps that our government must take away from war. In the struggle for peace, the primary duty of every people is to prevent its own government from making war. We must call for American bases to be closed down, our troops called home, our nuclear weapons scrapped, our military budget converted to a peacetime budget for consumer goods, our alliances with foreign tyrants cut, our tin soldier ROTC program scuttled, and the nonsense of civil defense against H-bombs abandoned.

## An answer to attacks on ERA, abortion

In two successive days, state legislatures in Florida and Illinois — in a bipartisan move — voted down the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), just eight days before the deadline for ERA ratification. No other state is expected to vote on the measure before the June 30 deadline.

As if to underscore the legislators' belief that women have no right to demand equality, Illinois state Representative James Kelley, a Republican, physically assaulted two pro-ERA demonstrators June 16 during a sit-in at the legislature.

Newspapers and television reports of the ERA votes in Florida and Illinois gloated over the politicians' actions, and prominently featured celebrations by right-wing, anti-ERA forces.

The capitalist media and the ruling rich they represent hope the ERA defeats will beat women down further, just as they have used layoffs to try to sap the strength of the union movement, and racist attacks to try to push back Blacks.

The drive to break the spirit of women's liberation fighters is also escalating on the abortion front.

The Pennsylvania and Rhode Island state legislatures just passed laws that severely restrict the right of women to obtain abortions.

These attacks on the fundamental democratic right of women to control their own bodies have gotten little coverage in the media — the better to slip them by.

But resistance is growing among supporters of abortion rights.

On July 17, an abortion rights action will be held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. This march and rally, organized by a coalition of women's rights groups, can be an important response to the steady stream of blows women have taken from the Reagan administration — from its attacks on the ERA, affirmative action, and abortion.

The action, “In Support of Women's Lives,” will be held outside the national convention of the “Right-to-Lifers.”

It will protest the restrictions that have already been passed on the right of poor and young women to obtain abortions, and will call for abortion to be kept safe and legal.

This action deserves the backing of every supporter of reproductive rights as well as every ERA activist, unionist, and Black rights fighter. A successful demonstration will show that supporters of women's rights are determined to fight back.

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# A new racist slander against Puerto Ricans

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

As if it were necessary, the Reagan administration has given us a new and blatant proof of its racist contempt for Puerto Ricans and Latinos in general.

We are referring to the statement by J. Peter Grace, director of the Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (a committee of rich people who advise the Reagan administration on how to cut government spending). Speaking to a group of employers in Dallas

## AS I SEE IT

on May 27, Grace stated that "almost all" Puerto Ricans receive food stamps.

The Reagan appointee, who is also president of the multimillion-dollar W.R. Grace and Co., condemned government spending on food stamps for Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico and in the United States. He said, 900,000 live in New York and they're all on food stamps. So this food stamp program is basically a Puerto Rican program."

What is the real situation? Puerto Rico receives less than 10 percent of the total food stamp budget. Of the 22 million people in the U.S. who receive food stamps, Latinos are less than 10 percent and the great majority of them are not Puerto Ricans. In New York, of the 1.4 million people who receive food

stamps half a million are Latinos. There are officially 1.4 million Latinos in New York. Therefore, neither all, nor almost all Puerto Ricans in New York receive food stamps.

Latin American organizations and leaders in the United States condemned Grace's statement and called on President Reagan to dismiss him. In New York, protests were organized in front of the W.R. Grace and Co. offices. Five Puerto Rican organizations initiated a slander suit against Grace "for the harm done to the public image of the Puerto Rican community and the institutions that serve it."

Joaquín Avila, of the Mexican-American Legal Defence and Education Fund, stated in a telegram to Reagan that "Mr. Grace's remarks are not just glib racist comments uttered in a vacuum, but they threaten real people facing empty dinner plates."

Avila linked Grace's statement with the recent Immigration and Naturalization Service raids aimed at Latin American workers, in which the INS picked up "anyone — including U.S. citizens and lawful residents — who looked Hispanic."

José Alberto Alvarez, leader of the U.S. section of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, accused the Reagan administration of trying to use Puerto Ricans as convenient scapegoats to attack the food stamp program as a whole.

Grace complained that the government is subsidiz-

ing Puerto Ricans because \$904 million in food stamps will go to Puerto Rico this year. But in 1980 the United States took more than \$10 billion out of Puerto Rico: \$3.7 billion were profits and dividends of U.S. corporations operating on the island, and \$900 million were paid to the federal government. We have to ask then, who is subsidizing whom?

It's true that the percentage of Puerto Ricans receiving food stamps is higher than the overall rate, just as it is for Blacks and other Latinos. Why? Simply because we are the most oppressed and exploited sections of working people.

For example, in Puerto Rico the official unemployment rate — which doesn't count the "discouraged" and those who are employed part time but who need to work full time — is now almost 25 percent. In the U.S. the official unemployment rate is 9.5 percent, but for Blacks and Latinos it is double.

Receiving food stamps is not an indication of how much one benefits from the capitalist system; just the opposite.

When Grace, speaking for the Reagan administration, attacks the right of Puerto Ricans to social services, it is an attack on the right of all workers not to die of hunger when they are unemployed.

Unemployment that — it is clear — is created by capitalists like Grace.

— From Perspectiva Mundial

## LETTERS

### Malvinas reply

The Socialist Independent Study Group, in its letter critical of the *Militant's* support for Argentina's reclaiming of the Malvinas Islands, says that they "condemn British imperialism for colonizing and exploiting the wealth of people worldwide. In condemning the party we do not have to necessarily support the other side." That's wrong. Revolutionary socialists are obligated to support measures taken against imperialist exploitation, regardless of their source.

The problem with the study group is that the "other side" to them merely consists of the Argentine military junta — not the Argentine people's deeply felt resentment of imperialist oppression which is at the root of General Galtieri's opportunism.

And they reduce to mere governmental "diplomatic stands" widespread support for this action by the Latin American people, not the least of which comes from its most revolutionary elements; the Cubans, Nicaraguans, and Salvadoran FMLN (all of whom know quite a bit about neocolonial figures like Galtieri and how to effectively fight them).

If the Socialist Independent Study Group were here in Great Britain I think they might have a better idea about what this war is all about. I think they'd find better things to do than lecturing the *Militant* on the hazards of Argentine nationalism . . . like joining the growing antiwar movement here in demanding that Britain get out of the Malvinas.

Steve Millen  
London, England

### Imperialist Israel

We have been obtaining the *Militant*, although many times our keepers hold them for weeks. But as we know, news and information never gets old. The *Militant* covers the national and international situation very informatively. The historical articles on Grenada, Nicaragua, the Palestinians, Cuba, and Malvinas conflict (war) are all enlightening and educational to say the least.

In the letter entitled "Cancels Subscription" in the May 14, 1982, *Militant* Mr. Jay Goldring sounds like he supports the Zionists. He stated that Israel isn't an imperialist country. He also stated incorrectly that Israel was a socialist country. That's one for the history books.

The *Militant* is better off without his subscription. Everyone here on this part of the Amerikkka reservation enjoys reading all the enlightening and inspiring articles printed in the *Militant*.

Forward ever with the *Militant*!

Forward ever with our liberation movement!

Political prisoners of war  
Louisiana State Penitentiary

### Racism in Times

Recently, the *New York Times* got caught with its racism hanging out.

In its June 14 issue, it carried a news brief about a federal decision not to prosecute a Chicano reporter for the San Antonio *Light*.

The reporter, Daniel García, had written a special feature about the experiences of undocumented Mexican workers coming into the U.S.

He wrote it on the basis of posing as an undocumented worker and coming across the border with a group of people actually undocumented.

Before doing this he had notified the Immigration and Naturalization Service of what he intended to do.

But afterward he was arrested and charged with transporting "illegal aliens."

This evoked protest and finally the government backed off, dropping the charges.

The *Times* reported this in its early and late editions.

In the later editions, the item was headlined, "U.S. Will Not Prosecute Reporter in Alien Case."

But that was a change. In the early edition, it was headlined, "U.S. Won't Prosecute Reporter in Wetback Case."

The term "wetback" originated with racists in the Southwest to describe undocumented immigrants from Mexico, many of whom have had to literally swim the Rio Grande to get here in

their desperate search for jobs.

The term is, in relation to Mexicans, approximately the same as referring to Blacks as "niggers."

"Wetback" was used commonly in the commercial media in the Southwest until the surge of the Chicano movement forced a halt.

The *New York Times* apparently doesn't keep up with the times. But presumably it did get some phone calls.

H.R.

New York, New York

### Another dissent

I was very pleased that the *Militant* printed a dissenting opinion by an Indiana study group on the Argentina-England confrontation. I happen to agree with their dissent, and not with the strong position (p. 1, June 11, *Militant*) that "Working people must say no" to the war on Argentina. Certainly there are two sides to this issue even from a Marxist vantage point it is not a clearly black and white issue. It is always too easy for activists to choose one side of an issue and fight all out for it. We must be careful to discern black and white issues from gray areas. We must always be willing to revise our thinking to ever work for communality of mankind, a classless society. We must strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all wage earners everywhere, and work for their sober and considered union. As for the *Militant's* policy on the Falkland conflict, it seems difficult to be fully enthusiastic for the lesser (perhaps) of two evils. When an Argentine leader states on TV that "surrender is not in my dictionary," he should be advised to join his troops in the bloody trenches. And Mrs. Thatcher represents bloody imperialism yes, but colonialism no (unless you are counting the sheep).

Charles A. Long  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

### Satchel Paige

Satchel Paige died Tuesday, June 8, here in Kansas City, three days after the renaming of a Kansas City baseball park in



"Let us know if you hear about any cases of environmental protection."

his honor. Satchel deserved more.

I was fortunate to see Satchel pitch while he was touring the Midwest in the late 1950s, not realizing at that age I was probably seeing one of the greatest baseball players to play the game.

Some of his accomplishments have been noted, but his true skill as a pitcher was never fully recognized because of baseball's segregated structure that barred some of baseball's best from the major leagues.

Satchel pitched for the Kansas City Monarchs and many other Negro League teams before being allowed to play in the majors in 1948, at the age of 42. Remarkably, at this age he compiled a 6-1 win-loss record and a 2.48 earned run average for Cleveland. But even after this, he was denied a starting spot in the World Series that year. Something he said he was always bitter about.

In his prime, those who watched and played against

him, white and Black, said there was none better. He was one of many who never got the exposure and due as they deserved.

If space permitted, much more could be said about Satchel's life and accomplishments. Major league baseball has a long way to go before making any claim about social equality. But Satchel was instrumental in breaking down many of the racial barriers on and off the field. Not only was he a great athlete but a fighter for social justice as well. He won't be forgotten.

Kirk Fowler  
Kansas City

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Boston busing under sharp attack

BY VALERIE JOHNSON ECKART

BOSTON — A major attempt is under way to dismantle desegregation in this city, where Blacks' fight for an equal education drew national attention in the mid-1970s.

The most recent threats against school desegregation are from the U.S. Justice Department, which has decided to "review" the court orders under the righteous-sounding cover of "determining whether they are promoting or negating desegregation of the classroom."

The Justice Department is expected to go to U.S. district Judge Arthur Garrity to promote a "voluntary, comprehensive, 'free-choice' plan," according to sources quoted in the Boston *Globe*.

### Battle of Boston

The current desegregation plan in Boston was won through a bitter struggle.

In 1972 a group of Black parents and the NAACP filed suit in federal court against the Boston School Committee for discrimination in the Boston public schools. In 1974 Judge Garrity ordered the Boston schools desegregated — through busing.

Black and Hispanic children in Boston had been historically denied the right to receive an equal education. Schools in all-white neighborhoods had superior physical plants, more highly trained teachers, newer textbooks, and more advanced courses and extracurricular activities.

From 1974 to 1976, a battle raged in Boston over Judge Garrity's order of busing to desegregate the schools. From the White House to Mayor Kevin White's administration (still in office) to the racist school committee, every government body put every possible obstacle before the achievement of equal education.

Nationwide attention focused on the policies of the Boston School Committee and the city council, which, under the leadership of bigots like Louise Day Hicks, used its authority to organize white neighborhoods to boycott schools and hold violent demonstrations against busing.

Courageous Black students were subjected to daily torment, rock throwing, racist slurs, and other violent attacks. The Black community and its allies mobilized and waged a struggle to keep the buses rolling and the schools open. Their determined efforts led to a victory for Blacks and other minorities.

A year ago, Judge Garrity asked those involved in the 1972 lawsuit to come up with a consent decree that would bind them to a common goal of desegregation, while allowing him to disengage from the case.

### 'Freedom of choice'

On February 17 of this year, Larry Johnson, an attorney for some of the Black parents in the Boston school case, declared his withdrawal from the negotiations over the consent decree. Instead he called for "freedom of choice," or open enrollment.

This would be a step back for Black and Hispanic children.

Johnson said that busing was supposed to provide "quality education," and that it hasn't done so. It is absolutely true that the government is gutting public education, and that white and Black parents alike are upset with the current inadequacies of the school system.

It is also true that Black students continue to face racist abuse in the schools and on the streets of Boston. But the onus for these problems falls on the



Militant/Jon Hillson

Boston school desegregation plan was won only through years of struggle. Above: May 17, 1975 national demonstration in Boston to protest racist attacks on Black schoolchildren and on busing.

government, not on school desegregation and the real gains that it has meant.

Thomas Atkins, lawyer for the NAACP, and other Black leaders have pointed out that "free choice" has never worked and would mean a return to segregated schools.

A prominent Black educator, Dr. Charles Willie of Harvard University, recently pointed out that as a result of desegregation schools have improved here in Boston. There is greater parent involvement, more programs, and more Black and Hispanic teachers.

Johnson's plan for "freedom of choice" is very dangerous, playing into the hands of the forces seeking to dismantle desegregation in public education.

On June 6, Robert Spillane, superintendent of the Boston school system, asked that the city scrap desegregation in favor of some other approach.

He asserted that the administration of the schools should be handed over to him, that Judge Garrity "has too much power."

Spillane heads the Boston School Committee, which has laid off over 1,000 teachers in the last year and a half, slashed programs, and closed schools.

The attempt to overturn busing in Boston is part of a national offensive

against school desegregation and all the gains of the Black movement. Last December, the Reagan administration proposed that tax-exempt status for segregated private schools should be reinstated.

In March, the Senate passed sweeping legislation that would forbid the use of busing for the purpose of desegregation. If passed by the House of Representatives, the measure would bar federal judges from sanctioning busing plans that involve trips of over 15 minutes or five miles. It would also threaten past desegregation orders.

The U.S. Supreme Court will be ruling on cases from Seattle and St. Louis, where well-financed antibusing initiatives passed by narrow margins.

### Working-class issue

The offensive against busing is part of the overall assault on working people's right to a decent education. There have been massive cuts in education throughout the country, resulting in school closings and thousands of teacher layoffs.

The Boston desegregation orders of 1974 marked an advance for education in the city. The court required the hiring of more Black and minority teachers, bringing the proportion of minority teachers up, from 10 percent to 20 per-

cent. This is still a small number, considering that the majority of students in the system are Blacks or other minorities.

Other gains were made, such as bilingual education programs and cultural programs.

Massive teacher layoffs hit the Boston school system in 1981, and the question was immediately posed of minority teachers with less seniority. Judge Garrity upheld affirmative-action quotas.

But the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) filed suit against the court. This was a serious mistake. By refusing to defend affirmative action, the BTU lost the support of their most important ally, the Black community. The union has thus been weakened in its battle against cutbacks and layoffs. This June the BTU leadership went even further, appealing Garrity's affirmative-action ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The attack on desegregation here is a blow to all working people. It comes in the context of huge attacks on Blacks, Latinos, and women; on the right to education, to a decent job, and to social services. A big public outcry is needed to sound the alarm on the racist moves in Boston, which threaten the rights of all working people.

## Racists force 3 Black families out of homes

BY MARK SCHNEIDER

BOSTON — A wave of racist attacks here has forced three Black families to move from their homes.

Last December, the Singletary, Jowers, and Walker families had moved from public housing projects into a nicer, triple decker building in a predominantly white area of this city's Dorchester section.

Within two weeks rocks and bottles were thrown at the building. Later, racist epithets were scrawled nearby. Then on April 24, more rocks and bottles were thrown, followed by three nights of firebombs. The attacks were repeated twice in May.

The police made only one arrest, of a youth, who was charged with arson.

Mayor Kevin White's office didn't utter a word of condemnation of these assaults the whole time.

Finally, on June 19, four people were arrested and charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and violation of civil rights.

In contrast to the role of the mayor and the cops, Black and white neighbors of the besieged families banded together and kept vigil at the Dorchester house after the attacks on it in April. This act of solidarity encouraged the three Black families to stick it out a little longer before finally deciding to move out.

Violent racist attacks are nothing new in this city, whose officials have tolerated such assaults for years. But defense of Black families by concerned neighbors is. It indicates that the racists are the minority and that the majority of working people are fed up with the atmosphere that the bigots have tried to create.

In recent months there has been a steady increase of violence and other threats to Black rights in this area.

In February, a Black man was murdered by four white youths at a Dorchester transit stop. William Atkinson was forced in front of a subway train as he fled the rock-throwing gang.

In May teachers in the wealthy sub-

urb of Manchester unearthed an eighth-grade club called "Nigger and Jew Haters of America," which threatened Black and Jewish students at a junior high school.

Valerie Eckart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 9th Congressional District, spoke out sharply against the attacks on Black homeowners in Dorchester and other racist violence.

"The failure of the city to protect these three Black families shows where the priorities of the Democrats and Republicans lie. Night after night, these assaults took place with deadly regularity — forcing these families from their homes. Only after a lengthy outcry were any arrests made."

A member of United Auto Workers Local 422, Eckart calls for a break with the racist Democratic and Republican parties, and for the formation of a labor party based on the unions that would defend the rights of Blacks and all working people.