

## U.S., Honduras step up war against Nicaragua

Washington is systematically setting the stage for sending U.S. troops into Central America, with the purpose of toppling the workers and farmers government in Nicaragua and crushing the revolutionary struggle in El Salvador.

As one administration official told *Newsweek*, "The die is cast — there's no turning back. We've got to do whatever is necessary."

The June 20 *Washington Post* revealed a Pentagon "plan for deploying ships and aircraft to stop war supplies from entering and leaving Nicaragua by sea and air." The Pentagon officials, according to the *Post*, think that the plan, supposedly aimed at blocking Nicaraguan arms shipments to Salvadoran freedom fighters, won't work



Teotecacinte, Nicaragua, in midst of Honduran mortar attack: Man flees with his child while Nicaraguan soldier digs in for defense from shelling.



Photos by Barricada

### EDITORIAL

without "putting troops on the ground" in Nicaragua.

As a cover for getting the "troops on the ground," Washington is engineering a war between Honduras and Nicaragua. It has organized, armed, trained, and bankrolled thousands of killers from the National Guard of the late Nicaraguan dictator Somoza. From camps in Honduras, the Somozaists launch bloody raids into Nicaragua. More than 500 Nicaraguan workers, farmers, and youth have been killed by the Somozaists this year.

The Somozaist counterrevolutionaries cannot militarily defeat the Sandinista armed forces, although they can inflict serious economic damage in the northern part of Nicaragua. They are destroying crops, demolishing buildings, and seriously disrupting production and transport.

But what Reagan has in mind is some-

thing worse yet. Washington's plan is to provoke a clash between Honduras and Nicaragua. Such a war, the U.S. warmakers hope, would provide the pretext for direct American military intervention. They want a "Tonkin Gulf" incident for Washington's new Vietnam.

The Honduran government, a thinly disguised military regime propped up by U.S. arms and advisers, is actively helping Washington's war plans. Honduras mas-

sively shells Nicaragua to back up the counterrevolutionary invaders.

The U.S. game plan was openly stated by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. E.C. Meyer in an interview in the June 20 *Washington Post*. Asked if the United States would send in combat troops if Honduras were "attacked by Nicaragua," Meyer replied, "If Nicaragua were to invade Honduras, I don't know how we could not go in."

Continued on Page 18

## Mass protests shake Chile dictators

BY STEVE WATTENMAKER

Led by the trade unions, massive protests are shaking the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet in Chile. A National Day of Protest June 14 brought hundreds of thousands of people into the streets of Chile's major cities.

After a decade of brutal army rule, the Chilean people are demanding economic and social changes, an end to repression, and a quick return to civilian government.

The June 14 protest was followed two

days later by the beginning of a nationwide strike by copper miners — the most powerful section of Chile's working class. The strikers demanded the release of their union head, Rodolfo Seguel, who Pinochet had arrested as a key organizer of the protests.

The Pinochet regime reacted to the upsurge with repression. At least four protesters were killed by police gunfire. More than 2,000 persons were arrested and Pinochet ordered that the striking copper miners be fired.

The June 14 protest came barely a month after a similar demonstration rocked Chile May 11. The May action marked the first coordinated mass protest since the CIA-engineered coup that overthrew and murdered Chilean President Salvador Allende in 1973.

Washington conspired to block Allende's election and later to topple his government in order to crush a working-class upsurge. Allende had responded to the demands of the workers' movement by establishing relations with Cuba and nationalizing several U.S. corporations.

These anti-imperialist acts outraged the U.S. rulers. They were alarmed by the extensive organization of the workers into factory and neighborhood committees after Allende took office.

In the aftermath of the coup, Pinochet dealt harsh blows to the working class. Thousands of trade union and political activists were killed. The military regime jailed or forced into exile some 150,000 opponents and outlawed trade union activity.

### Barricades and bonfires

The May and June protests show that the popular movement is again on the upswing. Workers, students, slum dwellers — even middle-class professionals who once supported Pinochet's policies — poured into the streets June 14. In Santiago, Valparaiso, and other cities students stayed home from school; bus and truck drivers stayed off the roads; and thousands

## California tour spurs labor discussion on Salvador

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

LOS ANGELES — "As a member of the labor movement for 10 years, I know that wherever workers are being massacred, that's where we must be. Our voice must be heard because what happens elsewhere affects us here. And it happens here too, only the powers that be use more sophisticated methods."

That was the message that Miguel Machuca, Los Angeles organizing director for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), brought to a May 20 labor and community meeting on El Salvador here. The meeting, which drew 300 enthusiastic participants, was one of the high points of a month-long speaking tour of California by Salvadoran



Alejandro Molina Lara

Militant/Salm Kolis

## Marroquin wins round in battle for asylum

BY NANCY COLE

A landslide of protest has forced the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to back down, for now, in its drive to throw Héctor Marroquín out of the country in the most inhumane way possible.

Responding to calls and telegrams from labor leaders, church spokespersons, civil rights figures, and elected officials from across the United States and Canada, the INS was forced to agree in federal court to an extension of Marroquín's "voluntary departure" status. The INS made the concession late in the day on Friday, June 17. This legally protects Marroquín from immediate arrest and forced deportation to Mexico.

In a related move, the U.S. Supreme Court did not announce on June 20, as had been expected, whether it will hear Marroquín's appeal of his deportation order. While it is still possible that the court could rule before it adjourns some time in July, it is more likely that action on Marroquín's appeal will be held over for the court's fall session, which opens in October.

"The combination of the INS reinstatement of 'voluntary departure' for Marroquín and the Supreme Court deferral of its ruling is a big victory for political rights," says John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is organizing Marroquín's fight. "It has given us valuable time — time to win more public support for this important political asylum case and time to prepare the legal side of his fight in anticipation of continuing court proceedings. This time can make the difference in the final outcome of this battle."

"It's clear now more than ever that public support is critical to the success of this case. We're urging supporters of Marroquín's fight to continue the campaign of telegrams and letters to the INS demanding a halt to the deportation of Marroquín."

The emergency response during the week of June 13 is testimony to the impact this fight for political asylum has had, as well as to the vindictiveness with which the INS is pursuing its deportation campaign against him. Marroquín was forced to flee government repression in Mexico nine years ago. After coming to this country, he joined the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party. His battle for political asylum is now in its sixth year.

Continued on Page 4



Militant/Lou Howort

Héctor Marroquín. Protests forced immigration cops to back off from latest threats.

Continued on Page 2



# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY MALIK MIAH

The recent upturn in auto sales has led the auto barons to call back thousands of laid-off auto workers across the country.

At the same time, in order to increase their profits, the auto bosses continue to speedup the line, move against long-established work rules, and take other steps to weaken the union and the morale of the workers.

But precisely because there is a modest upturn in sales, auto workers are less willing to take the blows of the bosses as they used to do out of fear of losing their jobs. This has led to an increased confidence and militancy and willingness to fight back.

In a number of cities *Militant* salespeople report an improvement in plant-gate sales and political discussions with auto workers.

Recently we received an article on a strike by autoworkers at a General Motors plant in Norwood, Ohio.

Auto production at the General Motors Assembly Division plant in Norwood was halted for a week when 1,700 autoworkers on the second shift walked off the assembly line May 26. They were joined the next day by the 2,200 first-shift workers.

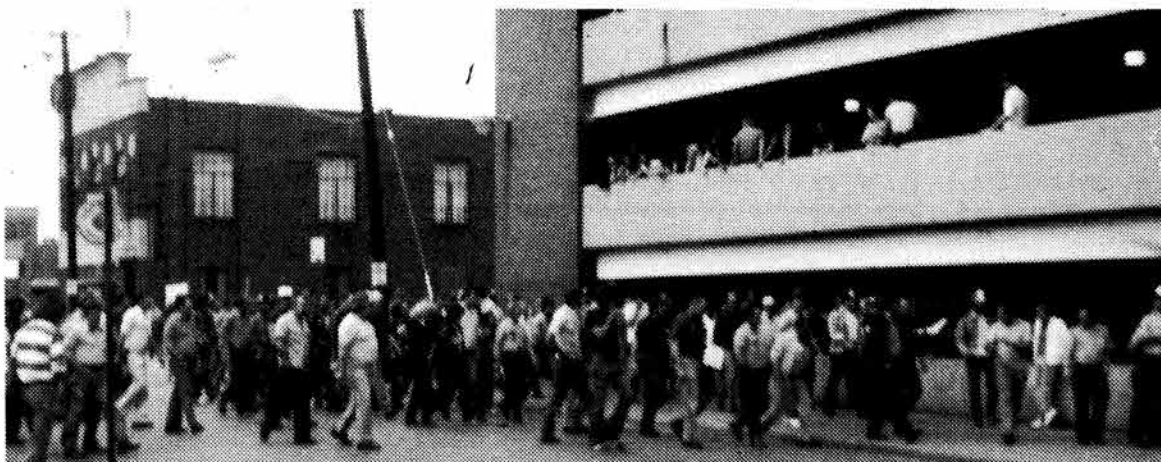
The initial cause of the walk-out was GM's refusal to provide rubber mats for assembly-line workers to work on in a new body-shop building. Up until then, they were forced to work eight or more hours on the concrete floor, creating many back and foot problems for workers.

According to strikers that the *Militant* spoke with, the mats issue was just "the straw that broke the camel's back," as one worker put it. Another worker added, "There are hundreds of grievances that have sat there for years and never been resolved one way or the other. It's all kinds of things. Guys getting docked for missing work when they were on jury duty. You name it. It's the whole attitude. Nobody wants to follow the contract."

Many workers felt that they were provoked by the company into this strike. "It's union-busting," said one young worker.

Although the strike was not sanctioned by the union, enough members of the 3,900 work force in United Auto Workers Local 674 stayed out to keep production lines shut until the company agreed to meet with the union and settle the mats issue.

When the second shift decided



Auto workers picketing during strike against General Motors in Norwood, Ohio.

Militant/Scott Breen

to return to work a week later on June 2, they had demonstrated their willingness to fight for their rights on the job, demonstrated unity and solidarity, and signalled their readiness to battle the company over its contract violations.

As one worker with 20 years on the job put it, "We showed them something. We showed them what we can do and we stuck together. Now it's up to the union to work this thing out."

During the strike, Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party

candidate for Cincinnati City Council, visited with the auto workers to express her support for their strike.

The *Militant* is also recognized by a number of workers at the plant because of regular weekly plant-gate sales.

Successful sales to auto workers have also taken place recently in Indianapolis at the Chevrolet plant. Salespeople were able to sell three copies of issue no. 20 to the afternoon shift and five to the evening shift.

At an auto plant outside Boston, sales have also picked up.

In Birmingham, sales to workers at the Hayes International Corp. aircraft plant, which is organized by the UAW, recently shot up. From the normal "couple per week," 10 papers were sold. Why? One reason, they report, was the article in issue no. 20 on the UAW convention. Another reason: the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Birmingham works there and the *Militant* has regularly been sold to workers at the gate.

## Massive protests shake dictatorship in Chile

Continued from front page

of Chileans showed their support for the action by honking car horns and banging empty pots and pans.

Demonstrations were held throughout the day and evening. Catholic church sources reported that police opened fire on a number of gatherings. Students who had occupied the University of Chile in Santiago were viciously attacked with water cannons, dogs, and teargas.

By nightfall working-class neighborhoods had been sealed off by barricades and the residents held the police at bay. Bonfires blazed on street corners in many parts of Santiago.

The June 14 actions were called by the National Workers Command, which was formed following the May antigovernment protests. Spearheaded by the 23,000-member Copper Workers Confederation (CTC), it has united virtually the entire labor movement and vowed to continue national days of protests until the government meets its demands.

According to CTC leader Sergio Barria, the first goal of the National Workers Command is "the reestablishment of democracy in our country and the free exercise of the rights of workers and citizens."

### Copper miners strike

Before dawn on June 15, plainclothes police broke down the door of an apartment

where CTC head Rudulfo Seguel was staying and arrested him on charges of threatening national security. Seguel played a major role in organizing both the May and June protests.

The CTC immediately went on a 24-hour strike to demand his release — the first major "illegal" strike since Pinochet seized power.

Despite the government's promise to fire any miners who struck and the virtual occupation of mines by heavily armed government troops, union leaders announced June 17 that the strike was between 97 and 100 percent successful at three of the country's most important copper mines.

At El Teniente mine high in the Andes 35 miles south of Santiago, all work was halted. Only about two dozen scabs boarded the 17 buses that are normally full of workers going to the mine.

"Despite all the threats we have received, and even if we didn't believe up until yesterday that we would be successful, we will win this time," said a jubilant union official at El Teniente.

Pinochet vowed to crack down on dissent "whatever the cost." He ordered the arrest of 6 other top leaders of the CTC and began firing the strikers. Union representatives at El Salvador mine, 700 miles north of Santiago, said that almost 1,000 miners had already gotten dismissal notices.

Responding to the arrest of Seguel and

the other CTC leaders, the National Workers Command called for an indefinite general strike to begin June 23.

### Workers in vanguard

The Chilean workers, acting in their militant tradition, have taken the lead in protests against the Pinochet regime. The country's grave economic crisis has pushed them to fight back.

Chile's workers have been inspired by an upswing in workers' mobilizations throughout the continent, beginning with the overturn of Somoza and the establishment of a workers and farmers government in Nicaragua in 1979.

Over the past year, the other countries in the southern cone of South America have seen massive struggles. Argentina's struggle to retake the Malvinas from British imperialism helped spur these on. Since then, there has been a wave of protests against military rule in Argentina.

The military dictatorship in Bolivia was overthrown as a consequence of massive workers' actions. In March, a general strike paralyzed Peru, as workers demanded economic measures to protect their living standards.

Battered by plunging copper prices on the world market, Chile suffered a 13 percent negative growth rate in 1982. Business failures have reached epidemic proportions.

Inflation is running 30 percent a year, with nearly one-third of Chile's workers unemployed. The country's faltering economy — squeezed by U.S. financial domination — together with Pinochet's anti-labor policies have driven real wages down by 16 percent.

Tied to demands for economic concessions, the protest movement is also calling for an end to the dictatorship itself.

Over the past year the Pinochet regime has responded to the mounting discontent by stepping up its attempts to silence critics. The Chilean Human Rights Commission documented 1,789 political arrests in 1982 — triple the figure for 1981.

The May and June demonstrations also demanded that Pinochet repudiate the results of a phony 1980 plebiscite that keeps him in power at least through 1989. Asked after the May protest if he would speed the return to democracy, he answered flatly: "I tell you no."

Whatever Pinochet's intentions may be, the May and June uprisings mark a watershed in the Chilean people's fight against the U.S.-supported dictatorship. The growing combativeness and confidence of Chile's workers was echoed by Seguel in a message he sent to the strikers from his jail cell June 17: "Our cause is just, let us not falter. Let us not defraud Chile."



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### The Militant

Closing news date: June 22, 1983

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Published weekly except two weeks in August, the last week of December, and the first week of January by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for airmail rates to all other countries.

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# How pope's tour of Poland aids war drive

## Media pushes his anticommunist message

BY FRED FELDMAN

The U.S. media are painting up the pope's tour of Poland as a historic event. They are working overtime to convince working people that the pope is a defender of union rights and democratic freedoms.

In Poland, millions of workers have taken advantage of the tour to openly express their identification with the outlawed Solidarity trade union. This massive support for Solidarity is an embarrassment to the regime of Wojciech Jaruzelski, which clearly underestimated the intensity of feeling on this issue in the Polish working class.

The Polish workers took advantage of the papal visit to voice some of their progressive sentiments. When the pope completed mass in a Warsaw soccer stadium June 17, a million people "saluted him with a forest of upraised arms, hands in the v-for-victory sign, and a thundering chant of the name of the founder of the outlawed Solidarity union, Lech Walesa," reported John Kifner in the June 18 *New York Times*.

They left no room for doubt that they want the restoration of the Solidarity trade union and the release of imprisoned union supporters.

### 'Nonpolitical' tour?

But the pope's trip to Poland has nothing to do with defending the rights of workers there or anywhere else.

The Vatican hypocritically insisted June 21 that the tour was entirely nonpolitical and devoted solely to spiritual martyrs. But nothing could be more political. The pope's trip to Poland is the focus of an international anticommunist propaganda campaign. It is the latest stop in his world travels on behalf of reaction.

He is providing a smokescreen and a justification for the imperialist military build-up, including the placing of the new NATO Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe. He is fostering the imposition of economic and other sanctions against Poland and other workers states. Most important, he is providing aid and comfort to Washington's relentless escalation of its military intervention in Central America, which is being carried out in the name of defending "democracy" against "communism."

He is attempting to strengthen the grip of the church hierarchy's reactionary ideology on working people in Poland and around the world.

The pope carried the same message to Poland that he brought to Central America in March, when he gave his blessing to the phony elections being planned by the U.S.-backed Salvadoran dictatorship. He warned peasants not to take up arms against their murderous oppressors.

### Nicaragua visit

In Nicaragua, he criticized the Sandinista government for establishing an education program that has taught the alphabet to hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers.

He didn't say a word in Nicaragua about the rights of workers to control the fac-

ories and farms. He had nothing to say to those Nicaraguans who declared, "We want a church on the side of the poor."

Despite pleas from thousands of workers and peasants for him to speak out for peace, he didn't say a word against the armed attacks on Nicaragua by U.S. organized counterrevolutionary bands. There was no word of comfort from the pope for Nicaraguan parents whose children had been murdered by the CIA's squads.

Instead he demanded that the workers and peasants submit to the authority of the bishops, who are closely tied to the Nicaraguan landlords and capitalists. He made no calls for the "solidarity of workers" in Nicaragua, such as he cynically issued in Poland.

The pope's trip to Nicaragua was followed by a stepup in the Reagan administration's war moves against the revolution.

In Poland, too, the pope's message was right in line with the needs of imperialism's war propaganda. In a dozen different ways, he declared that Poles ought to stand with the "free" capitalist West against "totalitarian" communism. "Polish culture possesses characteristics which are, above all, Western European," he declared.

And again: "I ardently desire the recreation of conditions of good cooperation with all the Western nations on our continent . . . above all, with the United States of America. . . ."

The biggest lie of all was reserved for Polish youth in a June 18 speech:

"Perhaps at times we envy the French, the Germans, or the Americans . . . because they are much more easily free."

So this is the free world!

Where workers don't know from one day to the next whether they will have a job and a livelihood. Where Blacks and Latinos face racist discrimination, and women meet sexist discrimination from cradle to grave. Where illness means ruin to working-class families. Where workers and farmers have their homes taken away by bankers backed by sheriffs' guns.

A "free world" where FBI and CIA informers are licensed to carry out spying, disruption, and even murder against those who dare to oppose exploitation, oppression, and war. Where hundreds of Blacks and Latinos are gunned down each year by cops. Where the government prepares to launch brutal wars against small nations that refuse to bow to the dictates of the rich. A "free world" that sent 50,000 youths to their deaths in Indochina.

### 'Social doctrine of church'

The "true aspirations of the workers," the pope declared in Poland, are "fully met by the social doctrine of the church."

But the top church hierarchy has opposed every progressive change since the Dark Ages. Today, it is one of the biggest capitalists and landlords in the world. It has never fought against the death penalty, but is the engineer of an international crusade against women's right to abortion under the slogan, "right to life."

The pope claims to speak for god on many matters, but in reality the church hierarchy represents a class much closer to



Pope with crowd in Poland, where he urged support for capitalist West against communism.

home. Its interests are essentially those of world imperialism.

The hierarchy's social program is simple. Workers should obey their bosses. Peasants should bow to the landlords. The oppressed should obey the oppressors. The reward of the rich comes here on earth, but the rest of us must hope for the best after death.

While in Poland, the pope had not a word to say against the economic sanctions imposed on Poland by the U.S. government and its imperialist allies, which have taken food out of the mouths of working people.

He had not a word to say against Washington's expanding arsenal of nuclear missiles, which are aimed at Poland, the Soviet Union, and other countries where capitalist exploitation has been abolished. Not a word against NATO, the imperialist military bloc that has threatened war against Poland for 30 years, and which threatens it today.

In Nicaragua, the Sandinista leadership took advantage of the pope's visit to advance the education of the toilers about the true role of the Catholic hierarchy. Hun-

dreds of thousands of people, including many religious Nicaraguans, saw through the pope's reactionary hypocrisy.

### An ideal opportunity

In Poland, however, the outcome was the opposite, due to the policies of the government there. The Jaruzelski regime's antiworker policies handed the pope an ideal opportunity to package his proimperialist homilies as a defense of workers' rights.

Poland is a workers state, closely allied with the workers state in the Soviet Union. In the years following the victory of the Soviet Union over Hitler — who slaughtered 6 million Poles — a social revolution took place in Poland. With the support of the workers and poor farmers, capitalism and landlordism were abolished. The factories and mines became public property and a planned economy was established.

Polish workers gained a lot from the revolution. Illiteracy was abolished. Health improved. No one starves. The economy

Continued on Page 17

## Frame-up of Bulgarians in pope shooting unravels

BY WILL REISSNER

Most Americans are probably unaware that all the so-called evidence connecting Bulgaria and the Soviet Union to the attempted murder of Pope John Paul II has totally collapsed.

For months, every accusation against these two countries, however flimsy and implausible, was given big news coverage. But the collapse of the "proof" of Bulgarian involvement has been treated as a "nonstory."

The only link to Bulgaria was provided by statements made by Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish ultrarightist who is serving a life sentence in an Italian prison for shooting the pope. The *New York Times* acknowledged that in Turkey, "Mr. Agca is known . . . as a 'chronic liar.'"

But it has recently been reported that Agca's new confession, implicating Bulgarians Sergei Antonov and Todor Aivazov, was the result of coaching by agents of the Italian secret services, the SIDE and the SISMI.

It was reported by the Italian newsweekly *L'Espresso* that Italian secret agents, who visited Agca repeatedly in his jail cell, apparently alternated threats that

he would be moved in with the general prison population and offers of a reduced sentence if he changed his story about acting alone.

The Italian secret services provided Agca with the information used to frame the Bulgarians.

On the basis of Agca's new story, Sergei Antonov, a ticket clerk at the Bulgarian airlines office in Rome, was arrested on Nov. 25, 1982. He remains in jail to this day, although he has never been charged with anything. Agca's story makes, Antonov a key figure in the shooting of the pope.

Aside from Agca's statements, only one piece of tangible evidence ever linked Antonov to the supposed murder plot: a photo purporting to show Antonov in St. Peter's Square, where the pope was shot, at the time of the shooting.

That evidence was quickly demolished when Antonov provided eyewitnesses swearing that he was far from the square on that day. It was later learned that the person in the photo was not Antonov at all, but an American tourist.

Italian authorities claim that Agca gave them a detailed and accurate description of Antonov. In addition, they say, Agca was

Continued on Page 16

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# Marroquin wins round in battle for political asylum

Continued from front page

On June 13, Marroquin's attorneys were informed that, according to the INS, his 30-day "voluntary departure" status had lapsed. Since the Supreme Court was to rule on June 20 whether it would hear his case, this posed the immediate threat of Marroquin's arrest and deportation to Mexico if the court ruled against him.

Under "voluntary departure" status, a person ordered deported has a set period of time to leave the United States, thus choosing where to go, before being subject to arrest. The INS claimed the 30 days granted Marroquin had expired after he appealed his deportation order to the federal courts.

In Marroquin's case, the status of voluntary departure is particularly important. Marroquin is married to a U.S. citizen and has applied for permanent residence on that basis. Were he to be deported forcibly by the INS before that application is acted on, under immigration law he could not even apply to reenter the United States for five years without special permission from the attorney general. If, however, he leaves under "voluntary departure," he will be able to pursue his application for residence.

Yet, despite pleas from Marroquin's attorneys on June 14 and 15, the INS refused to grant him even 72 hours "voluntary departure" should the court rule against him.

PRDF then launched an emergency campaign, calling on supporters of human rights to protest the latest INS action and demand restoration of "voluntary departure" for Marroquin.

Virtually overnight, a huge response materialized.

Twenty-eight members of Congress signed a letter to the INS, including nine out of 11 members of the Hispanic Caucus.

Thirteen church and civil rights leaders signed a telegram circulated by Harold Massey, of the Department of Political and Human Rights of the United Methodist Church, and Sue Sullivan, executive director of the Haitian Refugee Project. Signers included Arnold Torres, national executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Paul Kitlaus, director of the United Church of Christ Office for Church in Society; Delton

Franz, director of the Washington Office of the Mennonite Central Committee; and Pharis Harvey, director of the North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea.

## Atlanta telegram

A protest telegram from Atlanta was signed by 14 prominent individuals, including Coretta Scott King; Nick Builder, head of the Central Alabama/Georgia Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); Atlanta PUSH coordinator Joe Beasley; Atlanta American Civil Liberties Union President Martha Gaines; Tommy Kersey, Georgia coordinator of the American Agriculture Movement; and Leamon Hood, Southeastern Area director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

In response to urgent calls from the PRDF office, Jay Mazur, secretary-treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) agreed to call the INS to press for "voluntary departure." Mazur is also head of the 28,000-member ILGWU Local 23-25 in New York City, which has recently established an Immigration Project to aid its undocumented members.

National Education Association President Willard McGuire agreed to call the INS, as did Charles F. Williams, international representative of the International Association of Machinists; United Steelworkers of America (USWA) District 8 Director David Wilson; and United Auto Workers (UAW) Subregion 10 Director Bob Killeen.

Also pledging protest messages were William Lucy, head of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Berkeley, California, Mayor Eugene "Gus" Newport; Ann Braden; Victor Reuther; Jeffrey Stansbury from the UAW *Solidarity* magazine; and Bill Wipfler, of the Office for Human Rights of the National Council of Churches.

Around the country, supporters of Marroquin's fight for political asylum went on a campaign footing, lining up protest messages from local union presidents and district officials in the International Union of Electrical Workers, United Electrical Workers (UE), United Furniture Workers, American Federation of Government Employees, and International Hospital and Health Care Workers.

## San Antonio labor response

In San Antonio, both the president and vice-president of the Central Labor Council, Joan Suárez and Jaime Martínez, sent protest messages.

Among a dozen individuals who responded to the emergency campaign in Cincinnati were Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth of the Southern Christian Leadership Con-



Militant Marroquin supporters distributed material on his case in Immokalee, Florida, in early May. Thousands of Haitian, Jamaican, Puerto Rican, and Mexican farm workers live there.

ference; Essie Hughes, cochair of the city's National Black Independent Political Party; and Joan Vestring, president of the local Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Al Horsley, who less than a week before was acquitted on racist frame-up charges in Louisville, telegraphed the INS.

The INS was forced to assign an assistant to INS Commissioner Alan Nelson to field the flood of calls.

Meanwhile, attorney Stephen Somerstein put all else aside to seek emergency action in federal district court before it recessed for the weekend. Working around the clock, Somerstein prepared and filed a lawsuit against the INS, seeking a court order to restrain the INS from arresting Marroquin should the Supreme Court rule against him the following Monday.

On Friday afternoon, attorneys for Marroquin and the INS were summoned before U.S. District Court Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise in Newark. The INS, accompanied by the U.S. attorney, immediately agreed to negotiate the matter.

## INS feels impact

"It was clear that the INS had already felt the impact of the campaign that had been launched," said Carla Riehle, an attorney for PRDF who, along with Somerstein, represented Marroquin in court.

The INS representatives came armed with a foot-high file on Marroquin stamped "secret," which they said they were prepared to show the judge, and only the judge, if it became necessary.

"When we suggested a deadline of July 5 for 'voluntary departure' in the event of an adverse Supreme Court ruling on June 20," Riehle told the *Militant*, "the INS attorney objected, saying the government didn't want Marroquin here making speeches on the Fourth of July."

An agreement filed by the judge at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 17, restored Marroquin's "voluntary departure" status, giving him until July 1, or two days "voluntary

departure" if a ruling against him occurred after July 1.

Marroquin received word of the victory in Dallas, Texas, where he was stopping on national tour. Announcing the news moments later to a support rally, he said, "This shows that with support from people like you — from the labor movement, Latino organizations, and groups concerned with rights of immigrant workers and political refugees — with support like this, we can win!"

"This is a victory for the political rights — not just of immigrant and political refugees — but of everyone in this country who disagrees with government policies," he told the meeting.

Marroquin later told the *Militant*, "I am concerned about the threats against me — they show the seriousness with which the INS is trying to deport me — but at the same time I feel optimistic because of the tremendous support that is developing for the right to political asylum."

Even before the emergency campaign, support for Marroquin's fight was mushrooming, indicating the stakes his fight represent for thousands of refugees fleeing El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and other U.S.-backed dictatorships.

In the last several weeks, new endorsements for Marroquin's case had come from Lincoln, Nebraska: Joe Schmucker, president of the United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 305; Ray Lineneber, state legislative director for UTU; and Paul Swanson, local chairman of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Local 1320.

Santiago Larrain, national executive director of the Chilean section of Amnesty International, had endorsed the case at the AI's USA Annual General Meeting in Atlanta. Three pages of petitions in support of Marroquin were collected at that meeting.

In Milwaukee, 10 prominent individuals signed a letter in support of Marroquin, including UE Local 1111 President Ted Krukowski, USWA Local 3740 President Robert LaVenture, Rev. Claude Joyner, and Daisy Cubias of the Central America Solidarity Coalition. A second letter on stationery of the Puerto Rican Organization of Wisconsin was signed by 11 activists.

From Portland, Oregon, the INS received a letter on behalf of the Pacific Northwest Joint Board of ACTWU, signed by its head Nita M. Brueggeman.

PRDF is urging that this kind of campaign continue around the country.

From his tour stops in Arizona, Marroquin will next go to Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 27-29; the Bay Area, July 5-8; Los Angeles, July 9-13; Seaside, California, July 14-15; San Diego, July 16-19; Utah, July 20-22; and Denver, July 23-26.

Protest messages demanding the deportation order be dropped should be sent to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Copies of messages, requests for more information, and tax-deductible contributions should be sent to PRDF, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

## CALIFORNIA NORTH BAY RALLY

Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquin! Hear Héctor Marroquin and other speakers. Fri., July 8, 8 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 117 Diamond St., San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 824-1992.

# Union sues to stop Salvadorans' deportation

BY NANCY COLE

The Washington, D.C. local of the hotel and restaurant workers union is challenging the refusal of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to allow Salvadoran political refugees to remain in this country.

Local 25 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union has filed a lawsuit to force the INS to grant all Salvadoran refugees "extended voluntary departure" (EVD) status. This means that, at least temporarily, no Salvadoran refugees would be deported.

About 1,000 of Local 25's 10,000 members are Salvadorans. According to Local 25 Executive Secretary Ron Richardson, "Our people say, 'My father, mother, and family will be killed if I go back.' But [U.S. officials] say, 'Tough luck.'"

Attorneys for the union say the State Department refuses to grant Salvadorans EVD

status because it would be embarrassing to do so while asking Congress to support the Salvadoran government because it is improving human rights.

There are an estimated 500,000 undocumented Salvadorans living in the United States. Last year, only 74 Salvadorans were granted asylum, while 1,067 were turned down. Some 24,000 others are awaiting decisions. In 1982, 14,078 undocumented Salvadorans were arrested, with 5,131 deported or departing "voluntarily."

A criteria for EVD status is supposedly whether a nation is experiencing "widespread fighting, destruction, and breakdown of public services and order." The State Department claims that, while there is in fact violence in El Salvador, most Salvadorans come here for "economic" reasons.

Currently EVD status is applicable only to refugees from Poland, Ethiopia, Af-

ghanistan, and Uganda.

Last year, a United Nations report concluded that by denying political asylum to Salvadorans, the United States appeared to be violating international agreements on treatment of refugees.

On April 28, United States District Court Judge Charles Richey rejected an INS motion to dismiss the union's lawsuit. The government claims that immigration policies are not subject to court review because they are political decisions of the executive branch.

"State [Department] officials were astounded that [Richey] said it was reviewable," an unnamed high-ranking department official told the *Washington Post*.

"This is a case that has a lot of policy implications," says Robert Bombaugh, director of the Justice Department's office of immigration litigation, adding that the government would be claiming "executive privilege" on key points during the case.



# Marroquin welcomed by N.Y. GE workers

BY JUDITH LAMBERT

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — A picket line of striking General Electric workers was Héctor Marroquín's first stop on his recent tour in the Capital District. There he talked with Lou Valenti, president of the striking Local 301 of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE). Valenti invited Marroquín to speak to other workers on the line about his fight for political asylum.

The GE picketers Marroquín spoke with quickly grasped the connection between his case and their own struggle against the company's attack on their rights and their union. The 6,000 workers struck for five days beginning June 1 over GE's combining of jobs.

However, in one of nine radio interviews Marroquín had here, one reporter asked him, "What are you doing at General Electric? What does a foreign-born have to do with the General Electric workers' strike?"

Marroquín explained that the struggle of the GE workers against their bosses is the same struggle as that of the people of Latin America against their oppressors. A defeat for workers here is a defeat for the Salvadoran people, he said, and "if the Salvadoran workers are crushed by the military dictatorship backed by the United States government, it would represent a defeat for the General Electric workers and for all workers in the United States."

Marroquín continued, "That's precisely what the INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service] is trying to do today. They are trying to divide us. They are trying to divide people in this country — working people — between the citizens and the foreign born."

Hughes Williams, chairperson of the IUE Local 301 Human Relations Committee, endorsed Marroquín's case during the two-day tour here.

Sara Baird, a striking GE worker, chaired a meeting in support of Marroquín on June 3. Several GE strikers were among those who attended.

Among the speakers was E. J. Josey, president of the Albany branch of the NAACP. Josey drew parallels between Marroquín's fight for political asylum and

the historical victimization of Blacks by the INS, citing the cases of Marcus Garvey and South African Dennis Brutus.

Maria Muscarella of the Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights offered the resources and support of her committee for Marroquín's defense. "We stand not behind you but together with you in this struggle," she said.

Also offering the support of his organization was the president of the American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association. Bojana "Boji" Vuyisile Jordan has been warned by the INS that unless he ceases his political activities, he may be deported. Jordan also conveyed the solidarity of the African Student Association for Marroquín's fight, pledged at the group's meeting the previous night.

To help fund Marroquín's legal battle, supporters at the meeting contributed or pledged \$395.

Wrapping up his tour of the Capital District, Marroquín attended a performance of the play, "A Peasant of El Salvador," held at the Unitarian Church in Schenectady. He was given time at the end of the play to address the crowd and received an enthusiastic response.



Militant  
International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) members talked with Héctor Marroquín (left) when he joined IUE picket line in Schenectady.

## Canadian labor boosts fight for asylum

BY BOB BRAXTON

MONTREAL — Leading representatives of Canada's trade union movement and of Canada's labor party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), have added their voices to the growing international outcry against the U.S. government's attempts to deport Héctor Marroquín.

Telegrams demanding political asylum for Marroquín have been sent to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by International Affairs Director John Harker on behalf of the 2-million-member Canadian Labor Congress (CLC — the Canadian equivalent of the AFL-CIO); Cliff Pilkey, president of the 700,000-member Ontario Federation of Labor; the executive of the 170,000-member Quebec-based Confederation of

National Trade Unions; Bob Rae, Member of the Provisional Parliament in Ontario and Leader of the Ontario NDP; and Dave Barrett, former premier of British Columbia (B.C.) and Leader of the B.C. NDP.

When it appeared that Marroquín might be deported back to Mexico within a matter of days, supporters went on an emergency footing. Canadian and Québécois unionists and NDP members quickly saw the threat to trade union and civil rights if the U.S. government could deport a political refugee on the basis of his socialist beliefs.

Robert White, Canadian director of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and international vice-president of the UAW, sent the following telegram:

"On behalf of the 130,000 UAW mem-

bers in Canada, I demand political asylum be granted to Héctor Marroquín and that in particular 72-hour minimum voluntary deportation be granted before any deportation proceedings."

The Hamilton and District Labor Council demanded, in addition, that the Canadian minister of external affairs investigate the situation and offer the assistance of the Canadian government.

Similar messages were sent by Astrid Davidson, director of human rights, B.C. Federation of Labor; Cec Taylor, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 1005 in Hamilton, Ontario, on behalf of the local's 11,000 members; Wally Majesky, president, Metro Toronto Labor Council; Jeff Rose, president of the 6,000-member Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79 in Toronto; Evert Hoogers, president of the Vancouver local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers; and Ron Burton, president, Local 333, Grainworkers Union, Vancouver.

Hamilton NDP Alderman Mike Davison and Toronto NDP Alderman Joe Pantalone also sent telegrams.

The Quebec-based civil liberties organization, La ligue des droits et des libertés (League of Rights and Freedoms) and the Société St. Jean Baptiste, a prominent Quebec nationalist organization, expressed their strong opposition to the deportation threat.

A Winnipeg telegram of protest was signed by several groups, including the Young New Democrats of Manitoba and the Grenada-Canada Society.

## Socialist councilman gets death threat

BY SAM MANUEL

SEASIDE, Calif. — On June 13 socialist City Councilman Mel Mason received a death-threat phone call at the Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) student activities office where he works.

The caller stated, "Nigger, we are going to kill you and ship your Black ass to Grenada."

Mason has raised with many of his supporters in the city the idea of adopting St. Georges, Grenada, as a sister city of Seaside. Grenada is a Caribbean island with a Black, English-speaking population. In 1979 the Grenadian people overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship and established a government of workers and farmers.

Mason told the *Militant*, "This is part of a sustained racist campaign of provocation by right-wing forces in the area against me. They are especially angered by my stance in defense of the Grenadian revolution and against U.S. involvement in Central America."

This campaign has been spearheaded by the *Monterey Bay Tribune*, a well-financed Moral Majority-type sheet. The owner of the *Tribune* is a past mayor of Seaside. Mason, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, led a movement of Blacks and working people to recall the mayor after he fired the city's first Black city manager.

Just days before Mason received the call, the *Tribune* ran a large photograph of Mason standing, but not saluting the flag during the pledge of allegiance ceremonies that open the council meetings. The caption under the picture pointed out that Mason works at MPC.

Mason also received a Xeroxed copy of the *Tribune* photograph in his mail at City Hall. The sender scribbled above the picture, "Why don't you go back to Russia."

In response to this attack Mason and his supporters have stepped up their activities in defense of the Grenadian revolution.

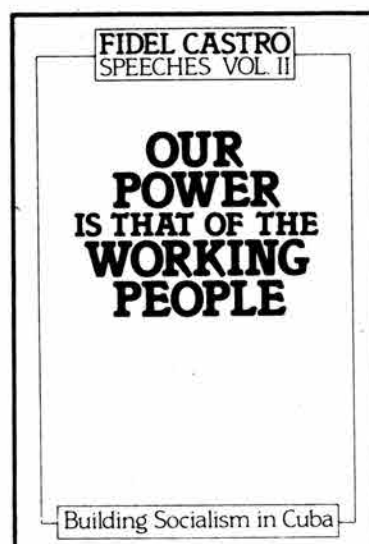
Mason has helped to initiate a broad committee of Black, labor, and Central American solidarity activists to organize a tour of the Seaside area by Grenadian Consul General to North America, Joseph Burke.

Burke's visit to Seaside will be part of a tour of California the week of July 10-16. At the city council meeting Mason's supporters distributed leaflets announcing a meeting to plan Burke's tour in Seaside and sold copies of the *Militant*, which reported the visit of Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to the United States.

Rohima Miah, a member of the Hotel

Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union Local 483 and a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, spoke before the council on Burke's tour. Miah explained, "We are raising this before the city council because a high-ranking official of another country will be visiting our city. But more important, this meeting will be a chance for people in this area to hear for themselves what the Grenadian revolution has accomplished. Such an exchange between the working people of Seaside and Grenada can serve as a basis for developing international solidarity and halting Reagan's war moves against Grenada."

# NEW!



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# Anti-Cuba lies aimed at justifying U.S. war moves

BY STEVE WATTENMAKER

The Reagan administration is charging that Cuban officers are directing day-to-day military operations in Nicaragua and planning guerrilla raids in El Salvador. "Cuban Commander in Nicaraguan Post" read a *New York Times* front-page headline June 19.

These accusations mark an ominous escalation in Washington's preparations for wider war in Central America. They are intended to justify a step up in the CIA-backed counterrevolutionary invasion of Nicaragua and deeper U.S. military intervention in El Salvador.

"Cuba's top military combat commander," the *Times* article began, "has been working in Nicaragua for about a month and has been 'secretly assigned to duty' there, according to an intelligence report disclosed by a Reagan administration official." The article was written by *Times* correspondent Leslie Gelb.

The commander, identified as Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez, is assigned to nothing less than organizing a "large-scale Cuban move into Nicaragua," we are told. In fact, one source told Gelb that Ochoa would be chief of all Nicaraguan and Cuban armed forces in Nicaragua.

The *Times* story prominently reports that Ochoa has extensive combat experience.

According to the *Times's* report, Ochoa served with Cuban troops defending Angola against South African invaders and commanded Cuban combat and support forces in Ethiopia.

What the *Times* leaves unsaid is that Cuban troops played the decisive role in helping both Angola and Ethiopia beat back U.S.-supported invasions.

Angola was invaded in 1975 by South African troops. Cuban troops helped drive the invaders out and, after Angola won independence, continued to help defend the country.

In an effort to overturn the Ethiopian revolution, the army of the pro-Washington Somali regime invaded the Ogaden region of Ethiopia in 1977. Cuban troops

fought alongside the Ethiopian revolutionaries to expel the Somali invaders.

The story of Ochoa's alleged assignment to Nicaragua was matched the same day by a front-page "exposé" in the *Washington Post*. A defector who supposedly served in Nicaragua's state security service, the *Post* said, accused Cuba of directing guerrilla operations in El Salvador.

The Nicaraguan turncoat, Miguel Bolanos Hunter, met reporters at the headquarters of the right-wing Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. He claimed to have fled Nicaragua May 7 by hijacking a light plane to Costa Rica.

According to Bolanos:

- Cubans in Managua planned and trained Salvadoran guerrillas to carry out the January 1982 rebel attack on the Salvadoran military air base at Ilopango. The raid destroyed most of the government's aircraft.

- Cuba provided a "river" of arms for the guerrilla forces in El Salvador. The weapons, Bolanos alleged, were shipped through Nicaragua. He added that the arms flow had stopped because the Salvadorans had all the weapons they needed.

Cuba's real record in Nicaragua is very different from the dark and conspiratorial picture painted by Washington propagandists. About 2,000 Cuban teachers are working in Nicaragua along with hundreds of Cuban doctors and medical technicians. Many of them have volunteered to work in the most remote parts of the country, and a number have been killed by counter-revolutionaries.

More than 1,000 Cuban construction workers are helping Nicaragua build roads, bridges, and other projects. Cuban volunteers are helping to build a major dairy processing plant that could provide all the capital's milk within four years. In addition, Cuban military experts have aided Nicaragua in strengthening its defenses in the face of the CIA-backed invasion.

Washington's military moves and hostile propaganda have convinced Cuba that

Continued on Page 19



Cuban troops in Angola, where they have defended country against South African attack. Cuba openly provides humanitarian aid, and military assistance when needed, around world.

## New support for Tijuana conference on Salvador

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

LOS ANGELES — Trade unionist and solidarity activists in cities throughout the West and Southwest are actively building participation in the second Mexico-U.S. Border Conference in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador. The conference will take place July 2-3 in Tijuana, Mexico.

Participants from the two countries will have an opportunity to hear reports on the current situation in El Salvador and Central America from representatives of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, the leadership of the revolutionary struggle in El Salvador.

The gathering will also provide an important opportunity for those opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America to discuss past work against that intervention and to plan additional activities for the coming months.

Publicity about the conference is beginning to get out widely, and many groups are joining in this effort. In Los Angeles and San Francisco, Casa El Salvador has called together a meeting of all those interested in building and participating in the conference. Mailings have gone out to groups and individuals throughout both cities and leafleting of various events is being organized. In Los Angeles, as well, a special leaflet on the conference was distributed to demonstrators at a June 11 march against the Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill.

A letter has also been sent out in Los Angeles to local unions inviting them to send delegates or observers to Tijuana. "While millions are jobless here, the Reagan Administration is spending millions of dollars to back the dictatorship that brutally represses the labor movement in El Salvador," explains the letter. "Recent opinion polls have shown that the overwhelming majority of the U.S. public is opposed to the U.S. intervention in Central America. We strongly believe that the labor unions should be involved in advancing this sentiment and making understood the slogan 'an injury to one, is an injury to all.'"

Discussions are proceeding with union officials and activists about their participation. Local 1-547 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, which organizes the large El Segundo Chevron refinery, has already agreed to send an observer to the conference in order for the union to get a first-hand report on its deliberations and decisions.

The Arizona Farm Workers Union is planning to send a delegation from Phoenix.

Representatives are planning to attend the conference from the Los Angeles-based U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society.

The Tijuana meeting was also publicized at a recent Southwest regional conference of the National Organization for Women in Tucson. Speaking at the conference was Christina de Interiano, a leader of the Com-

ite De Madres (Mothers Committee), an organization of Salvadoran mothers of those killed, imprisoned, or disappeared by the Salvador regime. De Interiano received a standing ovation, and a resolution was passed against U.S. aid to the Salvadoran regime.

In San Diego the coalition organizing support for the Tijuana meeting has been gaining support. "The last meeting saw quite a few new groups attending and pitching into the work of publicizing the border conference," reports Judy White, a United Auto Workers member who is active in the committee. "A group of religious people who are seeking sanctuary for Salvadoran refugees have begun participating, as have a substantial number of Palestinians, who also see the importance of the struggle in Central America."

The conference in Tijuana will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 2. It will be held at Cinerama 2000, which is at the corner of Calle 2 and H streets, near the Calimax supermarket. Registration of \$25 entitles an organization to two delegates; individuals will be asked to pay a \$10 registration fee, which covers meals.

Registration payments can be sent to: Javier Gonzalez, Apartado Postal 170, Playas de Tijuana, B. C., Mexico.



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## N.Y. Labor Committee backs July 2 demonstration in D.C.

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

"Are we heading toward another Vietnam?" That's the question posed by the New York Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, in the leaflet it has put out to build the July 2 march and rally in Washington, D.C., to oppose U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

The New York committee is an affiliate of the national organization of the same name that includes among its members the top officials of several large industrial unions, including William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists; Jack Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Robert Goss, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union and William Bywater, president of the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers.

It is one of a number of organizations publicizing the July 2 action.

The demonstration will assemble at 2:30 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the capital. Following a rally, participants will march to the Shoreham Hotel where "Reagan and his entire cabinet, the Pentagon Generals and other top officials are to attend a Gala Independence Day Ball," says the Labor Committee. "We will not stand by in silence while the people in Central America and the Caribbean are dying and the people in the U.S. are suffering from poverty and unemployment."

"Reagan's decision to pursue a military solution . . ." warns the Labor Committee, "puts the country on a dangerous

course. More weapons, more funds and more illegal, covert forces are being sent each day. . . ."

The Labor Committee explains that U.S. aid "goes to corrupt military cliques who have . . . killed, kidnapped and jailed thousands of citizens. They have dissolved unions, imprisoned trade unionists and outlawed gatherings and demonstrations. Wages are as low as \$2.50 a day and less. Eighty-seven percent of the people are illiterate and hungry. . . ."

The committee points to labor's stake in the fight against the U.S. war. "Our concern is jobs and job security and the 11 million brothers and sisters who are unemployed. . . . Our priorities are getting them back to work, restoring the cuts in human and social services, rebuilding our cities and reopening our plants and factories. . . . Where will the money come from? The Pentagon budget is \$1.6 trillion for the next few years, and more than 50 cents of every federal tax dollar is spent on the military."

The committee can be reached c/o Headwear Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, 49 West 37th St. 7th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10018. Ernesto Jofre, coordinator of the New York committee, can be reached at (212) 255-9655.

Among the other organizations actively organizing support for July 2 is Casa Nicaragua. Josefina Ellizander told the *Militant* that her organization considers the action very important because of the increasing attacks on Nicaragua. "We're doing everything possible" to build the march and rally, she said.



# Nicaraguan women on tour relate gains of revolution

BY PETER LINK

PHILADELPHIA — On June 7, the same day the U.S. government ordered the expulsion of Nicaraguan consular officials, two leaders of the Nicaraguan Women's Association—Luisa Amanda Espinoza (AMNLAE) brought the truth about their country to Philadelphia.

Ivón Siu, director of international relations for AMNLAE, and Zulema Baltodano addressed a meeting of about 100 people, sponsored by a wide range of organizations.

These included Church Women United, Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization, Democratic Socialists of America, Socialist Workers Party, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Women's Law Project, Women's Health Concerns, Hispanic Women's Program, and the Nationwide Women's Program of American Friends Service Committee.

Karel Kilimnick, a daycare worker and member of the Hospital and Health Care Workers District 1199C, chaired the meeting.

Ivón Siu centered her remarks on the gains the Nicaraguan people have achieved since the victory of their revolution on July 19, 1979, and their fight to defend them against CIA-organized attacks.

Zulema Baltodano spoke of the Nicaraguan people's desire for peace and dignity.

During the question-and-answer period, Siu spoke at greater length about the role of women in the revolution and the fight to advance women's rights in Nicaragua.

Siu said, "We women are now saying that we are making a second revolution — a revolution of women. Our struggle within the revolution is difficult because our struggle is an old one. In fact, we feel that our struggle against the structures that marginalize women is more difficult than the struggle of the 19th of July."

She spoke of some initial measures that have been taken. "We are changing the laws of the country to give a judicial basis for women's rights," she said, describing the law on nurture, which has been passed by the Council of State and is now before the Government of National Reconstruction. This law aims to protect single mothers by stipulating that men have an obligation to share in the upbringing of their children.

Siu drew much applause when she said the law provides for the dividing of housework among all members of the family. "This is our first step," she said. "And now we have to insure that the law is put into practice."

When asked about the role of solidarity from the North American people, Siu responded, "We think you have great power to mobilize yourselves and pressure the Reagan administration, and we hope that you will use that power."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Kilimnick urged the audience to sign up to launch a local women's coalition against U.S. intervention.

The following day, Siu and Baltodano attended a luncheon with 12 prominent women's rights activists from the Philadelphia area. They had informal discussions on the situation of women in revolutionary Nicaragua and the fight for women's rights in the United States.



Zulema Baltodano

Militant/Roberto Kopec

## Wash., D.C.: 'We're fighting to live in peace'

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 100 people attended a June 11 meeting here for two representatives of the Nicaraguan Women's Association—Luisa Amanda Espinoza (AMNLAE), Ivón Siu and Zulema Baltodano.

"We are struggling for our right to live in peace, to rebuild our country in peace," Baltodano told the meeting. "We don't represent a threat to the United States. We've lived through 50 years of struggle and throughout that time have fought to win peace."

Siu added, "We feel it is very important for all the North American and Latin American brothers and sisters who are here to know that the money that is being dedicated to killing our children and defenseless people is the money that should have been dedicated to the so many social projects needed by the North American people to create more sources of work, more jobs, and more housing."

On June 10, Siu and Baltodano spoke with 18 women who attended a noontime meeting to discuss the role that AMNLAE plays in Nicaragua.

"What about abortion and birth control?" someone asked.

"When the revolution first occurred, our first job as women was to defend the revolution that we had fought for," Siu answered.

She explained that the first step is to educate women and men about women's emancipation as they go about their tasks together.

"Under Somoza birth control was involuntary. Women were sterilized without their consent. That will not happen again."

Siu said that birth control is available with a doctor's prescription and that the government had just received aid from Germany to educate and distribute information about birth control, except for kinds labeled as dangerous by health organizations.

While in the area, Siu and Baltodano visited members of Congress and attended a reception at the Quixote Center, which helped organize their tour, and the national conference of the Women's Alliance for Theology and Ritual.

## Mississippi: 'Our struggle is like your own'

BY MARK CURTIS

JACKSON, Miss. — An important meeting in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution was held on the Tougaloo College campus here June 12.

Ivón Siu and Zulema Baltodano, representing the Nicaraguan Women's Association—Luisa Amanda Espinoza (AMNLAE), talked about the gains women have made since the 1979 revolution.

The reception and meeting was organized by the Southern Rural Women's Network and Church Women United. About 30 people, mostly Black women, attended.

Ivón Siu explained, "Our struggle is like your own. It is important that Third World women have the chance to share our experiences. Before coming here, we thought U.S. women lived in a paradise. We heard only lies. We didn't know what you were going through."

"The struggles of peoples to be free is the same all over the world," she said. "The Sandinista National Liberation Front is against racism, colonialism, and every kind of oppression around the world. You, the most oppressed part of the North American population, who have the most awareness, must be awakening many other people."

Representatives of the Birmingham, Alabama, Committee in Solidarity With Central America; the wife of Tougaloo College's president; and a woman candidate for Jackson City Council were introduced and expressed solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution.

The meeting concluded with all singing, "We Shall Overcome" and "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around."

The Jackson activists also organized two news conferences and interviews with local radio stations.

## NOW members in solidarity with Nicaragua

BY NAN BAILEY

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — About 50 members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) attended a reception here June 4 for Josefina Ellizander. Ellizander spoke on behalf of AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's organization, and Casa Nicaragua of New York. The gathering was cohosted by NOW leaders and the New York-based Women's Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

The reception took place in the suite of NOW national treasurer Alice Chapman and was part of NOW's Northeast regional conference held here June 3-5. When the reception was announced at the conference earlier in the day, it sparked applause from the close to 400 NOW members and supporters attending the conference.

"The Sandinista revolution was made by the men, women, and children of Nicaragua," Ellizander told those gathered at the reception. "What we see in Nicaragua today is youth being able to develop themselves as full human beings and women fully active in the political and social life of the country," she said. "And this is possible because we have a government that is trying to change things for the benefit of the country."

"Nicaraguan women and all of our people take a tremendous amount of pride in knowing the price we've paid for our revolution," she continued. "Nicaragua is a poor country fighting for its survival." After mentioning the Reagan administration's attacks against Nicaragua, she said, "We have nothing against the American people. We know that without the support of the American people we would not be where we are today."

Her remarks prompted a lively discussion. Questions raised by NOW members included the following:

How did women organize themselves in your country before and after the revolution? Are bourgeois women still involved in the women's movement in Nicaragua? What kind of health care is available in Nicaragua today? What about the idea that if the United States gave food and other aid to Latin American countries, political stability would be established? What do you think is the number one feminist goal for women of the world?

One woman explained that she found the discussion moving and asked, "What can progressive women do to support the women of Nicaragua?"

Ellizander explained that the truth about what is going on in Nicaragua must be spread and discussed. She offered herself as a speaker to NOW chapters in the region who wanted to organize such a discussion.

She also urged women to participate in the July 2 march on Washington, D.C., that has been called to demand an end to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

And Ellizander encouraged those present to see the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution themselves by visiting her country on one of the tours sponsored by Casa Nicaragua.

Several NOW members got together when the reception ended and drew up a resolution that was presented at the next day's plenary session. It read:



Ivón Siu: Nicaraguan women's leader on U.S. tour.

"Be it resolved that the Northeast Region of NOW, in solidarity with their sisters in Nicaragua, encourages actions by local NOW chapters to inform and educate their membership about the Nicaraguan revolution and the struggles and gains of Nicaraguan women as well as oppose any further U.S. intervention, overt or covert, in Central America."

A lively debate ensued.

One person proposed amending the resolution to say only "be it resolved that NOW is in solidarity with women of Nicaragua." She motivated this by saying she was "uncomfortable" with extending solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution and with NOW taking a position on the war in Central America.

Another woman said NOW was too busy to take on the activity the resolution was proposing.

A supporter of the resolution explained that NOW should view opposition to U.S. wars as a women's issue, and pointed out that the gains women have made in Nicaragua were being threatened by U.S. intervention there.

Another said that cuts in child-care funding were being made to finance the U.S. war budget.

These speakers were applauded, and the original resolution passed by a clear majority, though many women voted against it.

Both the Midwest and Southeast NOW regional conferences, which took place the same weekend, passed resolutions against U.S. intervention in Central America.

## Nat'l NOW urges chapters to build Aug. 27 march

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is circulating a letter urging NOW members and chapters to take part in building the August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom.

The letter, which is from Mary Jean Collins, NOW vice-president for actions, begins by recalling that the 1982 NOW conference "voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution calling for increased participation by the organization in issues of concern to minority women."

Collins points out that NOW President Judy Goldsmith is one of the convenors of the August 27 march and is actively building it. She adds, "As a result of NOW's participation in this march, our walkathons normally scheduled for August 26th are being moved to July 9th. We will be walking for equality in July and marching in August."

She continues, "We urge you, if you are not already active, to contact the local coalitions [a list of which was included] and participate in the organizing/mobilization activities for the march. We want NOW to be well represented at the local level and in Washington on August 27th. On that day NOW activists will march as a group divided by states and carrying their state banners."

For additional information, Collins wrote, NOW chapters should contact the national August 27 mobilization offices in Washington, or Joyce Johnson, NOW Minority Issues Staff, 425 13th St. NW, Suite 723, Washington, D.C. 20004. Telephone (202) 347-2279.



# Salvadoran unionist welcomed in Calif.

Labor leaders speak out against U.S. war: 'Our voice must be heard'

Continued from front page

trade union leader, Alejandro Molina Lara. Machuca captured the spirit with which hundreds of unionists welcomed Molina Lara up and down the state. His remarks expressed an understanding that is growing among working people: the interests of working people in El Salvador and those of workers in the United States, including our interest in opposing a new Vietnam-style war, are intimately tied together.

Machuca pointed specifically to the attacks on the rights of undocumented workers, including many from El Salvador in the Los Angeles area. He blasted the anti-labor, Simpson-Mazzoli bill.

Joining Machuca and Molina Lara on the platform at the ILGWU union hall was Frank Monti, Los Angeles ILGWU education director, who chaired the meeting; Omar Gonzáles, president of the American Postal Workers Union local in Los Angeles; and Alicia Beaton, a leader of the Los Angeles Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Gonzáles told the meeting, "We come here tonight with open hearts and with open ears. . . . Unionists and others in this country, are starving for information about the situation facing Salvadoran trade unions."

Other speakers included representatives from Casa El Salvador, Casa Nicaragua, the Alliance for Survival, and the Committee in Solidarity: Central America (COSCA).

In the audience were oil workers, garment workers, machinists, furniture workers, screen actors, hospital workers, social workers, carpenters, and longshore workers. Scores of activists from Los Angeles solidarity groups were also on hand.

Patty Iiyama, coordinator of Molina Lara's tour in Los Angeles and a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 1-547, read a message from Jack Foley, Director of District 1 of OCAW. Foley, who represents OCAW members in six western states, stated his support for Molina Lara's tour and his opposition to U.S. aid to the Salvadoran regime.

Foley has also addressed a letter to President Reagan, demanding the release of union leaders imprisoned in El Salvador and accusing the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador of "violating the fundamental rights of union members and their leadership."

Molina Lara, the organization secretary of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS), told the meeting some of the recent history of the struggle of the Salvadoran working class. He described the peaceful strikes and demonstrations that were brutally attacked by a regime which has no compunctions about jailing and murdering unionists.

## Struggle for freedom

"We learned," explained Molina Lara, "that there was no way forward except to get the oligarchy — the rich and the military — out of power. It was clear to our people that the only alternative was to take



Peter Cervantes-Gautschi, Santa Clara County Central Labor Council leader, speaking at April 29 meeting at San Jose Labor Temple.

up arms in self-defense, to make use of our legitimate right to struggle for our freedom."

Molina Lara concluded his remarks by appealing to American working people to oppose the U.S. government's intervention in El Salvador, which is the main prop that holds up the decaying, repressive regime.

"We want U.S. unionists to help educate and inform the American people," said Molina Lara. "Invite Salvadorans to speak before union meetings to draw the connections between the problems facing workers here and in El Salvador."

At a May 6 meeting of 175 people held at the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10 hall in San Francisco, Molina Lara put it this way: "We must make the solidarity of the American people another barricade, behind which the people of El Salvador can fight."

This meeting, which was chaired by Charles Lamb, president of San Francisco's largest union, Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Local 2, was one of several labor/community rallies held across the state.

At an April 29 meeting at the San Jose Labor Temple, Molina Lara was introduced by Peter Cervantes-Gautschi, business manager and chief officer of the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council. In Seaside, on the Monterey Peninsula, Sonia Galán, another exiled FENASTRAS leader, addressed a meeting at the hall of Carpenters Union Local 1323. In San Diego a May 14 dinner and rally was hosted by CISPES and the Committee in Solidarity With Nicaragua.

In addition to these community rallies, which were sponsored by many labor officials, religious figures, and Black and Chicano community leaders, Molina Lara spoke at a wide variety of other meetings

across the state.

At Laney College in Oakland, 125 students, mostly Blacks and Chicanos, attended a meeting hosted by the Chicano Studies Department and the Mexican and Latin American Students organization. At Monterey Peninsula College, John Briscoe, president of the Black Student Union, and Molina Lara spoke to 50 people.

In Oakland, Molina Lara engaged in a lively discussion with students at Fremont High School. At Santana High School in San Diego, Molina Lara debated a representative of the Republican Party who defended U.S. government policy in Central America on the grounds that "Ronald Reagan is the first president in 60 years not hand-picked by the international socialist conspiracy."

Molina Lara also spoke at a meeting of the San Francisco/Bay Area Peace Council. In some cities religious organizations invited him to speak.

An important side of the tour was the hearing Molina Lara received from Black community organizations. The executive board of The Gathering, the Black ministerial alliance in Los Angeles, invited him to address their meeting, where he was warmly received. This has led to the possibility of future speaking engagements for Molina Lara or other FENASTRAS leaders at some of the major Black churches in Los Angeles.

Molina Lara also spoke to 300 Black community leaders and political activists at a reception for entertainer Harry Belafonte, sponsored by the national lobbying group TransAfrica.

All of these meetings contributed to making the California leg of Molina Lara's national tour one of the most successful.

The national tour began last fall in the coal fields and steelworker communities of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. From there it blossomed to include many cities and regions across the country.

## Many different unions

From the beginning the tour has centered on the labor movement, and California was no exception. In less than a month's time, Molina Lara spoke to more than a dozen meetings of locals of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; International Association of Machinists; United Auto Workers (UAW); United Electrical Workers; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; and American Federation of Government Employees.

The tour helped advance the discussion in the working class about the U.S. war in Central America and the stakes involved for the labor movement.

"Just how deep are we in there?" one UAW official asked Molina Lara at a Los Angeles meeting. "We all know about the advisers," he went on, "and I read about the spy planes flying over El Salvador. But what exactly is our military's role?"

In response to questions like these Molina Lara pointed to the enormous arms shipments the U.S. government sends to El Salvador every month, often under the guise of "economic aid." He also described the widening character of the war in the region, the U.S. support for counter-revolutionary bands in Nicaragua, and the massive military buildup in Honduras.

"It's not just arms shipments we need to worry about," he warned. "Day by day the U.S. government gets closer to sending troops to El Salvador or Nicaragua. The danger is very real. That's where Reagan is heading."

"We have to be aware," Molina Lara told the workers he met with, "that it will be our children who are sent to fight and to die in support of a murderous regime. The ones who send them will be swimming in dollars."

At a meeting of United Auto Workers Local 645 in Van Nuys the relationship between problems facing U.S. workers, and the problems of Salvadoran workers, really hit home.

The General Motors plant in Van Nuys is the only auto assembly plant still open in California. Workers there have been organizing against threats by GM to close it down. The Local 645 union meeting began with a videotape of a recent rally of more than 500 auto workers and their supporters, protesting the possible shut down. After showing the tape, local President Pete Beltran introduced Molina Lara.

Molina Lara told this reporter, "I talked to the auto workers about the problems of plants closing in El Salvador, as the wealthy take their money out of the country and build up bank accounts in Miami."

"It's the same there as here in the United States," he told the unionists. "The bosses and the corporations put the needs of the workers last."

At the Local 645 meeting, a Korean War veteran told Molina Lara he'd like to see him speak at his son's high school. "They're the ones that'll have to fight if Reagan sends troops," this worker said. "They ought to know the whole story. Maybe you could debate someone from the military. That would be great. You'd really plaster him."

## Debate in the labor movement

Molina Lara's tour also accelerated the debate in the labor movement about U.S. policy in Central America and how the unions should respond.

In March, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland circulated a letter throughout the country instructing local AFL-CIO labor councils not to hear speakers on matters of international policy unless they were first approved by the AFL-CIO international affairs office in Washington. The letter referred to "an individual claiming to speak for the Salvadoran people" who "does not

Continued on next page



Alejandro Molina Lara. His tour deepened discussion of workers' stake in opposing U.S. war.



# 2,000 Ala. Blacks protest cop violence

BY HEIDI FISCHER

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Nearly 2,000 Blacks from across Alabama marched on the State Capitol here June 11 to protest escalating police violence throughout the state.

The demonstration culminated a 330-mile march and motorcade that began in Eufaula, scene of recent protests against the slaying of two Black brothers by state troopers. The "Sacred Rights Pilgrimage" — led by Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) — stopped in communities along the way, registering voters and holding meetings.

The Concerned Citizens of Barbour County brought a large contingent here, while also keeping up pickets in Eufaula in support of a boycott of white businesses there.

In Montgomery itself, at least three Blacks have been shot — two of them killed — by police in recent months.

The day before the protest here, nearly 100 marched in Bessemer, in northern Alabama near Birmingham, against the acquittal of a cop who killed an unarmed Black youth last summer.

All week long the business media panned the Sacred Rights Pilgrimage as small, ineffective, and unneeded. Many demonstrators were angry at these attempts to discourage participation. They also pointed to more serious threats such as a recent cross burning in Montgomery and rumors of a Klan attack on the march.

Under a blistering midday sun, the demonstration wound its way along a four-and-a-half-mile route through the Black community.

A police helicopter repeatedly buzzed low over the length of the march, filming the participants. Many waved back in defiance, adding a new verse to a freedom song, "Ain't gonna let no police helicopter turn me round."

Marchers chanted, "Stop the killing," and "Fired up! Fed up!"

As people came out of houses and stores to watch, the demonstrators appealed to them to join. "Come on, you could be next," they shouted, and "Don't hide in the house, they'll knock down the door" — a

reference to the unprovoked cop assault on the Taylor family home in Montgomery last February.

Along the way marchers passed a group of uniformed soldiers, both Black and white. "Come on," yelled one demonstrator, "you don't have to go to El Salvador, it's right here."

Members of the Birmingham Committee in Solidarity With Central America got a very good response to a leaflet announcing a march on Fort Benning, Georgia, to protest training of Salvadoran officers there. The leaflet also urged support for the August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom. Many marchers came up to ask for the leaflets and some joined in distributing them.

At the rally on the Capitol steps, one of the best received speakers was Donald Watkins, a Black city council member in Montgomery who has been prominent in protests against the policies of Police Chief Charles Swindall and Mayor Emory Folmar. "We're going to whip racism," he declared to the cheering crowd. "And we [the Black council members who oppose Folmar] are not going to sit down until you say sit down."

County Commissioner John Knight told the rally, "A burning cross can't turn me around." It was on Knight's lawn that a 10-foot cross was set ablaze last week.

"The Montgomery police said it was just a prank," he said. "Now we know who is responsible for that. We're going to fight, fight until we get rid of the racist who runs the city — that is Emory Folmar." The demonstrators roared their approval.

On the other hand, there was a cool response to statements that the problem was just a few bad apples in the police department.

SCLC President Lowery was the keynote speaker. He called on Gov. George Wallace, who he said "stood in the schoolhouse door 20 years ago," to now "stand in the jailhouse door" to stop police brutality.

Lowery saluted the relatives of the cops' victims who were present. Fannie Hargress rode the entire four-and-a-half miles in a wheelchair. Her son, William Hargress,



Militant  
330-mile march from Eufaula to State Capitol in Montgomery protested killings of Alabama Blacks by police.

was shot to death two weeks earlier by Montgomery police.

"America is in crisis," Lowery said. He blasted the "bellicose military policy abroad. The same military policy spills over into violence of the police department."

"We are shocked at the execution of three Black freedom fighters in South Africa," he said, adding that "we've got racist police officers executing Blacks in the streets of Montgomery."

## Salvadoran unionist welcomed at California labor meetings

Continued from preceding page  
represent a trade union organization with which the AFL-CIO is working."

This letter did result in some local AFL-CIO officials and central labor councils withdrawing their support from Molina Lara's tour or declining to get involved. But other labor councils have ignored this directive and have welcomed Molina Lara. Many union locals and districts have also refused to be cowed by the Kirkland letter.

However, encouraged by these decrees from AFL-CIO tops in Washington, California AFL-CIO field representative Ed Collins sent out his own mailing "warning" California AFL-CIO affiliates about Molina Lara.

Collins slandered Molina Lara as an "interloper," "kidnapper," and "assassin."

Many labor officials who received this material were angered by Collins' poison pen letter. In Seaside, for instance, several delegates to the local labor council who had earlier declined to sponsor Molina Lara's tour, decided to come to the meeting at the Carpenters Hall.

Cervantes-Gautschi, of the Santa Clara County Labor Council, was one of many labor leaders who did not accept either the Kirkland edict or the Collins smear. He told the public meeting for Molina Lara at the San Jose Labor Temple that six representatives of northern California central labor councils had informed "an official of the regional AFL-CIO" that, "if there was opposition to the tour of our brother Alejandro Molina Lara visiting us in our union houses, we were opposed to receiving such a communication and we would not accept it."

### 'People's World' interviews Collins

In its June 4 issue the *People's World*, the West Coast paper reflecting the views of the Communist Party, published an article titled, "AFL-CIO dictate challenged — Salvadoran union leader welcomed." Reporter S. Norris writes:

"In response to Lara's speaking tour, something of a smear campaign is being waged by the AFL-CIO's International Affairs Dept. with the help of President Lane Kirkland. Now add to this list Ed Collins . . . and Glen Watts, President of Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

The SCLC president also said, "We're extending to whites the hand of cooperation. We must denounce police brutality together."

Sonja Franeta, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Birmingham, and her supporters sold some 60 copies of the *Militant* — every copy brought to the march. The *Militant* featured August 27 coverage and also carried a story on police threats to sue Franeta for her statements against killer-cops.

## Socialist workers organize to bring supporters to Ohio conference

BY YVONNE HAYES

Active supporters of the Socialist Workers Party from around the country are making plans to attend this year's Socialist Educational and Activists Conference in Oberlin, Ohio from July 30 to August 6. A number of them first read about the conference in the pages of the *Militant* and have called SWP offices in their cities to make reservations and travel arrangements.

They will be joining hundreds of U.S. socialist workers and political activists from around the world in a week-long program of classes, workshops, and other

activities. The conference will discuss the ideas of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels and their relevance to the struggles of working people today.

A second theme will be the experiences and debates of the early years of the Communist International, founded in 1919, and their impact on the working-class movement in the United States.

A brochure has recently been made available and is being used by branches of the Socialist Workers Party and chapters of the Young Socialist Alliance to publicize the conference.

Socialist workers are taking the brochure to their workplaces to invite their coworkers to attend the conference with them. Activists in the movement in solidarity with the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean and builders of the August 27 march for jobs, peace, and freedom will also be among those attending the conference. A large number of participants will be young workers and students who are members of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Participants will exchange ideas on how to improve the distribution of the *Militant* and its sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, at plant gates. Meetings will be held of socialist workers in various industries to discuss how to advance a strategy in their unions to oppose Washington's wars abroad and its attacks on working people at home.

If you are interested in attending this conference or would like more information, contact the SWP or YSA office nearest you (see directory on page 19) or mail the coupon below to SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

### Attend the socialist conference

If you're interested in attending the 1983 Socialist Activists and Educational Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, from July 30-August 6, fill in the coupon below. Send to the SWP branch or YSA chapter nearest you (see directory on page 19), or to the SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Union/Organization/School \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion not ended

In the view of Kirkland and CWA chief Watts, any discussion or debate about U.S. foreign policy, in Central America or anywhere else, remains the sole province of the high councils of the AFL-CIO at its conclaves in Bal Harbour, Florida, and Washington, D.C. Their intention is to put an end to the debate and discussion about foreign policy that is beginning to unfold throughout the organized labor movement. In this they have clearly failed.

In fact, the Kirkland letter has begun to produce a flurry of letters back to him from local labor officials who disagree, questioning his information and views. This in turn, has led to more letters from AFL-CIO international affairs head, Irving Brown, defending Kirkland's directive. Rather than ending the debate, Kirkland has, evidently, helped to heat it up.

More and more workers are thinking about Central America and view the U.S. war in El Salvador as a union issue. Increasingly many are open to discussion about what the unions should do to oppose this war. The successful tour Molina Lara conducted in California was rooted in the real understanding that is beginning to develop, that the problems and hopes of workers in El Salvador and the United States are very much connected.



# Garment union faces big challenger

## But anti-imports drive won't save jobs or defend ILGWU

BY WENDY LYONS

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — The 38th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) met here May 27-June 3. The gathering took place at a time when garment workers and their unions are under severe attack from the employers.

Side by side with steelworkers, auto workers, and others, workers in the garment industry have been battered by the capitalist economic crisis. Unemployment is high. Many of those garment workers still on the job are the victims of short workweeks that drag low wages down even further.

The union is faced with some big challenges. The problem of nonunion sweat shops is growing. Encouraged by the government, employer attempts to force workers to do "home work" are on the rise. Union membership is on the decline. From Dec. 31, 1979 to Dec. 31, 1982 the union experienced a net loss of 60,000 members.

Some of these problems were acknowledged by the ILGWU leadership. "Today, we face the greatest challenge since the Great Depression," ILGWU President Sol Chaikin told the delegates, "with unemployment again stalking this land . . . with families again losing their homes, farmers again losing their farms, workers again beginning to doubt whether they will ever again find gainful and useful employment."

However, the top officials of this union, like their counterparts elsewhere in the labor movement, have no effective answers to offer workers who are confronted by these problems.

This was confirmed over the course of the eight-day convention. As in every union, the problem of unemployment was very much on the minds of the delegates. The ILGWU officials had only one answer to this: redouble efforts to work with the employers to roll back imports.

### Protectionist approach

This protectionist approach is one example of the class collaborationist outlook of the ILGWU officials. Rather than fighting for a pro-working-class solution to the assault on jobs — such as eliminating the massive war budget to provide money for a large-scale public works program to provide jobs — the officials prefer to try to

work things out with the employers, on the employers' terms. In this regard the officials of the ILGWU are no different from those who sit atop other big American unions.

There was hardly any discussion at the meeting on the U.S.-backed wars in Central America and the need for the ILGWU to actively oppose these wars that most of the union's membership is opposed to. Instead the leadership sought to whip up the anti-imports campaign, which tends to undermine antiwar sentiment.

Another instance of this protectionist approach was the appearance of Democratic presidential contender Walter Mondale and the union's apparent endorsement of his race for the White House. Mondale, in turn, used his speech to encourage the fight against imports, as he has at other union gatherings such as the steelworker convention last September.

The anti-imports campaign was the predominant theme of this convention. While this false approach has characterized other union meetings, such as the recent Dallas convention of the United Auto Workers, the ILGWU leadership took it to new heights. Delegates were bombarded daily with speeches, leaflets, songs, buttons, bumper stickers, scarves, jackets, and other paraphernalia — all sounding the same message: "Buy American" and "Look for the union label — Think of it as a little American flag in your clothing."

The message was not new. The ILGWU has already spent millions of dollars and tremendous union energy on a public "roll back imports" campaign. The convention issue of the ILGWU newspaper *Justice* was filled with page after page of photos taken at April 23 picket lines and rallies organized nationally by the union to press this campaign.

Chaikin and other ILGWU officials call for rolling back the level of garment imports from the current 41 percent of the market to 25 percent. This is a dangerous proposal that points away from the real fight garment workers need to wage to deal with the problem of unemployment. The anti-imports campaign pins the responsibility for job losses on working people of other countries rather than on the real culprits — the U.S. garment bosses and government.

Furthermore, the anti-imports campaign

by the top leadership is a way to avoid leading a fight that mobilizes the membership to oppose the bipartisan government drive against workers at home and abroad. This campaign, in fact, serves to undermine the ranks' ability to fight back against the bosses' attacks on their standard of living.

This campaign feeds a dangerous anti-foreign worker mentality as well. It serves to break down international working-class solidarity at precisely the time that the U.S. government is trying to prepare American workers for a wider war against working people in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

This breakdown of solidarity was illustrated by an incident on the floor of the convention. Tadanobu Usami, president of the garment and textile workers union in Japan, addressed the delegates. Later, after one of the many speeches beating the drums against imports, one delegate took the floor to question why a Japanese union leader had even been invited to speak. "Aren't we against Japanese imports?" she asked pointedly.

Chaikin and Jay Mazur, general manager of New York's Local 23-25, answered that the anti-imports campaign is not really directed against fellow unionists abroad. They argued that Japanese clothing imports, unlike other Japanese products, don't provide serious competition with American goods in the U.S. clothing market. Japan too, suffers from imports, the delegates were told.

But the incident made a telling point. The logic of the anti-imports campaign is to turn U.S. workers against fellow workers in other countries.

Despite Chaikin and Mazur's claims to the contrary, the propaganda surrounding the drive against imports is part and parcel of a government-inspired campaign to scapegoat workers from other countries — both those abroad and those who immigrate to the United States — for the problems created by capitalism.

This racist view argues that foreign workers "take away" our jobs with the products they produce abroad, and also "take away" our jobs when they immigrate to the United States to try to find work.

### A union of immigrants

The fruits of this campaign are extremely dangerous to the ILGWU in many ways. The ILGWU is itself a union of im-

migrants — historically as well as today. Although about 85 percent of the 801 convention delegates were white, large numbers — if not a majority — of the membership in the large centers of the industry are Latinos, Asians, or Blacks.

Many garment workers, both those in the union and the thousands who remain to be organized, are undocumented. The union has confirmed cases of workers like these, without legal citizenship papers, who have been paid as little as \$1 an hour, made to work 10 hours a day, and then sent home with shopping bags full of work to finish with the help of their children.

The composition of the ILGWU and the garment industry made this an issue at the convention. Judging from the many resolutions submitted by locals across the country, many members want the union to champion the rights of undocumented workers.

A resolution submitted by New York Local 1-35 explained, "Trying to escape from appalling poverty, wretched oppression and degradation, these workers flock to our shores in hope of a better life. Our country was born and became strong in the course of many waves of such immigration."

"These immigrants, especially if they lack legal documentation, are often victimized. Unscrupulous employers take advantage of their non-legal status to pay them substandard starvation wages under unspeakable working condition. If they dare to protest, all the employer has to do is call the authorities and they become subject to deportation."

This resolution also called for amnesty for undocumented workers, as did many others submitted by other locals. Several resolutions called for stepping up efforts to organize all garment workers, regardless of their citizenship status.

### Fight against factory raids

As a result of this kind of sentiment in the ranks and the objective urgency of this challenge to the very existence of the union, the ILGWU in Los Angeles did take an important legal initiative against factory raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

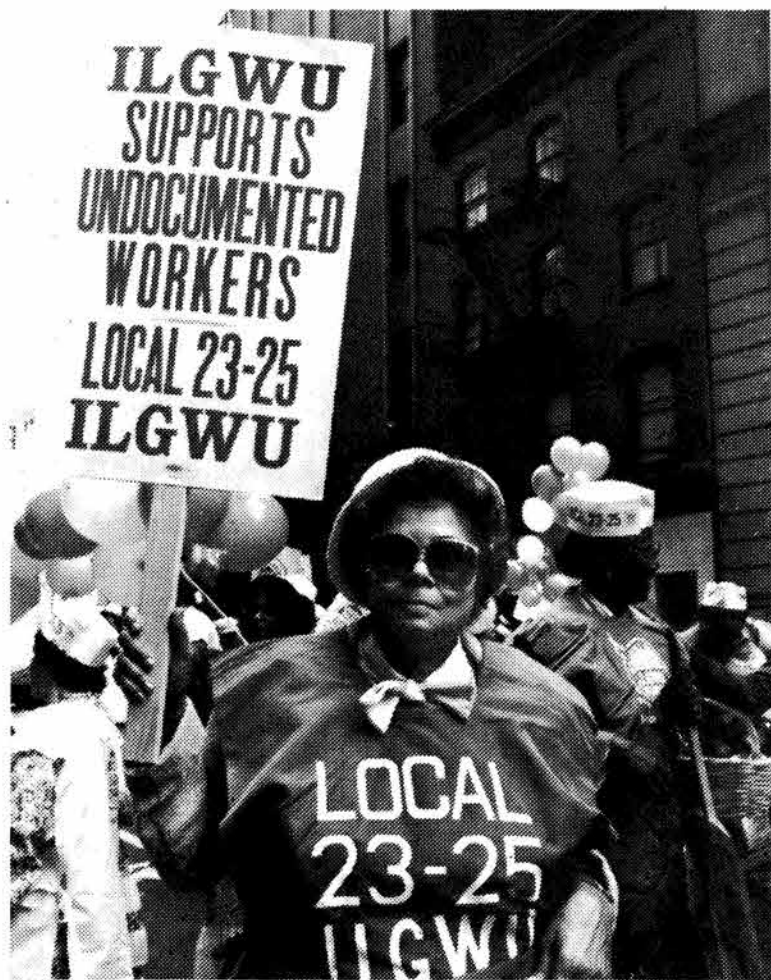
This led to a 1982 U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that such raids violate the constitutional right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure. The court said the INS must have an objective basis for assuming the workers it seizes are undocumented. Simply the fact that workers are Latinos or that the shops are located in areas with large numbers of undocumented workers is not sufficient grounds, according to the court. Even this partial victory is being appealed by the government to the Supreme Court.

In addition to learning about this case the convention also took note of the plight of Haitian "boat people" — workers fleeing political oppression in Haiti — and called for the government to grant them asylum.

While the resolutions submitted by local unions sought to place the union squarely on the side of undocumented workers, the General Executive Board's (GEB) proposed measures that would undermine the necessary effort to organize all workers and strengthen the union.

Although the GEB called for amnesty for undocumented workers who are already in the United States, it also supported strengthening the INS border patrol. While not mentioning the Simpson-Mazzoli bill that was passed by the Senate, the GEB endorsed two other provisions of that anti-labor legislation. These were sanctions against employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers (making it much harder for such workers to get a job) and a counterfeit-proof identification card for all workers.

The final convention decision was contradictory, reflecting the different currents and pressures in the union. No mention was made of the ID card, but sanctions



Working-class solidarity displayed at New York City 1981 Labor Day parade (left) is weakened by anti-imports actions like April 23, 1983, picket (right).



against employers were supported. At the same time the convention endorsed amnesty for the undocumented already here and voted to support the Los Angeles legal case against INS terror raids.

## A different perspective

In general the convention was not marked by extensive debate over perspectives. Like all such conventions in the American labor movement today, debate and discussion is not encouraged. Chaikin chaired virtually the entire eight days and took the floor often, at his own pleasure, to answer any questions or criticisms that did come up. A "don't rock the boat" atmosphere was very consciously created by the top officials and union staff.

Although many of the delegates were union staff people, a good number were from the shops themselves. About 50 percent were women (the union itself is 85 percent female). In this context, it was possible to observe at the convention that many garment workers are searching for a different course than that of the ILGWU leadership officials.

One expression of this sentiment among the ranks was the response to a presentation to the convention on the most important struggle the union has been through in the recent past. This was the battle in the spring and summer of 1982 led by Local 23-25 against garment bosses in New York's Chinatown. They attempted to bust the union by refusing to sign a new outerwear contract that had already been agreed to by other garment employers in the Northeast area of the country.

Members of Local 23-25 addressed the convention and told the story of the fight. Chinese garment workers stepped forward to mobilize the community to oppose the antilabor assault. Five thousand workers participated in the Committee to Defend the Union, which prepared for a possible strike.

On June 24, 1982, 20,000 people turned out for a pronoun rally — the largest protest ever held in Chinatown. A month later 20,000 people demonstrated again. By the morning of the second rally, 90 percent of the bosses had given in and the union and its supporters marched through the streets of Chinatown bringing a message of solidarity to those shops on strike. By the end of the day virtually all the bosses signed the contract.

## 'We are one'

The convention also saw a film about this struggle entitled "We Are One." The title comes from the slogans carried on the banners at the mass rallies: "We are one" and "Working Together — Union of all nations, races, and creeds."

For the first time in its history, an



Like other workers, ILGWU members are feeling impact of employers' attacks. Unemployment is up, while union membership declines.

ILGWU convention was addressed in Chinese with translation into English. Shui Mak Ka, a shop representative, forcefully described how worker solidarity had beaten back the employers' attacks.

Initially many delegates laughed as she began to speak in her native language. But as she explained the lessons of that important union battle and victory the laughter stopped and everyone listened attentively.

She explained that "although we have won a victory, the journey in the future is difficult as the employers try to undermine the contract that we've won. But the lesson of the struggle has been 'We must stand together.'"

She received a standing ovation at the end of her speech.

## Tension over language rights

There was tension throughout the convention over the desire of Latino, Asian, and Québécois delegates from Canada to speak their own language. The convention proceedings took place in English and written material appeared only in that language despite the fact that large numbers of union members do not speak or read it.

A number of Latino delegates made a point of repeating their own remarks in Spanish and pushed for translation of key written reports to the convention. Chaikin's response was that this would be too expensive. One hidebound delegate was encouraged by this answer to take the floor and remark, in a hostile tone, "With all due respect, why don't they make an attempt to learn English?" This received some scattered applause.

Nevertheless, the Latino and Asian delegates were not intimidated. The predominantly Québécois delegation from Canada helped take the lead by speaking in French virtually every time it addressed the convention.

## Women in the union

The largely female composition of the union asserted itself in the formal positions taken by the convention on women's rights. The union reaffirmed its position in favor of a woman's right to choose abortion. A resolution favoring a federally funded child-care system and a renewed effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment was also adopted.

An important debate broke out at the convention over the lack of representation of women and national minorities on the highest union bodies. The outgoing GEB, consisting of 25 members, included only two women, three Blacks and one Puerto Rican.

At the previous convention, three years ago, two strongly worded resolutions were submitted by local unions on this issue. One from Local 4 in Baltimore said:

"The ILGWU is 85 percent women. We in the ILGWU are supportive of equal rights legislation and in favor of ERA. However, the ILGWU leadership is 98 percent male."

Another 1980 resolution proposed that "women and minorities be given the opportunity to fill positions at every level in the union, including the General Executive Board, until women and minorities have achieved their share of full-time elected and appointed positions in the unions."

This year a resolution was proposed noting that some improvement had been made but urging that much more was needed, especially in representation on the GEB.

President Chaikin drew the ire of many when he answered that the main task is not yet representation but more training so that women will be "capable" of serving in such responsible posts. "Affirmative action will fail unless you have the competence and ability to lead," he proclaimed.

This provoked the longest and liveliest discussion to occur on the floor of the convention. Many female delegates, and one male, spoke about the proven ability of women and members of oppressed nationalities to lead the union. They called for affirmative action in deeds, not just words.

The pro-affirmative-action resolution passed, but when it came time to elect the new GEB, no new women or members of oppressed nationalities were on the official slate and no further nominations were made.

Resolutions on civil rights included affirming the union's support for racial justice and calling for legislation to make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

Another resolution taking note of the August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom was also passed as part of a report on resolutions. The march, however, was not referred to — just the number of the resolution was mentioned — so many delegates were unaware it passed.

In other elections at the convention Chaikin was returned to the office of president. Jay Mazur was elected secretary-treasurer. Mazur was nominated by Chaikin, who took the opportunity to announce that this would be his last term as president before retiring, and that he intended for Mazur to succeed him in the top post.

There were three resolutions presented that called for membership ratification of contracts — from the Scranton, Pennsylvania District Council; Pittston, Pennsylvania, Local 295; and one from Reading, Pennsylvania, Local 93. These and many other resolutions that would benefit the union were referred to the GEB rather than being put to a vote of the convention.

Strikingly absent from the convention was discussion of the U.S. government's

drive to war in Central America and the devastating effects this is having on working people's standard of living.

Most garment workers would agree that military spending is one of the big problems; that money is needed for jobs and not war. In fact, this would be a campaign worth organizing around instead of the time, money, and energy the union now spends on the anti-imports campaign.

But such a campaign would fly in the face of the union leadership's longstanding policy of support to the U.S. government's foreign policy. The anti-imports campaign fits in with that policy of tying garment workers' interests to those of the bosses and the government that serves them.

Thus, most of the foreign policy resolutions passed by the convention were decidedly against the interests of the workers, serving to weaken the union.

They included support for Israel for its "efforts toward peace in the Middle East."

The convention also reaffirmed strong support for the activities of the American Institute for Free Labor Development in Latin America (AIFLD) and its counterparts in other parts of the world. AIFLD's support to "free trade unionism" in colonial countries has proven itself to be nothing but a vehicle for the CIA to destabilize and destroy unions.

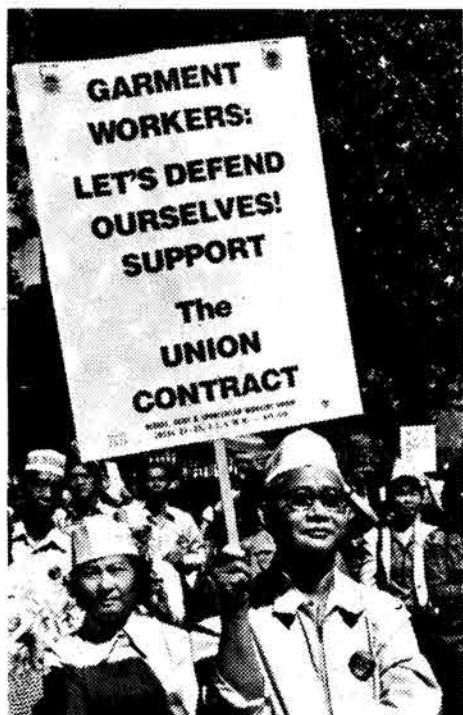
While the top leadership of the ILGWU has a long history of partnership with the U.S. government in these antiworker programs, there is a growing awareness and opposition to this in the union and labor movement as a whole.

The convention also passed a resolution urging the present government of El Salvador to intensify its efforts to control the military forces allied to the right-wing death squads, continue a true land reform program, and asked the U.S. government to monitor the progress of the development of true democracy in El Salvador.

The union leadership's stand on foreign policy, like its anti-imports campaign and continued reliance on capitalist politicians, serves to weaken the ILGWU at a time when a strong, militant union is needed more than ever by garment workers.

The course pursued by the ILGWU leadership does not reflect the interests of the union's membership. In a limited fashion those interests found a way to come to the surface at this convention, most notably in the push for affirmative action and solidarity. As the ferment among garment workers grows, a new generation of working-class fighters, like those who led the heroic struggle in Chinatown, will find the means to bring the policies of the union in harmony with the class-struggle needs of the membership.

Wendy Lyons is a laid-off New Jersey garment worker.



Chinatown struggle pointed way to fight back.



# 'Only you can prevent forests'

## U.S. tries to hide dioxin's effects

BY WILL REISSNER

More than a decade after the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam, that war continues to take its toll of casualties in the United States and Australia as well as in Vietnam.

In the one year between February 1982 and 1983, U.S. veterans made 369,000 visits to Veterans Administration hospitals for treatment of diseases that are thought to be related to exposure to Agent Orange and other defoliants sprayed on Vietnam. Some 9,400 veterans were sick enough to require hospitalization.

The long arm of the Vietnam War has also reached into Australia. On May 14, the Australian government announced that it would begin an inquiry into claims by Australian troops who had fought in Vietnam that their health had been damaged by exposure to chemical defoliants like Agent Orange.

U.S. and Australian veterans can trace their current health problems back to a building stuck away in a corner of Saigon's giant Tan Son Nhut Airfield. That building housed the U.S. Air Force's Operation Ranch Hand, and the motto over the door succinctly explained the program's aim: "Only You Can Prevent Forests."

In Operation Ranch Hand, huge areas of South Vietnam were sprayed with plant killers to destroy the forests in which guerrillas might hide and to kill the crops of peasants

who supported the guerrillas.

In four minutes flat, one Ranch Hand spray plane could kill everything green in an area of 300 acres. The scope of the program was staggering. More than a half dozen planes sprayed defoliants on South Vietnam six days a week for 11 years.

According to Pentagon figures, the planes dropped 72 million liters of defoliants — Agent Orange, Agent White, and Agent Blue — on South Vietnam between 1961 and 1971 (with the bulk of it dropped between 1967 and 1970).

High concentrations of these plant killers were sprayed on 43 percent of South Vietnam's agricultural acreage and on 44 percent of its forest land.

All the while, the Pentagon regularly issued statements saying that the defoliants caused no lasting damage to the environment and were perfectly safe for humans.

For example, a 1967 book, *Air War-Vietnam* blandly stated: "It is good to report that the defoliant used by Ranch Hand does not permanently sterilize the soil. The climate and rainfall in Vietnam is such that trees and plants grow back rapidly, so that no permanent damage will be done by this operation."

This turned out to be completely false. A 1974 study by the National Academy of Sciences pointed to long-term destruction of South Vietnam's ecology from the



Jackfruit orchard in Vietnam: food production destroyed by U.S. defoliation.

spraying. Describing the effects of defoliation on the huge mangrove forests, the study reported: "It is estimated that these forests will not spontaneously recover for well nigh a century, if at all."

In 1979, the President's Council on Environmental Quality described TCDD, or dioxin as it is usually called, as "one of the most toxic substances ever studied." The council found that dioxin caused cancer in test animals when as little as 2.2 parts per billion were added to their diet. To get an

idea of how small a concentration that is, it would be equivalent to 2.2 seconds out of 31.7 years!

Through a suit filed by a group of U.S. veterans in January 1979, it was discovered that the manufacturers of Agent Orange knew about the serious dioxin contamination at least two years before the big step-up in Operation Ranch Hand in 1967.

The veterans charge that the dioxin in Agent Orange was a cause of cancer and other diseases among their number and had resulted in the birth of severely deformed children. They learned that representatives of four U.S. chemical companies had met in 1965 to discuss how to cover up the existence of dioxin in their herbicides.

The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, Michigan. One of the participants, Dr. John Frawley, chief toxicologist for the Hercules Powder Co., then wrote a memo about the discussion.

Frawley's memo reported that the Dow laboratories had found large amounts of dioxin in the herbicides manufactured by these companies and was worried that "if the Government learns about this the whole industry will suffer. They [Dow] are particularly fearful," the memo continued, "of a Congressional investigation and excessive restrictive legislation on the manufacture of pesticides which might result."

Victor Yannacone, an attorney handling the veterans' lawsuit, described the 1965 meeting as "a conspiracy of silence."

But that conspiracy of silence continues. To this day the U.S. Veterans Administration denies that any health problems were caused by exposure to Agent Orange. In fact, until 1982, U.S. veterans were ineligible for treatment in VA hospitals for ailments attributed to defoliants. It took the passage of a special law in 1981, under tremendous pressure from the 2.8 million U.S. Vietnam veterans, to change that.

From Intercontinental Press

## N. Jersey: legacy of Agent Orange

BY PHIL NORRIS

NEWARK — "It's really got me scared. I have two daughters afraid to go outside. I'm afraid to eat vegetables from the garden or hang my clothes outside."

This was the response of Calden, a Black woman who lives in the Roosevelt Housing Project, to the June 2 announcement that large concentrations of dioxin have been found at an abandoned plant close to where she lives in the Ironbound section of Newark.

People here are afraid and they are angry. The state of New Jersey was told by the federal government about the dioxin at this site nearly three years ago. Neither has done anything about it.

Dioxin levels as high as 1,200 parts per billion were found at the abandoned plant, which was operated by the Diamond Shamrock Corp. This is higher than the levels at Times Beach, Missouri, whose entire population was relocated by the government.

Dioxin is an ingredient in and a by product from Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the U.S. military against the people of Vietnam (see story this page).

It is one of the most toxic substances known. Levels as low as one part per billion are considered hazardous to humans. It is known to cause chloracne, an extreme form of acne, and damages the liver and nervous system. It causes cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals.

The dioxin levels at Ironbound are the highest publicly acknowledged in New Jersey, which has as many as 40 other sites that may contain dioxin. The second worst is in Edison, about 20 miles southwest of

Newark. The Edison site was operated by the Chemical Insecticides Corp., like Diamond Shamrock, a producer of Agent Orange for use in Vietnam.

Toxic waste is nothing new to the working people of New Jersey. The state leads the nation with 65 toxic waste sites of the 418 listed by the Environmental Protection Agency for federal cleanup financing.

Chemical companies large and small have reaped huge profits while dumping their waste products wherever they can. Some of the toxic dumps are huge, like that of Chemical Control Corp. of Elizabeth, where 50,000 barrels of toxic wastes caught fire in April 1980.

More dumps are found almost weekly. Last April 11, more than a million pounds of toxic chemicals were discovered in a warehouse that burned on Newark's Thomas Street.

Many companies don't even bother with their wastes at these dumps. They just dump them down the sewer, which was what the Research Organic/Inorganic Chemical Corp. of Belleville was recently caught doing.

(Among the chemicals found at the plant, according to the town attorney, was mustard gas, a poisonous gas widely used

during World War I and since outlawed for military use. The army removed the gas in late May, he said.)

And more companies, like At Sea Incineration, are planning on building new toxic waste dumps.

Working people do not take this endangering of their lives and well-being with indifference. Their anger was expressed recently at a meeting presided over by Newark Mayor Kenneth Gibson, a Black Democrat. Gibson had police at each of the microphones at the meeting, which was attended by 250 people, most of them Black.

One man said, "I've been fighting you [Gibson] for six years about waste, and you've done nothing." He was carried out by Gibson's cops.

When Gibson claimed he was concerned, another man said, "No one believes you, Mr. Gibson. I've been sucking up chemicals 20 years."

The connection between the poisoning of Newark and Vietnam is not lost on people here. One woman told the *Militant* that dioxin "was made for Vietnam. I had some friends there, and they had nothing to do with that war. They were forced into it. My daughters won't fight; I'll send them out of the country."

## Vietnam investigates chemical poisoning

While the Dow Chemical Co., with one of the best-equipped research laboratories in the world, and the U.S. Veterans Administration, with its huge resources, offer only public relations campaigns and cover-ups, Vietnam has taken the lead in sponsoring research to determine the effects of defoliants on the environment and on humans.

To that end, Vietnam sponsored an "International Symposium on the Lasting Consequences on Man and Nature of the Herbicides and Defoliants used in Vietnam during the American War." The conference, attended by more than 140 scientists and researchers from 21 countries and various United Nations organizations, took place in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) January 14-19, 1983. Seventy-two scientific papers were presented at the gathering.

The massive use of defoliants and herbicides on Vietnam's forests has had severe long-term effects, according to papers presented at the conference. These include soil erosion caused by tropical downpours on denuded land, impoverishment of the soil

through loss of organic matter, and extensive laterization (hardening) of the soil as a result of the loss of ground cover.

In addition, harmful products of the breakdown of defoliants, such as organic arsenic and other poisonous substances, can still be found in soil samples.

The conference noted that in many areas rich forests were turned into extensive savannas of wild grasses that are of little economic use and are susceptible to raging dry-season fires.

Many varieties of animal life have disappeared from the sprayed areas, while the rodent population has greatly expanded, causing outbreaks of diseases such as bubonic plague.

The disappearance of vegetation cover over large areas was also found to have made significant changes in climate, with increased temperature differences between the seasons and between day and night and increased evaporation from stripped areas.

The conference found that "transforming these savannas and building them into economic zones, areas for agricultural cultivation and reforestation, are difficult

problems, the solution of which is far beyond the present abilities of the Vietnamese people."

This conclusion confirms what the National Academy of Sciences reported to the U.S. Congress in 1974, while the war was still going on. That report concluded that "it is also clear that [the] Vietnamese effort to cope with the consequences of herbicide use will require financial and technical support from the United States. This should include the necessary funds, training for Vietnamese workers, the lending of technical and professional personnel as needed, and the supplying of equipment."

No such aid has been forthcoming, however. In fact, the Ford, Carter, and Reagan administrations have all followed a policy of bleeding Vietnam and seeking to hold back its economic recovery.

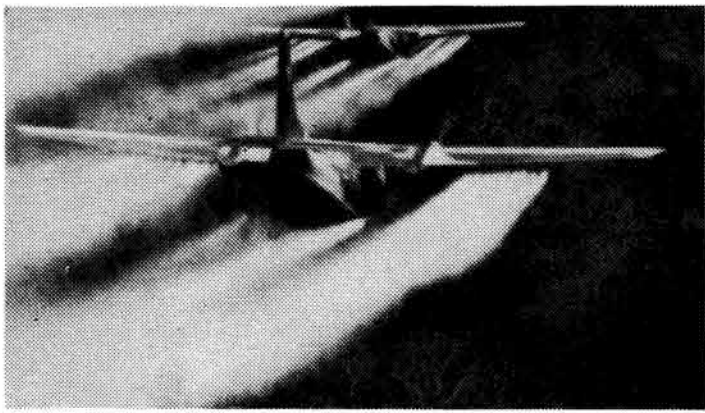
The second focus of the conference was on the effect of dioxin on human beings. The gathering noted that "so long as the war lasted, any systematic research in the theatre of operations itself was out of the question."

Continued on next page



Ironbound Voices  
Protesting dioxin in New Jersey





Operation Ranch Hand: the real chemical warfare in Indochina

# 'Yellow rain': a fake from start to finish

Anti-Vietnam slander campaign stung

BY FRED FELDMAN

For several years the U.S. government and much of the media have insisted that Vietnam was using chemical weapons in Laos and Kampuchea, and that the Soviet Union was doing the same in Afghanistan.

Soviet and Vietnamese pilots were said to be spraying a mysterious new chemical agent called "yellow rain" — yellow droplets containing poisons called mycotoxins — on defenseless villagers. The mycotoxins are produced by a fungus called fusaria.

According to top State Department officials, the poison causes vomiting and hemorrhaging, and can result in death within an hour. The victims numbered in the thousands, the government declared.

There was no possible natural origin for "yellow rain," the State Department insisted. These fungi did not occur naturally in Indochina. Thus, "yellow rain" could only have been produced in the Soviet Union and sprayed in violation of international agreements barring the use of such weapons.

Hanoi and Moscow emphatically denied the charges. And United Nations investigations found no evidence that confirmed the use of the weapons.

Now, thanks to a Harvard scientist, we know — almost for sure — what "yellow rain" is. It's bee excrement.

Before going into what the scientist found out, let's review Washington's efforts to prove its case.

## Background to 'yellow rain' charge

After Washington officially endorsed the "yellow rain" charges in September 1981, a State Department official was assigned to collect evidence. With the full resources of the U.S. government and its allies in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan, this is what he turned up:

A leaf, some soil samples, and pond water — all reportedly from a single village in Kampuchea; several sets of rock scrapings from Laos; some blood samples; and a Soviet gas mask said to have been found in Afghanistan. (The State Department says it has a second gas mask but hasn't produced it publicly.)

Small amounts of mycotoxin were found on these samples.

In nearly two years of evidence-gathering, not a single chemical-weapon shell casing has been retrieved. Not a single death has been shown by physical evidence to be caused by these toxins.

And on this basis, Washington declared that it had proven that Vietnam and the

Soviet Union were carrying out chemical warfare on a massive scale, with thousands of casualties.

From the beginning, independent scientific investigations pointed to flaws and contradictions in the State Department's case for "yellow rain" as a chemical weapon. The *New York Times* — which always doubted that the administration could put over this propaganda effort — noted one on June 3:

"The administration's thesis stumbles from the outset on the fact that yellow rain contains far too little mycotoxin to make a useful weapon."

Scientists noted that the poisons in "yellow rain" — even in gigantic concentrations — would not cause the symptoms described by the State Department reports. Others noted that there was no explanation of how "yellow rain" gets into the human body, since it cannot be inhaled and there are no reports that it sticks to the skin.

They disproved the claim that fusaria, the fungus that the State Department says produces the "yellow rain" mycotoxin, is unknown in Southeast Asia. They challenged the claim that "yellow rain" could only have been produced in the Soviet Union.

The blood samples were typical of the contradictions that the State Department evidence hunters get caught in. Eliot Marshall, who supports the government case, described finding significant amounts of the fungal toxin T-2 in the blood of alleged victims, 18 days after a supposed "yellow rain" attack.

But T-2 always disappears rapidly from the blood of laboratory animals. Dr. Chester Mirocha, a University of Minnesota specialist, found this "surprising and somewhat disturbing." He said it was "believed to be unlikely" that such "toxins would be detectable in blood 72 or 96 hours after an attack."

The same toxin was found on the Soviet gas mask more than a year after it was reportedly found in Afghanistan.

"You might make the claim that one or two samples might be spiked," Frederick Celec, the State Department's "yellow rain" evidence coordinator, conceded at one point. "But now we have samples from a number of sources."

## 'People we can rely on'

Washington's sources inspired as much doubt as the evidence itself. They were:

- Khmer Rouge forces, who were responsible for millions of deaths when they ruled Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979.

- Supporters of a mercenary army organized in Laos by the CIA and now operating out of Thailand. This outfit has been deeply involved in the international heroin trade.

- Ultrarightist Afghan groups, which are also involved in heroin dealing and hope for more arms from Washington.

- Amos Townsend, a former air force colonel and chemical war specialist who is collaborating with the right-wing bands near the Kampuchean border.

- And *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, which caters to the tastes of real and would-be anticommunist mercenaries.

"What company is the [State] Department keeping?" complained the *New York Times*, embarrassed by the obviously unsavory character of Washington's witnesses.

Celec responded firmly to suggestions that such sources might mishandle or fake "evidence":

"The people collecting these samples did so under instructions and under training and are the kind of people we can rely on."

The latest blow to the big-lie campaign on "yellow rain" stemmed from the work of Dr. Mathew Meselson, a biochemistry professor at Harvard and con-

sultant to the government on chemical and biological weapons.

He and other scientists had noticed that "yellow rain" samples contained pollen. The State Department specialists argued that it must have been added by the Soviet manufacturers.

But Meselson kept wondering about that pollen, and about that yellow coloration.

On June 1 the *New York Times* reported that Meselson was advancing the "strong hypothesis" that "yellow rain" was bee excrement. He had compared "yellow rain" samples with bee excrement found on a leaf in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and on a car in the Harvard parking lot. They were very similar.

Meselson and four other scientists issued a joint statement endorsing his findings.

So that explains the yellow color and the pollen. But what about the "rain?"

Dr. Thomas Seeley, an expert on the bees of Southeast Asia who cosigned the statement had a plausible answer.

The *New York Times* reported: "Dr. Seeley said the honeybees found in Southeast Asia . . . collect pollen from a wide variety of flowering plants and bring it to the nest where young bees consume it for protein and fat. . . ."

"Every so often, the bees take a 'cleansing flight,' he said, and drop the excrement in roughly a 50-yard radius of the nest. A single tree will typically contain 100,000 bees and an occasional tree will have more than a million bees . . . providing plenty of bees to spray yellow spots on the vegetation and ground nearby."

Meselson did not exclude that the toxins found in "yellow rain" might be evidence of chemical warfare. But he suggested an alternative explanation as reported in the *Times*.

"One possibility, he suggested, was that spores from fungi found in Southeast Asia might float through the air and land on the bee droppings, where they grew and produced toxins. No one has studied that possibility, Dr. Meselson said, but traces of fungus have been found in the spots associated with alleged yellow rain attacks in Southeast Asia and in bee droppings in Cambridge, and the fungi in Southeast Asia are known to produce toxins though not necessarily the mycotoxins found in yellow rain."

Last May, the Australian Defence Ministry found that one sample of "yellow rain" was pollen contaminated by fusaria, a fungus that produces the toxins.

The toxins might then be taken into the body when vegetation or crops were eaten, possibly explaining the presence of mycotoxins in the blood of individuals who, as Meselson put it, "the State Department identified as victims of chemical attack."

## Trying to brazen it out

State Department officials have responded by trying to brazen it out. One official dismissed Meselson's study as "the great bee caper."

Probably the call will go out to the Khmer Rouge mass murderers, the Laotian heroin dealers, and *Soldier of Fortune* magazine for more "proof" — on the double!

The government that engineered the "yellow rain" fraud knows a thing or two about chemical warfare. It devastated the Indochinese countryside for a decade with poisonous defoliants, including 11 million gallons of Agent Orange.

The storm of lies about "yellow rain" helps Washington to divert attention from that proven crime. And it is an attempt to soften up public opinion for even more monstrous crimes — including U.S. chemical warfare — in the new Vietnam that is getting under way in Central America.

## Vietnam's poison investigation

Continued from preceding page

After the end of the war in 1975, however, more thorough surveys were done of the population in the South and those in the North who had been exposed to herbicides in the South. Control groups were also studied in both regions.

The research has been hampered, however, by Vietnam's poverty and underdevelopment. The conference noted that such research requires "sophisticated techniques and abundant material if significant results were to be gathered. This means that the research work so far conducted in a country which has suffered from decades of war must be carried on with ever closer international cooperation."

The conference heard some tentative conclusions derived from the work already carried out by Vietnamese researchers.

Vietnamese scientists have found a "statistically significant rate of anomalies" in the genetic material of people exposed to defoliants. Moreover, significant genetic damage was also found in the children of mothers who had been exposed to defoliants long before pregnancy. As a result, a study indicated, "there is good reason to think that defoliants not only have noxious effects on the present generation but also present dangerous consequences for future generations."

Studies in the North and South indicated that chemical warfare led to "a visible in-

crease in the rate of abnormal pregnancies and congenital malformations in the affected areas, and this action persisted long after the defoliant sprayings."

Studies also indicated that the incidence of liver cancer is five times higher in those exposed to herbicide sprayings than in the nonexposed population. The report notes that "there is strong reason to think that dioxin is a possible cause of liver cancer. More studies are being undertaken to clarify the problem."

Vietnamese participants also reported that the general health of populations in sprayed areas is worse than in nonsprayed areas. They cautioned, however, that "there remain to be elucidated the direct cause-effect links between the various chemicals and the symptoms and disorders observed."

They added that to solve these scientific and practical problems, Vietnam "needs considerable technical and financial means. Effective international assistance and cooperation are indispensable."

Vietnam veterans in the United States and Australia owe a debt of gratitude to the Vietnamese scientists, who are researching the effects of dioxin under difficult conditions and with few resources. Their efforts stand in marked contrast to the callous cover-up by U.S. chemical companies and government agencies. — W.R.



Vietnam veterans demonstrate for funding of New Jersey's Agent Orange Comission. Vietnam investigates dioxin's effects; U.S. government continues cover-up.



# Lawsuit exposes FBI, cop role in beating of Freedom Riders

BY HARRY RING

"You may ask: Will we enforce the civil rights statutes? The answer is: Yes, we will . . . enforce them vigorously." — Attorney General Robert Kennedy at a Law Day ceremony at the University of Georgia, May 6, 1961.

That pious assurance was offered eight days before the Ku Klux Klan savagely beat a group of civil-rights activists in Birmingham and Anniston, Alabama.

The Klan attack, May 14, 1961, was staged with the cooperation of local and state police.

The FBI had detailed advance knowledge of the plan and did nothing to prevent it. To the contrary, it aided the racist conspirators.

Acting with full authorization, a paid FBI informer played a key role in planning and carrying through the Klan assault.

These facts were reconfirmed and amplified in a recent trial before U.S. District Judge Richard Enslen in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In a May 28 opinion, Enslen ruled he would award damages to Walter Bergman and to the estate of Bergman's late wife, Frances, two of the victims of the FBI-police-Klan conspiracy.

Enslen also denied the government the right to present a defense in the case after the government illegally defied a court order to produce informer files relevant to the case. (See story this page.)

Bergman, now 83, and his wife had filed a \$2-million damage suit in 1977.

## Freedom Riders

They were part of a team of Freedom Riders organized in the spring of 1961 by the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE). The Freedom Riders set out to test Supreme Court rulings desegregating interstate buses and bus stations.

The Court had ruled that Blacks could not be compelled by law, as they had been in the South, to ride in the back of the bus. Nor could they any longer be compelled to use separate, and far less than equal, eating, waiting room and toilet facilities in southern bus depots.

Riding Greyhound and Trailways buses, two interracial groups of Freedom Riders seated themselves without regard to Jim Crow "custom," and tried to use depot facilities the same way.

The first major assault on them occurred in Anniston, Alabama. Those on the Greyhound bus, which arrived there first, found a waiting gang of KKKers, armed

## Black farmers fight foreclosure in N. Carolina

Black farmers in Halifax County, North Carolina, have formed an organization to help small farmers facing foreclosure from the Farm Home Administration (FmHA) and other lenders, according to *American Agriculture News*.

A news release from the Halifax County Committee to Save Minority Owned Land notes, "Land loss by minority owners has reached crisis proportions. Approximately 10 minority farms in Halifax County are sold out each year. With an average size of 50 acres, this represents a loss of 500 acres per year."

Between 1974 and 1978 the number of minority-owned farms in the county "declined from 258 to 206," the release says, for a 20 percent decrease in four years.

The main reason for the decline is lack of financing for operating expenses. "Between 1975 and 1979 the cost of production for North Carolina farmers increased 33 percent. At the same time, net farm income increased only 1 percent."

During the same years there was an increase of 81 percent in interest owed on mortgages on Black-owned farms.

The committee is establishing a revolving fund to be available to Black farmers in the county, with a goal of \$100,000 by December.

with chains, clubs, and baseball bats.

The Freedom Riders stayed on the bus. With one of its tires slashed, the bus left town. It was accompanied by several cars of KKKers and a police "escort" which split at the edge of town.

About four miles out of town, the driver stopped to repair the nearly flat tire.

The Klansmen hurled a firebomb through a bus window and then tried to hold the door shut to "roast" the Freedom Riders. Then, fearing the bus might explode, they backed off and the passengers got off the burning bus.

One Freedom Rider was clubbed and state highway cops then on the scene dispersed the crowd. But they made no arrests.

The Freedom Riders got to a local hospital where they were again surrounded by a vicious gang.

The situation was saved when the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a resolute Black rights fighter from Birmingham, arrived with a large group of supporters and escorted the besieged Freedom Riders to Birmingham.

The second group, on the Trailways bus, did not fare as well.

As they rode from Atlanta to Anniston, they were aware there were only a few other passengers on the bus and these were hostile, burly whites.

At Anniston they were met by the armed KKKers. Local cops, and a man who identified himself as FBI, boarded the bus.

The driver told the Freedom Riders if they didn't segregate themselves he would not continue to Birmingham.

The cops left the bus and, as they stood outside, the racists on board unleashed a merciless attack. Using brass knuckles and clubs, they systematically beat the trapped Freedom Riders.

Walter Bergman, already in his 60s, came from the back of the bus to try to help some of those being attacked.

Knocked to the floor of the bus, he was stomped and beaten around the face, head, shoulders and back until he lost consciousness. His wife called vainly from a bus window for police assistance.

Bergman was permanently crippled and gave his court testimony from a wheelchair.

When the beatings stopped, an Anniston cop stepped into the doorway and said, "I didn't see anything, I can't prove nothing, anyone want to swear out a warrant?"

The thugs forced the bloodied Freedom Riders to the back of the bus which then proceeded to Birmingham.

At the Trailways station there, another gang of KKKers was waiting, armed with baseball bats and lengths of pipe.

TV newscaster Howard K. Smith was on the scene. He had been given an advance tip by the head of the National States' Rights Party, a racist outfit. According to Smith, there wasn't a cop in sight.

Peck and a Black Freedom Rider, Charles Person, stepped off the bus to test the Supreme Court decision.

They were set upon and again savagely beaten.

Then, according to Howard Smith, at a signal the hoodlums jumped into waiting cars and split. Moments later the cops reappeared.

The Freedom Riders made their way to a church where medical help was obtained.

## FBI role

The collusion between the KKK and the cops was apparent. But the involvement of the FBI was not fully disclosed until more than a decade later.

Part of the story came out in 1965 after four Klansmen murdered Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit civil rights worker, on an Alabama highway.

In the prosecutions that followed, two of the four were convicted of violating Liuzzo's civil rights and did six years.

Testifying against them was one of their partners in the murder, one Gary Rowe. Rowe testified he had been an FBI plant in the KKK and had "pretended" to participate in the murder to avoid blowing his cover.

(Recently, Liuzzo's children also sued the government for damages. But in that

case the judge handed down a decision that the FBI had no legal responsibility to act to save Liuzzo's life. And, to put the frosting on that piece of cake, he ordered the murdered woman's family to pay the government's court costs!)

In 1975, in the wake of the Watergate revelations, a Senate committee on government spying heard testimony from Rowe. He told some of what happened to the Freedom Riders. More came out as a result of lawsuits.

The FBI recruited Rowe as a paid informer in 1960.

In the Klan, Rowe quickly rose through the ranks. In part, according to Judge Enslen, this was due to "his close connections with the Birmingham Police Department."

Rowe told the FBI that a Sgt. Thomas Cook of the Birmingham police force had provided the KKK with information from police files and had offered to shield KKKers from prosecution.

Rowe even arranged a secret meeting between Birmingham Police Commissioner "Bull" Connor, a notorious racist, and Robert Shelton, "Imperial Wizard" of the Alabama Klan. Connor arranged to keep the cops off the street for 15 minutes while the KKK did its work on the Freedom Riders.

Well before the Freedom Riders reached Alabama, Rowe reported to the FBI that Sgt. Cook had advised him the KKK would work with the Birmingham cops and Alabama highway police to prepare a reception for the rights workers.

## 'Beat, bomb, maim'

Rowe quoted Cook as saying that the plan was to "beat, bomb, maim or kill" them.

Five days before the attack, Attorney General Robert "We will enforce the law" Kennedy was informed that Sgt. Cook was furnishing Rowe with information from police files for use by the KKK.

Three days before the attack, Rowe reported on a Klan meeting where plans to stop the Freedom Riders were finalized.

## Gov't won't divulge informer files

In deciding the Bergman case, Judge Enslen imposed a sanction on the government for illegally refusing to produce documents when ordered to do so.

The government takes the stand that it will not disclose any files relating to the informers used by the FBI and other secret political police agencies.

The pretext is that such disclosure could jeopardize the safety of the informers, and the informer program itself.

This is a hoax.

The real reason is that the informer program can't stand the light of day.

Exposure would confirm that spying is but one aspect of an informer's work. Informers act to disrupt, to provoke, and to try to frame up and entrap.

They also help to murder.

An FBI informer in the Black Panther Party helped set up the Chicago police murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

Within right-wing and racist outfits, informers are good members. Federal and local informers were involved in the KKK murder of five Communist Workers Party members in Greensboro, North Carolina.

And, of course, there's Gary Rowe.

Scoring the government's defiance, Judge Enslen said he was skeptical that it was really concerned about the informer issue in a case 22 years old.

"I began to muse," he said, "whether the government was really as concerned about informers as it was about shadows of a deeper hue."

Enslen ducked holding the administration in contempt of court, opining that this "would simply serve to create a public spectacle."

Instead, he ruled that the government could not challenge evidence presented by the plaintiffs and declared, "I will presume that the undisclosed documents contain facts which corroborate Plaintiffs' evi-



Walter Bergman, Freedom Rider crippled by 1961 Klan attack, enters Michigan courtroom for trial in his lawsuit against government.

What was Rowe's role in the attack? Simply "gathering information" for the FBI?

Not according to Judge Enslen.

He found: "a portion of the plan required Rowe to stay in close telephone communication with [Sgt.] Cook from the bus terminal, to assure that the timing of the assault was carried out smoothly."

Judge Enslen declared that the FBI role served "to assist the conspirators in carrying out their criminal actions: i.e., the FBI authorized and approved the actions of its informant Rowe and provided critical information to Birmingham Police Sgt. Cook despite the Bureau's knowledge that Cook was intimately involved in the conspiracy and would use the information to aid the conspiracy."

Or, to put it more plainly, the FBI was part of the conspiracy.

## Reagan's War on Women's Rights



by Margaret Jayko

38 pp., \$ .95

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# Puerto Rico: U.S. Caribbean fortress

BY ROBERTO KOPEK

The following are major excerpts from an article in the June 13 issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*.

In mid-April the U.S. government reaffirmed its use of Puerto Rico as a springboard for military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean when it revealed that the U.S. Air Force plans to reactivate Ramey Air Force Base in Aguadilla.

Until 1973, Ramey Air Force Base, now known as Punta Borinquen, was the Caribbean headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Air Command. At its height it was home to more than 30 B-52 bombers carrying nuclear weapons.

According to the April 27 issue of the daily *San Juan Star*, the Air Force has stated that for now Ramey Air Force Base will only be used for periodic training exercises, but "other sources have said that ultimately the base will be used on a permanent basis by the Air Force for reconnaissance planes and even possibly for fighters."

A secret Pentagon document recently revealed to the press indicates that the use of the Ramey base is of "critical" importance for "the accomplishment of the mission" of the U.S. Air Force in the Caribbean, according to the *Star*.

This "mission" is to contain the revolutionary upsurge in the region. The document in question refers to the plan to rehabilitate the Ramey base as the "Borinquen Initiative."

Among the reasons given for its implementation were "Cuba's growing military capability" and the "Soviet-Cuban growing presence in Grenada." Also cited was the "vulnerability of sea lanes and vital U.S. installations in Panama and Puerto Rico and the need to build up USAF capability to conduct maritime operations to protect those interests," as well as the "need for power projection and airlift for long-range operations into the South Atlantic and Africa."

## Nicaragua and Grenada targeted

The references to Cuban "military capability" and the "Soviet-Cuban growing presence in Grenada" only serve as a pretext and hide a deeper motivation. As the April 25 *San Juan Star* indicates: "the Central American situation is worsening monthly, and the Reagan administration is fearful that other countries will go the way of Nicaragua."

Both Nicaragua and the Caribbean island of Grenada have revolutionary governments that defend the interests of the workers and farmers, and are therefore targets of Washington's military escalation in the area.

Ever since U.S. troops took over Puerto Rico in 1898 and turned it into a colony, the island has served as a virtual floating U.S. fortress in the Caribbean, and as a launching pad for military interventions into the countries of the region. The CIA-organized mercenary invasion of Guatemala in 1954, which overthrew the elected government of Jacobo Arbenz, was launched from Puerto Rico. The naval blockade of Cuba in 1962 was coordinated

## Wis. antiwar activists picket at Dems' mtg.

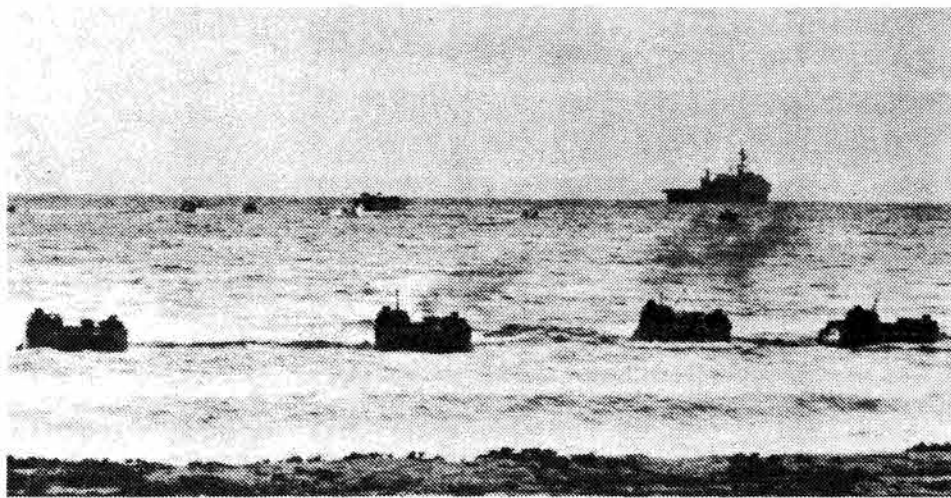
MILWAUKEE — On June 10 more than 50 people picketed the Pfister Hotel here, site of the state Democratic Party convention, which opened that night.

The Central America Solidarity Coalition called the emergency action to protest the expulsion of 21 Nicaraguan diplomats from the U.S. earlier that week.

As the convention delegates arrived at the hotel, the group chanted "Democratic Party, you should know, another Vietnam just won't go!" and "Reagan says 'Destabilize' we say 'Mobilize.'"

Several delegates joined the protest.

Many in the group carried signs opposing the U.S. in Central America. A large banner was displayed demanding "Bread for Nicaragua not guns for El Salvador."



Sandra Reus/Priscila Curet  
U.S. forces on amphibious maneuvers on Puerto Rican island of Vieques. Washington plans to use Puerto Rican bases in expanded U.S. war in Central America.

from the U.S. Roosevelt Roads Naval Base in Puerto Rico. And the invasion of the Dominican Republic by U.S. Marines in 1965 took off from Puerto Rico.

U.S. military installations occupy approximately 13 percent of Puerto Rico's territory. On Vieques, a small island to the east of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Navy has taken over nearly 75 percent of the land since World War II and now uses it, together with the surrounding waters, for naval gunnery practice.

Periodically Vieques is also used in war games, with the island's beaches playing the role of the "enemy" country invaded by thousands of U.S. Marines in amphibious landing operations.

In recent maneuvers of this type, the script followed by the Pentagon has made obvious references to Cuba and Grenada.

## Conscription and unemployment

Not only has the territory of Puerto Rico been taken over for the military aims of U.S. imperialism, but the lives of its inhabitants have been usurped to that end as well. In 1917 Washington imposed U.S. citizenship on the Puerto Rican people to facilitate their forcible induction into the armed forces when the United States entered World War I. Since then, more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have served in the U.S. Army. In Korea and Vietnam alone, more than 2,000 Puerto Ricans were killed.

Now Washington again wants to sacrifice Puerto Rican lives in a new war to further its imperialist aims.

In preparation for this war, in early February more than 200 members of the National Guard in Puerto Rico participated in U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers along

Honduras' border with Nicaragua.

The U.S. government and the colonial government of Puerto Rico claim that increased militarization of the island brings benefits to the Puerto Rican people in the form of better job opportunities and expanded commercial activity.

But the Vieques example clearly shows that the opposite is true. In Vieques the presence of the U.S. Navy has practically destroyed agriculture and threatens to destroy the fishing industry. It is true that a sector of the population of Vieques works for the navy or is in some way economically dependent on it. But that is because the navy itself has eliminated other possible sources of employment and impeded the growth of existing ones.

In reality, the colonial status of Puerto Rico is the cause of the grave economic crisis that the people of the island are suffering today. With 35 percent of the work force unemployed and 60 percent of the families dependent on welfare, this situation is being further aggravated by the cuts in social programs and other austerity measures imposed by the bosses and their government in Washington.

## Deep opposition to U.S. war moves

Greater militarization of Puerto Rico also means an increase in repression because of the government's need to control the popular opposition to its war plans and to maintain its colonial rule over the island.

Evidence of this escalation of repression has already been seen in the recent rash of jailings of independence supporters under the pretext of their noncooperation with federal grand juries.

The Puerto Rican people have a long his-

tory of resistance to U.S. military interventionism. Hundreds of youth went to jail for refusing to serve in U.S. wars when the military draft was still in effect.

Today, despite an unemployment rate of around 45 percent among Puerto Rican youth, which forces many young people to go into the military, tens of thousands have refused to register for the draft.

According to a survey done at the University of Puerto Rico by the Christian Students Federation (FEC) there, 26 percent of the students of registration age had not registered for the draft. The survey also revealed that 85 percent of the students were opposed to registration.

On the island of Vieques, for a number of years the fishermen, organized in the Crusade to Rescue Vieques, have carried out protest actions against naval maneuvers. On occasion they have been able to prevent the navy from carrying out gunnery practice.

## Proindependence movement

The proindependence movement is in the vanguard of the struggle in Puerto Rico against militarization and in solidarity with Central America and the Caribbean.

Rubén Berrios, chairman of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), recently described the reactivation of Ramey Air Force Base as a "provocation by the U.S. government against the international community and, particularly, against the Central American and Caribbean countries... leading to the militarization of Puerto Rico and of the Caribbean region."

In addition, the general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Carlos Gallisá, wrote an article in the PSP weekly *Claridad* denouncing "the infamous role as a military bastion" that the U.S. government has assigned to Puerto Rico "to launch and support U.S. military intervention in the region from our soil."

Gallisá made a call "to the progressive forces of the country" to "generate, both on the national and international levels, the most resolute campaign to expose and combat the plans for the militarization of Puerto Rico and the inclusion of Puerto Ricans in Washington's war plans."

The liberation of the Puerto Rican people would take away from the United States government a key element for maintaining its control over Central America and the Caribbean.

As Rubén Berrios stated in an interview with the *Nueva Voz* press service, "Real independence for Latin America will not come as long as there is no independence for Puerto Rico. Latin America cannot be free if Puerto Rico is not free."

# UAW local strikes war contractor

BY BOB BRUCE AND SONJA FRANETA

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — After nearly two months of negotiations, members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1155 voted 1,398-158 to reject the contract offer of Hayes International Corp. and to go out on strike. On the morning of June 6, about 40 pickets launched the strike at the plant's main gate.

Hayes International is a war industry contractor that repairs and rehabilitates military aircraft. It is presently Birmingham's largest industrial employer, with more than 2,000 workers.

Local 1155 is striking for increases in wages, retirement benefits, and for clarification of contract language. Clarification is seen as necessary to strengthen workers' protection on issues such as job classifications and duties and company policies on absenteeism and other employee records.

The local media here has done its share of portraying the workers at Hayes as ungrateful and overpaid, especially in light of the fact that Birmingham area unemployment stands at more than 13 percent.

But the strikers are not falling for this ploy to make it appear that they are somehow to blame for unemployment. As one striker said, "I guarantee you that if the unemployed people were in our shoes, they would do the same thing."

Also, the local media fails to point out that during the period leading up to the strike, Hayes itself has contributed to area unemployment by laying off about 100

workers and carrying out many punitive firings.

Hayes is proposing no real changes from the old contract and the union membership feels it deserves more. Inadequate contract agreements in the past were agreed to on the basis that Hayes and the aerospace industry were hurting. It was argued that if the union would give a little in hard times, then the company would return the favor in better times.

Hayes has recently posted its most profitable years ever, but the company is not

anxious to return the favor as it said it would be.

The company appears to be making no moves to negotiate. Workers here say they expect the strike to last six weeks or more, and the union membership seems willing to stay out for as long as necessary to be treated with respect and win a better contract.

Bob Bruce and Sonja Franeta are members of UAW Local 1155. Franeta is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Birmingham.

## SOUTH AFRICA

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# —THE GREAT SOCIETY—

**With justice for some** — Before the Allied Corp. took over Bendix, a "golden parachute" was arranged for the departing Bendix



**Harry Ring**

chairman, including \$4.1 million severance and a couple of million more in stock. Meanwhile, a fifth of the company's employees were

notified they'd probably be dropped from the rolls. No parachutes.

**They're going out of business?** — "Weinberger says fraud is being stopped in the Pentagon" — News headline.

**What about work clothes?** — Marshall Field's in Chicago is looking for a new chairman. The deal includes an up-front \$200,000 bonus, \$500,000 a year plus perks, and a possible cut on the profits.

**And get it too** — To solve a

sewage disposal problem, city officials in Fayette, Ark., decided to pump half of it into a river that flows along the edge of town. The city manager said the fast-running river should aerate the waste and, "If we do it right, I anticipate during dry spells people downstream will be asking for more of it."

**Sociology dep't** — After extensive research, a major ad agency has concluded that people are turned off by head-hammering commercials. The solution? Don't give up the hard sell, just add "feeling." The agency head sighed, "Ever since Nixon there

seems to be a disbelief in any statement that's empirical." The definition of empirical seems to have been extended to cover bull.

**A head without a brain. . . ?** — Feminist Flo Kennedy is generally credited with the aphorism, "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." In the May 22 *New York Times* it came out, "A woman without a husband is like a fish riding a bicycle."

**Moonlightin' minister** — Executives of the Playboy Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City took a dim view on learning the catering

department had leased a room to an antigambling bible thumper. His lease won't be renewed. Fortunately, the good reverend has a second job — chauffeuring high rollers to the city's casinos.

**Horses' best friend** — A horse-burger cart made a trial run in Manhattan and was generally well received. An enthusiastic company spokesperson noted that human consumption helps support horse prices, "so once the horse comes to the end of its useful life, it has some value." He further philosophized, "We're really in the used horse business."

## —CALENDAR—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Diego

**Nicaragua and the Defense of the Revolution.** Speakers: Virginia Garza, Socialist Workers Party delegate to recent Nicaraguan women's conference for peace. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 25, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

#### San Francisco

**Reconstruction and Defense in Nicaragua Today.** A slide show and talk by Marilee Taylor, member of Young Socialist Alliance and International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, just returned from Nicaragua. Presentation and discussion in Spanish. Sat., June 25, 7 p.m. 820 Treat St., Apt. 6. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**Harold Washington's Victory: a Discussion of the Black-Latino-Labor Coalition for the 1984 Elections. What Socialists Stand For.** Speaker: Stuart Crome, Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee. Sun., July 10, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Socialist Workers Congressional Campaign Rally.** Ed Warren, candidate for Congress, 1st District; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 25; reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. South Shore YMCA, 1833 E 71st St. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign for Congress. For more information call (312) 643-1166.

### MISSOURI

#### St. Louis

**Peace Conference to Mobilize Participation in August 27 March.** Panels and workshops. Keynote speakers: Dessima Williams, Gre-

nada's ambassador to Organization of American States; Rev. Sterling Lands, president, Missouri Association for Nonviolent Social Change in America (ANSCA). Sat., June 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kingdom House, 1321 S 11th St. Donation: \$3. For more information call ANSCA, (314) 721-2332.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Speakout Against Dioxin.** Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW MEXICO

#### Albuquerque

**Defend the Right to Political Asylum and Immigration! Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquín.** Speaker: Héctor Marroquín. Translation to Spanish. Wed., June 29, 7 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Struggle for Freedom in South Africa Today.** David Ndaba, representative, African National Congress. Fri., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Brooklyn and Manhattan Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445 or 852-7922.

**Casa Nicaragua Presents: The Atlantic Coast Speaks Out.** Speakers: Agustín Zambola, Garifono Indian, Capuchin priest; Ronald Dolores, chief of the Zumo tribe; Mildred Levy, Hazel Lau, Norma Fagoth Colomer, Sandoval Herrera, José Vaquedano, Miskito Indians; Roberto Vargas, Cultural Adjunct to the Nicaraguan Embassy, Washington, D.C. Sat., June 25, 6 p.m. 19 W 21st St., 2nd fl. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua.

**Orquesta Aragon, Los Bravos, Caridad**

**Cuervo: In Concert With Cuba.** Fri., July 15, 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Beacon Theater, 2124 Broadway (near 74th St.) Ausp: Caribe Productions Inc. For more information call: Box Office, (212) 874-1717; Chagrit, (212) 944-9300; or Ticketron, (212) 977-9020.

**Protest the U.S. War Against Nicaragua.** March and rally. Sat., July 16, 12 noon. Gather at Herald Square, 34th St. and Avenue of the Americas. Rally at 2 p.m. at Union Square, 14th Street. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 741-0633, 243-2678, or 242-1040.

**Celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** The Revolutionary Dance of the Summer — Direct from Nicaragua: Grupo Pancasan. Sat., July 16, 9 p.m. Martin Luther King Center Auditorium, Hospital and Health Care Workers District 1199, 310 W 43rd St. (near Eighth Ave.) Donation: \$10. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua.

**Picnic in Central Park to Celebrate the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Nicaraguan food, games, and fun. Grupo Pancasan. Sun., July 17, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. 88th St. and Central Park. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua.

### Schenectady

**The Unquiet Death of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg Film.** Fri., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 323 State St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 374-1494.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**Rally to Stop U.S. War in Central America: Fight Against Attacks on Workers, Blacks, and Women.** Grand opening of Militant Labor Bookstore. Speakers: Irvin Brisbon, president, Morningside Homes Resident Council; Irv Joyner, civil rights attorney, defended Wilmington 10; Andrew Mitchell, chairman, Stokes County NAACP; representative of General Union of Palestine Students; representative

of Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., June 25; reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 1400 Greenwood Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Bookstore. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

**Labor's Strategic Line of March: Revolutionary Continuity in the U.S.** A class series. 1) "Building the industrial unions," Sat., June 25, 2 p.m. 2) "Independent working-class political action," Sun., June 26, 10 a.m. 3) "Building a revolutionary party." Speaker: Dick McBride, member of Transport Workers Union Local 100 and National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 26, 1 p.m. 1400 Greenwood Ave. Donation: \$1 per class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

### OREGON

#### Portland

**Poetry and Social Protest.** Speaker: Jerry Baum, professor of English at Lewis and Clark College. Sun., June 26, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Harrisburg

**Poland: An Eyewitness Report.** Hear two socialist activists recently returned from Poland. Speakers: Katherine Sojourner and Clemens Bak. Wed., June 29, 7 p.m. 803 N 2nd St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (717) 234-5052.

Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$2.50 for 6 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.

## Frame-up of Bulgarians unravels in pope 'plot'

Continued from Page 3

able to pick the Bulgarian out of photos shown him by Italian police.

Agca described Antonov as having a beard and mustache. And sure enough, he has a mustache. But it has been proven that Antonov was clean shaven the entire time he was supposedly meeting with Agca. Antonov grew his mustache since Agca has been in solitary confinement.

Agca also claimed that he met with Antonov in the presence of Antonov's wife and daughter.

But Antonov's lawyers have presented conclusive evidence that Antonov's wife and daughter were in Yugoslavia at the time Agca says he was meeting with them in Rome. The evidence included passport and visa stamps and a motel registration, all authenticated by the Yugoslav government.

Agca further claimed that he met with another Bulgarian, Todor Aivazov, to plan the pope's murder. Agca even provided detailed descriptions of Aivazov's apartment, as well as his unlisted telephone number.

There are two problems with this story. First, Aivazov didn't have a telephone, listed or unlisted.

Second, Aivazov's apartment had been broken into four times while Agca was in prison. Nothing was taken in any of the break-ins, all of which were reported to the

police at the time. Is it unreasonable to suggest that Agca could have been coached on the description of the apartment by agents who had snuck in to take a look?

From day one, the so-called "Bulgarian connection" never stood up to close examination. But then it never got close examination in the big-business press.

It is worth recalling the few undeniable facts in the attempted murder of the pope.

Mehmet Ali Agca, a member of the ultraright Turkish Grey Wolves and National Action Party, went into St. Peter's Square in Rome on May 13, 1981, and shot the pope.

Previously he had been convicted of murdering a leftist journalist in Turkey and had escaped from a Turkish prison in November 1979, with the aid of members of the National Action Party.

Following his escape, Agca sent a letter to the Turkish newspaper *Milliyet*, threatening to assassinate the pope during John Paul II's 1979 visit to Turkey.

The "Bulgarian connection" was first raised in September 1982, more than a year after Agca was convicted of the attempted murder and sentenced to life in prison. *Readers Digest* published an article by long-time CIA-associated journalist Claire Sterling, who claimed to have discovered that the Bulgarian government was behind the shooting.

Sterling's biggest piece of evidence was the fact that Agca had spent several weeks in Bulgaria after escaping from his Turkish jail in 1979.

But that proves nothing. Agca did spend time in Bulgaria, on a false passport. But he also spent time in 11 other countries in the 15 months between his escape from jail and his attempt on the pope's life.

In Bulgaria, Agca would hardly stand out in a crowd. More than 2 million Turks pass through neighboring Bulgaria every year on their way to or from Western Europe.

Nor did the supposed Bulgarian motive make sense.

The theory put forward was that the Soviet Union wanted the pope killed because he was stirring up trouble in Poland. So the Soviet KGB told their loyal Bulgarian allies to get rid of the pope, and the Bulgarians used Agca as the hit man.

Left unexplained in this theory is why the Soviets would think the murder of a Polish pope would calm things down in Poland.

Even harder to understand is how Agca (and the Soviets and Bulgarians) knew in 1979 (when Agca first threatened to kill the pope) that a full year later the Gdansk shipyard workers would go on strike, sparking the birth of the Solidarity trade union

movement and the challenge to the Polish ruling bureaucracy.

Nor was there any explanation of why the Bulgarians would leave Antonov, supposedly the key figure in this "plot," in Rome selling airline tickets for a year and a half after Agca's arrest, just waiting to be picked up.

The "Bulgarian connection" has dissolved into the same thin air from which it was concocted. In this sense it is like the famous disappearing "Libyan hit squads," the nonexistent "Soviet combat brigade" in Cuba, "yellow rain," and so many other slanders against governments Washington doesn't like.

Although it was much ado about nothing, the "Bulgarian connection" story served a purpose. It bolstered Reagan's propaganda campaign branding the Soviet Union as the "focus of evil" in the world. Millions read of and heard about the charge. Far fewer know of its collapse.

The principle involved here is a timeless one. Throw enough mud, and some of it will stick.

With all the supposed evidence in shreds, Antonov remains in jail. Italian authorities are reluctant to release him because the moment the "Bulgarian connection" is finally put to rest, immediate questions are raised about the "Italian connection" in the frame-up of Antonov.



# Teamsters battle Pittsburgh union-busters

BY AL DUNCAN  
AND GAIL SKIDMORE

**PITTSBURGH** — Since April, Teamsters Local 609 has been waging a courageous fight against a union-busting drive by Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI).

Browning-Ferris is the largest refuse collection firm in the United States. In Pittsburgh, BFI customers include Allegheny County Airport and U.S. Steel Corp.

Teamster Local 609 represents drivers and helpers at the BFI plant here.

At the end of the midnight shift on March 31, the night the local's contract expired, BFI locked the unionized workers out.

By 3 a.m. the next day, one striker said, "drivers that the company had brought in from Nevada, Texas, Ohio, and elsewhere were out collecting trash."

"Only they had guards with them."

These drivers, according to shop steward Joe Wingerson, are used by BFI for the purpose of breaking unions at its plants

around the country.

On April 2 and 3 advertisements appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Press*. The ads stated that BFI was hiring permanent drivers to replace employees involved in a labor dispute.

Carl, a striker, told the *Militant*, "The company wanted this strike all along. We've known about their plans for weeks."

Long before the contract expired, BFI had reserved rooms for out-of-town strikebreakers at a local hotel. Furthermore, a unionist told us, "Two weeks prior to the contract deadline, Browning-Ferris salespeople and office personnel were riding with the drivers to learn the routes."

At the last minute, BFI came up with a "contract offer" that included a 35 percent cut in wages and other takebacks. (BFI profits increased by 29 percent last year.)

"If the company had gotten what they wanted, it would have been a \$4.30 cut in wages for me," said Art Knight, who has worked for BFI for seven years.

"I would not be able to meet my current bills, feed my five children, or pay for the

house I'm trying to buy."

The average wage at BFI is \$10.27 per hour.

The "offer" was rejected by the local, which offered to continue working under the old contract.

This proposal was answered by BFI's lockout of Local 609 and the union representing the mechanics, International Association of Machinists Local 1060. The mechanics have since returned to work under a new contract.

"At first, things didn't look too good for us," we were told by one striker.

This is the first strike ever by this Teamsters local of 115 members.

"But now, with all the support we are getting and being eligible for unemployment benefits, things are starting to look up," he concluded.

For instance, immediately after BFI locked out Local 609, the Teamsters filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board accusing BFI of a lockout. Recently, the NLRB upheld the union's contention, and as a result Local 609 members are now

eligible for unemployment benefits.

Also contributing to the sense of optimism is the formation of the Stop Union Busting (SUB) coalition.

Sylvia Lazaro, a wife of one of the strikers and spokeswoman for the group, explained how the group was formed.

"Our men were locked out of their jobs — we felt helpless and didn't want to be," she said.

"One phone call led to another and SUB was formed. If you are union or non-union we must stand together — together we are stronger than all their money."

The membership of SUB includes the wives, relatives, and friends of the strikers. While SUB's main goal is generating support for the Teamsters, it also helps other unions facing union-busting assaults as well.

The results of SUB's work to date are quite impressive.

Scores of unions and community groups — from churches to unemployed organizations — have expressed support for the BFI strikers.

SUB and Local 609 members attended a rally in support of United Mine Workers Local 2350, which is currently on strike against Dowty Corp. Members of SUB have spoken before the Coalition of Labor Union Women here.

At a news conference called to apply pressure on BFI, John Remark, secretary of the 100,000-member Allegheny County Labor Council, said BFI's tactics "are an affront to all labor unions."

At the same conference, Dan Margurite, president of the 20,000-member United Electrical Workers District 6, said unions must make a stand against "the onslaught of concessions, plant shutdowns, and union-busting."

As a consequence of this growing support for Local 609, some progress has been made.

"Over 100 companies have pledged to break contracts with BFI," Lazaro said at a rally near the BFI plant.

She added, "The NLRB has cited BFI for four counts of unfair labor practices."

In a statement supporting these embattled workers, Al Luft, a Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council and a member of Teamster Local 635, said, "The solidarity among Teamsters and other unionists against BFI is an example for all working people."

## Speakout challenges congressmen on war

BY MICHAEL FRAYER

**MILWAUKEE** — Two congressmen heard more than 200 people protest U.S. policy in Central America at a June 4 speak-out here.

The speak-out demanded "Asylum for Salvadoran and Guatemalan Refugees," "U.S. out of Central America," and "Tax dollars for jobs at home."

The event was initiated by the Sanctuary Coordinating Committee and sponsored by the Central America Solidarity Coalition (CASC), the Mobilization for Survival, and others.

Ruth Chojnacki, a leader of Milwaukee's sanctuary program, chaired the event.

The first speaker, Father Mark Ramon, read a letter by the pastors of six area churches that are giving sanctuary to 19 Central American refugees.

The latter protested current U.S. policy in Central America, "which perpetuates violence, instability, and the denial of a people to determine their own future."

Ted Krukowski is president of the United Electrical Workers Local 1111. He spoke of the Vietnam experience and its effect on the thinking of thousands of workers represented by his union at the giant Allen-Bradley plant here.

"There is a dramatic change going on," Krukowski explained. "When we raise the question of El Salvador or Nicaragua, workers understand that they don't want to get involved in another Vietnam War."

Sister Barbara Kramer, international vice-president of the School Sisters of St. Francis, read a statement signed by 48 U.S. religious workers presently in Nicaragua.

The statement emphasized the terror of the CIA's work against Nicaragua.

"More and more in the last year we have seen the effects of the U.S. backed counterrevolutionary activity on the poor of Nicaragua."

"We have seen tobacco fields burned, young volunteers in the coffee harvest shot and killed. . . . We have taken shrapnel out of the heads of babies — from mortar shells launched from Honduran territory."

The crowd also heard two refugees from the sanctuary program.

Jorge, from Guatemala, spoke about the increasing repression, particularly of the peasantry, by the government of his homeland.

Juanita, a Salvadoran, described what's happening in her country.

"The peasants, the simple people, are pleading not to be burned by the napalm and white phosphorus the Salvadoran government is using."

"We're asking the U.S. to stop intervention in our country."

"All that U.S. aid does is enrich the army and continue the massacre of women, children, and the elderly."

Juanita then appealed to Congressman Jim Moody. Moody and Clement Zablocki were the only two of five Wisconsin legislators invited to the speakout who actually attended. "We're asking Representative Moody to take this message, as a human

being, back to Washington."

The microphone was then opened for statements from the audience.

Chris Rayson from the Committee for the Survival of the Unemployed pointed to recent state legislation drastically cutting unemployment benefits. "They tell us there's no money. We know that's a lie. That money is being locked into the military; money that should be used to create jobs," Rayson said.

Sister Betty Wolcott, recently returned from Nicaragua, read a letter from the women at the Second Continental Encounter of Christian Women for Peace, held in Managua.

The event was wrapped up with a call to action by Charlie Dee, a delegate to the Milwaukee County Labor Council and a leader of CASC.

"Remember, that no matter what we do the people of Central America will win. They will eventually throw off the twin yokes of poverty and dictatorship — their revolution against tyranny cannot be reversed by Ronald Reagan or anyone else."

"But we can shorten the battle and save

many, many lives," Dee explained, "by entering the struggle to make our government change its policy."

After Dee's speech, Moody and Zablocki were invited to respond to what they'd heard.

Zablocki is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He said the speak-out was "one-sided." Claiming to be "neither a dove nor a hawk, but an eagle," Zablocki urged those present to place the foreign policy interests of the United States in Central America ahead of the domestic needs of the people who live there. This provoked an angry response from the audience.

Moody attempted to give a less provocative response, saying that "the U.S. has embarked on a mistaken path in foreign policy."

However, this congressional "dove" never spoke out in favor of the right of the people of El Salvador to solve their problems free of U.S. intervention. He advocated instead a policy of economic, rather than military, aid to shore up the tottering Salvadoran dictatorship.

## How pope's tour of Poland aids war drive

Continued from Page 3

recovered from the ruins of war and has grown rapidly.

Today there is little or no joblessness. Production for use rather than profit has enabled Polish workers to escape the kind of devastating economic insecurity that American workers have been going through, even though Poland is a much poorer country than the United States.

But the government that was imposed on Poland after World War II, under conditions of Soviet occupation, did not reflect the interests of the workers and farmers. Modeled on the Stalin government in the Soviet Union, it represents a caste of bureaucrats whose first concern is to protect their special privileges. They try to keep the workers from having any say over how the workers state is governed, often by means of brutal repression.

The result has been corruption, mismanagement, and incompetent economic planning. All of this is made worse by economic pressures that the imperialist powers are able to exert because they continue to dominate the world economy.

**Why Solidarity was established**

Solidarity was established in August 1980 through a nationwide strike wave. It was the workers' attempt to assert their right to participate in deciding how to overcome the difficulties.

Its fundamental demands were for an end to repression, participation of the workers in economic decision making, and efforts to move in the direction of social and economic equality.

Contrary to what the imperialist media

and the pope would have working people elsewhere think, the Polish workers were not demanding a return to capitalist rule. Their demands were for a greater workers' voice in the economy, more equality, *more socialism*.

With the support of the majority of the workers and farmers behind it, Solidarity sought to negotiate an accord with the government based on immediate steps to begin overcoming the problems. The government responded with the declaration of martial law on December 13, 1981.

Martial law was partially lifted a year later, but many restrictions remain. More than 2,500 Solidarity activists have been sentenced to prison terms and the union has been suppressed.

With these events, Poland became the centerpiece of international imperialist propaganda. The repression of the Polish workers was pointed to as proof positive of the evils of communism and the need to stop it at any cost. War moves in Central America, the nuclear buildup, economic

sanctions, and other attempts to ostracize Soviet bloc countries — all were justified by pointing to Poland.

The pope's trip represents the latest escalation of this public relations campaign.

The massive response to the pope in Poland is an indication of the confusion caused by the crimes of the bureaucratic caste in Poland over three decades. Many Polish workers mistakenly see the church hierarchy and even imperialist "democracies" like the United States as defenders of freedom. Such illusions weaken the fight of the Polish workers, cutting them off from real allies among the billions oppressed and exploited by imperialism.

The pope sought to strengthen these illusions, spreading the lie that the exploited workers of the capitalist West have what the Polish workers are fighting for.

The media's saturation coverage of the papal cavalcade attempted to instill into working people everywhere the lie that imperialism is the defender of freedom, and its wars are wars for democracy.



### Marxism and the Working Farmer

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

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# Keep the heat on INS!

The emergency response that greeted the latest moves by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) against Héctor Marroquín won a sizeable victory in his six-year-long struggle for political asylum.

Egged on by the White House — which wants no troubling reminders of its inhumane, war-making policies in Latin America — the INS has ruthlessly sought to deport Marroquín with no concern for his life or well-being. (The INS even reported government instructions to have him out of the country by the Fourth of July so he wouldn't make embarrassing speeches on Independence Day.)

To the rulers of this country, refugees from Latin America are not human beings whose lives merit concern. They matter only as factors in imperialist policy, to be categorized when convenient as "feet people" capable of "swarming" into the United States, as Reagan put it in a June 20 speech.

But while humanitarian pleas don't affect U.S. immigration policymakers, the pressure of the number of pleas can alter that policy.

That was certainly shown with the urgent campaign that protested the INS action to revoke Marroquín's "voluntary departure" status on the eve of a possible Supreme Court decision in his case.

This protest effort reached far beyond the substantial

support Marroquín had won so far in his fight. Coretta Scott King headed a list of prominent Atlantans who telegraphed the INS. Jay Mazur, secretary-treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, agreed to call. Twenty-eight members of Congress signed a letter. And in Canada, a big list of protesters was headed by the Canadian Labor Congress and the Canadian United Auto Workers.

While not all this response represented specific support for Marroquín's right to political asylum — some individuals agreed to press for "voluntary departure" on humanitarian grounds — the support for his fight was significantly broadened.

The combined victory of the INS conceding an extension of "voluntary departure" for Marroquín and the Supreme Court deferral of a decision on his case gives supporters of this political asylum fight valuable time. This time should now be used to keep heat on the INS and the government as a whole.

The Supreme Court may take a summer break, but supporters of Marroquín's fight cannot afford to do so. This time should be used to prepare for the fall when the justices reconvene and to ensure that meanwhile the INS doesn't try to pull another fast one.

Telegrams and letters demanding that the deportation order against Héctor Marroquín be dropped should continue to flood the INS office.

# Frederick Engels on the dynamics of class society

BY MARGARET JAYKO

For the past several months, many branches of the Socialist Workers Party have conducted a weekend class series on the Marxist view of women's oppression and emancipation.

Frederick Engels, who along with Karl Marx was a founder of the communist movement, made a major contribution on this question in his work *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, which he wrote in 1884.

Basing himself on the ground-breaking research done by anthropologist Lewis Morgan, Engels explained that there was a time at the dawn of humanity — "prehistory" — when there were no class divisions in society. In this earliest stage of human existence, all shared equally in the little that was produced and women were on an equal footing with men.

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

These were hardly the good old days, however. The primitive level of the productive forces and of human knowledge meant that humanity lived a confined, impoverished existence with virtually no control over nature.

Engels' book is the story of how humanity — through inventions and discoveries that made human labor progressively more productive — accumulated enough wealth to advance to the stage of "civilization," where society became divided into classes.

The rise of oppressing and oppressed classes also signaled the inauguration of the oppression of women.

Engels explained why this division of society into classes was a historical advance for humanity. At the same time, it brought with it exploitation and oppression, including of women.

In the last chapter of his book, Engels explained that "civilization has accomplished things with which the old gentile society was totally unable to cope. But it accomplished them by playing on the most sordid instincts and passions of man, and by developing them at the expense of all his other faculties.

"Naked greed has been the moving spirit of civilization from the first day of its existence to the present time; wealth, more wealth and wealth again; wealth, not of society, but of this shabby individual was its sole and determining aim."

Engels went on to explain, "Since the exploitation of one class by another is the basis of civilization, its whole development moves in a continuous contradiction. Every advance in production is at the same time a retrogression in the condition of the oppressed class, that is, of the great majority.

"What is a boon for one is necessarily a bane for the other; each new emancipation of one class always means a new oppression of another class. . . .

"But," said Engels, "this is not as it ought to be. What is good for the ruling class should be good for the whole of the society with which the ruling class identifies itself.

"Therefore, the more civilization advances, the more it is compelled to cover the ills it necessarily creates with the cloak of love, to embellish them, or to deny their existence; in short, to introduce conventional hypocrisy — unknown both in previous forms of society and even in the earliest stages of civilization — that culminates in the declaration: The exploiting class exploits the oppressed class solely and exclusively in the interest of the exploited class itself; and if the latter fails to appreciate this, and even becomes rebellious, it thereby shows the basest ingratitude to its benefactors, the exploiters."

Engels ended his book with a quote from Morgan — what he calls "Morgan's verdict on civilization":

"Since the advent of civilization, the outgrowth of property has been so immense, its forms so diversified, its uses so expanding and its management so intelligent in the interests of its owners that it has become, on the part of the people, an unmanageable power. The human mind stands bewildered in the presence of its own creation."

"The time will come, nevertheless, when human intelligence will rise to the mastery over property, and define the relations of the state to the property it protects, as well as the obligations and the limits of the rights of its owners. The interests of society are paramount to individual interests, and the two must be brought into just and harmonious relation. A mere property career is not the final destiny of mankind, if progress is to be the law of the future as it has been of the past.

"Democracy in government, brotherhood in society, equality in rights and privileges, and universal education foreshadow the next higher plane of society to which experience, intelligence and knowledge are steadily tending. It will be a revival, in a higher form, of the liberty, equality and fraternity of the ancient gentes."

# U.S., Honduras step up war

Continued from front page

conjunction with other representatives of the Organization of American States [OAS] to reestablish the borders."

Asked if Washington should send combat troops even if the OAS refused to join such an adventure, Meyer said "serious thought" would have to be given to it.

If there were a war in Central America, Meyer was asked by the *Washington Post*, "would you favor repeating the strategy of the Korean and Vietnam wars where the objective was to seal the border and stabilize the country being attacked rather than crushing the invading country?"

"Clearly from a military point of view," Meyer answered, "one of the great lessons of Korea and one of the great lessons of Vietnam is that you cannot win a war until you challenge [the enemy's] heart and soul."

Asked if that included attacking the Nicaraguan capital of Managua, Meyer answered, "I think that they have to clearly perceive that that is not ruled out."

According to the June 11 *Miami Herald*, Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, head of the Honduran armed forces, has the same idea. While visiting Washington, he declared that he wanted a commitment that the U.S. government will "stand with us in defense of democracy" in the event of a Sandinista "attack." Asked if this would require U.S. troops, he answered, "If there's war, the only thing that will solve a war is troops."

The capitalist news media are falling into line, echoing the theme of a Nicaraguan threat to Honduras as part of their war propaganda.

The deaths of two U.S. correspondents June 21 near the border was rapidly turned into material for propaganda on this theme. The Honduran foreign ministry and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz claimed that the reporters were deliberately killed by Nicaraguan forces firing across the border.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto denied the charges, pointing out contradictions in the Honduran government claims. "We are not in the habit of firing into Honduras," D'Escoto stated.

D'Escoto called the slain reporters, Dial Torgerson of the *Los Angeles Times* and photographer Richard Cross, "very good and objective reporters." Torgerson, he said, had written "reports favorable to the Sandinista revolution." Cross, who worked as a free-lance photographer, had provided the photographs for a book about Nicaragua by Sandinista Minister of Culture Ernesto Cardenal.

Initial news accounts suggested the reporters had gone to the border region to check on the truth of counter-revolutionaries' claims to have won a foothold in Nicaragua. The counter-revolutionaries have encampments in the area where the journalists were reported killed. The former Somozaist National Guardsmen who make up the U.S.-organized rightist forces have a long record of murder and torture, including eliminating reporters they suspected of planning to tell even part of the truth.

Top leaders of the Democratic Party continue to play their part in the bipartisan war policy.

The latest example was the declaration by Walter Mondale, former vice-president and front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, that "it is inevitable that American troops will be sent into Central America."

Mondale claimed to "utterly and completely and profoundly oppose" such involvement, but his "profound" opposition is less than skin deep. "If the Soviet Union or the Cubans, in conjunction or alone, were to establish a major base or military position in Central America," he

declared, "I think it would go to the vital interests of our country." When pressed, he said he wouldn't "try to define in the abstract what he meant."

It is just a pretext — accusations of Cuban military "aggression" — that the White House is trying to set up.

On June 18, the White House made public the charge that the visit of a Cuban general to Nicaragua signaled "a large-scale Cuban move into Nicaragua." The Cuban military leader is Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez, deputy to Raúl Castro, Cuba's minister of the armed forces.

The warmakers in Washington have to include in their calculations the military aid Nicaragua has requested and received from Cuba. Such aid has helped the Sandinista revolution survive, and the Cubans have left no doubt that they will continue to provide help requested by the sovereign government of Nicaragua.

In a June 20 speech in Jackson, Mississippi, Reagan charged that a "Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan axis" could "take over Central America" unless the United States sends more military aid to the Salvadoran regime and the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Reagan also chose Jackson, Mississippi, to make one of his most open appeals to racism in support of his war moves. He claimed that if the Salvadoran revolution triumphs, "the result could be a tidal wave of refugees — and this time they'll be 'feet people' not 'boat people' — swarming into our country."

The implicit call for war to prevent the "brown hordes" from overrunning "our country" is only a taste of the racist propaganda, and attempts to mobilize racist sentiment, that will come as the new Vietnam escalates.

Reagan's racist call to arms for support to his war policy is one indication of the moral level of the Washington warmakers. Another came in a *Newsweek* interview with an administration official who declared:

"We succeeded in Chile, in Bolivia, in Guatemala militarily. . . . That's the only thing they understand: might is right."

That, however, is imperialism's big miscalculation. There is a greater power than the monstrous firepower of the U.S. military arsenal. That power can be seen in the armed workers and farmers in Nicaragua, who sacrificed tens of thousands of lives to be rid of a brutal dictatorship backed by Washington.

That power is in the masses of workers and farmers of El Salvador who are determined no longer to accept the oppression and exploitation that have been imposed on them by U.S.-backed military rulers for decades. That power can be seen in the mobilized workers and farmers of the little island of Grenada. And in the millions of Cubans who will never bow to Washington's dictates, no matter what the cost.

And that power is also in the millions of American working people who are learning the real "lesson of Vietnam." They will not be silent as thousands of youth are sent to fight to protect the interests of a few billionaires.

That might is right. And it will win.

The signs from Washington are unmistakable: the United States government is determined to carry out direct military intervention in a war that can only become a Central America-wide conflict. But whether the United States can win such a war is by no means certain.

What is certain is that more and more working people in this country will come to see that Washington's war is not our war. That the warmakers — not the working people of Nicaragua, Cuba, and Grenada — are our enemies. And that our interests lie in peace, brotherhood, and solidarity with all the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean.



## Women in space

Twenty-two years after it began shooting people into outer space, the U.S. government is finally going to send up its first woman astronaut. "SPACE WOMAN — Sally Ride Prepares to Make History" was *Newsweek's* cover-story.

But what about the fact that history has already been made? The Soviet Union sent up its first woman cosmonaut 20 years ago.

*Newsweek* holds that Valentina Tereshkova's feat doesn't really count. "Reports," it says (who the "reports" come from is not specified), "have held that poor Tereshkova was sick for most of the three-day mission."

Furthermore, says *Newsweek*, Tereshkova was just a "textile-mill worker and amateur sky diver . . . who was hustled aboard a rocket shortly before the Soviet Union was to serve as host to the World Congress of Women."

"Textile-mill worker and amateur sky diver" — that really puts Tereshkova in her place.

But there is one question that comes to mind. If, as *Newsweek* says, Tereshkova's trip "was a notable propaganda coup," why did it take Washington 20 years to duplicate it?

Meanwhile, last August, a second Soviet woman completed a trip in space.

*Newsweek*, however, had its answer ready. When Svetlana Savitskaya's "Soyuz T-7" spaceship docked with the orbiting Salyut 7 space station, one of the two cosmonauts manning the Salyut joked that he had an apron all ready for her.

Are sexist jokes never heard among U.S. astronauts — not to mention among the editors of *Newsweek*? The appropriate gift for them would not be an apron, but a bowl of sour grapes.

S.F.  
New York, New York

## Political illiteracy

Precisely at the time President Reagan is speaking around the country to stump for his version of education reform, members of his own cabinet are showing an appalling ignorance of 8th-grade geography.



UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick recently told members of Congress that El Salvador represented the United States' "fourth border."

Several days later, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said that one reason for continued U.S. aid to El Salvador is that it "is on the mainland of the United States, and we have a responsibility for the defense of the continental United States. . . ."

Of course, this learning disability is political, not geographical

(although I suspect these officials have the same imperial disregard for the geography of countries they think they own as for the people in those countries.)

Rather than attacking the National Education Association, I think President Reagan better ask their help to find some top-notch teachers for the members of his "arrogantly illiterate" administration.

Bill Craine  
New York, New York

## 'Militant' gets around

Residents of southern Alabama are learning about Socialist Workers Party candidate Ed Warren's congressional campaign in Chicago not only from the occasional *Militant* sales there but also from the *Montgomery-Tuskegee Times*, a widely circulated Black weekly. The paper's June 9 issue reprinted in full a recent *Militant* article on the shooting of James Randle by Chicago police and Ed Warren's denunciation of the cops.

The same issue also reprinted Pete Seidman's article on the conviction of five Milwaukee cops for the killing of Ernest Lacy.

A.R.  
Birmingham, Alabama

## ANC

Your article in the "Our Revolutionary Heritage" column of the June 10 *Militant*, concerning the African National Congress (ANC), was very informative to say the least. Would you please forward any additional information concerning the ANC.

T.L.

[In reply — Readers who are interested can get in touch with the ANC at their UN office: 801 Second Ave., Suite 405, New York, N.Y. 10017. Their telephone is (212) 490-3487.]

## Bill Curran

Bill Curran, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for many years, died in Minneapolis May 21. He was 77 years old.

Bill joined the Communist League of America, the forerunner of the SWP, in 1931. He first came in contact with the League through the *Militant*, which was distributed in Minneapolis by Communists who had been expelled from the Communist Party for supporting the struggle of the Left Opposition in the Soviet Union. Led by Leon Trotsky, the Left Opposition fought against the degeneration of the Russian Revolution.

Bill, who came from a poor, Irish working-class family, was attracted to the prospect of a socialist society built by the workers of the world. He never wavered in that conviction.

Bill became a part of the cadre of worker-Bolsheviks in Minneapolis led by Carl Skoglund and Ray Dunne who propelled the party into the leadership of the labor movement in the Twin Cities in the 1930s, and who stubbornly resisted the reaction of the 1950s.

Bill carried the party's banner in the elections during that difficult period, running as the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in 1958 and for mayor of Minneapolis in 1959.

Bill was a skilled worker, a welder by trade and a woodworker by

avocation. He was a musician, well known for his Irish tenor, and at one time helped to organize the Twin Cities Workers' Chorus, which performed frequently for party functions.

When the reaction abated and new forces began to be attracted to the party in the early 1960s, Bill greeted them warmly and helped them to assimilate the traditions of the working-class fight for socialism.

Although Bill and his companion Fannie, a founding member of the party, were forced to withdraw from membership in the early 1970s because of poor health, they maintained an active interest in the party's work and remained enthusiastic partisans of the *Militant*, which they followed closely.

Bill and Fannie had recently collaborated in the collection of material on the early history of the party.

Bill's friends, comrades, and family commemorated his life at a memorial meeting on May 24 in Minneapolis. They were reminded by Jeanne Bradford, Bill's daughter, of the words of another Irish-American revolutionary, Mother Jones, who said "mourn for the dead, but fight like hell for the living." That would have been Bill's message to the meeting, she said.

Dave Riehle  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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.

# Anti-Cuba lies aimed at justifying U.S. war moves

Continued from Page 6

"the possibility of the use of military force" against Cuba "not only exists but is much closer now than at any other time," Cuban Vice-president Carlos Rafael Rodríguez told a group of Associated Press (AP) executives in Havana.

According to a June 16 AP dispatch, Rodríguez "said United States-Cuban relations were at their lowest point since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, including the periods of the unsuccessful 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles and the 1962 Cuban missile crisis."

Nonetheless, the Cuban vice-president repeated his country's willingness to enter into "serious negotiations" on reestablishing normal relations with the United States.

The AP reported, "Mr. Rodríguez said Cuba was willing to discuss such issues as Cuban emigration, radio jamming and diplomatic relations with the United States. At the same time, he said, Cuba was increasing its military preparedness."

"In the last two years, he said, Cuba has added 500,000 people to a 'territorial militia' to repel any attack on Cuba. He said Cuba considered the possibility of such an attack to be real."

Cuba carried out civil defense drills June 20. All radio stations broadcast an emergency alarm and a system of sirens were sounded around Havana. The Cuban press agency reported that the drills were necessary because Cuba is "faced with the danger of aggression by the United States."

What isn't up for negotiation with the

United States is Cuba's solidarity with those fighting imperialism around the world.

"We feel an obligation to help other people fight for their national freedom and national interest," Rafael Rodríguez told the AP executives. "We prefer to help those people with our technicians and support workers."

"Although pressed on the point," the AP report added, "he declined to say whether Cuba was sending arms through Nicaragua to help rebel forces battling the Government of El Salvador."

The scare stories emanating from the White House and the CIA about alleged Cuban military activity in Central America are aimed at diverting attention from the real military aggressors in Washington.

In his story on the supposed assignment of Gen. Ochoa to Nicaragua, *New York Times* reporter Gelb admitted as much. "The disclosure falls into a pattern of recent events pointing to greater [U.S.] military activity in Central America," Gelb wrote.

"The motive for the disclosure was apparently to underline Cuba's growing role in Nicaragua and warn Havana that Washington knows what is going on."

Finally, a June 20 Associated Press dispatch took more wind out of Gelb's story. It reported that although Ochoa had visited Nicaragua, a "knowledgeable administration official . . . discounted as speculative a newspaper report yesterday that the general had been 'secretly assigned to duty' in Nicaragua."

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## 'Liberation yes! Apartheid no!'

### N.Y. marchers mark Soweto anniversary, honor ANC martyrs

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — A militant, spirited march and rally were held here June 16, marking the 7th anniversary of the uprising in the Black South African township of Soweto.

Some 1,500 Blacks and several hundred whites and Latinos participated in the march. Additional numbers joined in as the march proceeded across town and the crowd swelled significantly as the rally got under way.

The demonstrators paid tribute to three African National Congress (ANC) liberation fighters executed by the racist South African government June 9, and vigorously protested U.S. collaboration with the apartheid regime.

The evening demonstration began at the South African Mission to the United Nations. The chanting, clapping participants then marched through busy Midtown Manhattan and held a rally outside Madison Square Garden where a boxing match promoted by Bob Arum was taking place. Arum has been trying to help break the world sports boycott against South Africa by staging bouts there.

The demonstrators also registered their support for SWAPO, the South West Africa People's Organisation, which is fighting for the liberation of Namibia. Representatives of the ANC and SWAPO were among the speakers at the rally.

On each block along the crosstown march route, spectators gathered. Interest and support were especially manifest among Blacks.

Heading the march, uniformed members of the ANC carried three symbolic coffins bearing photos of Jerry Momo, Simon Mogoerane, and Thabo Motaung, the executed South African martyrs.

Accompanying them, another ANC member carried the black-green-and-gold flag of the ANC.

Many of the marchers carried smaller versions of the flag, as well as flags of other African liberation movements.

In the front a large banner of the sponsoring Soweto Solidarity Coalition declared: "Down With Apartheid! U.S. Out of S. Africa! Victory to the ANC-SWAPO!"

Throughout the evening, the most popular chants were: "Liberation yes! Apartheid no! Death to apartheid — blow by blow!" and "Reagan, Botha — you can't hide! We charge you with genocide!" Pieter Botha is prime minister of the South African regime.

Among the many placards were some in Spanish. "Victoria para SWAPO" and "Bajo con racismo en Sud Africa" were among these.

Other placards declared, "Down with apartheid executions — victory to ANC," "Self-determination for the Namibian people," and "Free Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners."

One young man regularly turned for spectators a placard he had inscribed on both sides. One side read: "Democracy is food, housing, clothing, education for all." The other side declared, "Freedom and democracy now in South Africa and America."

And as a response to the participation of a Panamanian boxer in the protested bout, a Latino held high a placard declaring, "Panamanians against apartheid."

The high level of political consciousness was particularly evident at the rally.

When Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition told the crowd he had just returned from revolutionary Grenada and brought the solidarity of the Grenadian people "from the prime minister down," there were cheers and applause.

There was vigorous vocal agreement

with every speaker who noted that, while the forms may differ, racial oppression is also deep in this country.

A representative from Casa Nicaragua received an ovation. And the strong applause was repeated when she declared, "The Nicaraguan people know very well who is responsible for the suffering in South Africa — the same ones who are responsible for the suffering in Central America!"

It is those in Washington, she added, "who now wage the secret war against Nicaragua."

She assured the rally, "Nicaragua gives full and unconditional support to the heroic people of South Africa and to the African National Congress. We know victory will come to the South African people!"

Johnny Makatini, UN representative of the ANC, saluted the three executed martyrs, who, he declared, "walked tall to the gallows."

He added: "We gather not to mourn, but to cheer the three heroes and we say, 'You have died for your people.'"

He reported on successful raids by the guerrilla movement in South Africa. He said these reflected a rise in the struggle, which, he vowed, "will continue until we see the overthrow of the apartheid regime."

A rumble of approval ran through the crowd when he declared that Blacks in South Africa "no longer have any cheek left to turn" in face of the regime's barbarous attacks. From now on, he said, it will be "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a life for a life."

Solidarity greetings were also heard from Hinyangerwa Asheke, a representative of SWAPO.

Among the many sponsors of the action



Militant/Lou Howort

Demonstrators at New York City action on 7th anniversary of Soweto uprising

were: American Committee on Africa; Caribbean People's Alliance; New York Coalition of Labor Union Women; Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; National Black Independent Political Party; National Black United Front; and Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

A reflection of the level of political interest of demonstrators was the response to two tables set up at the march by members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, who also participated in the action. Nearly 150 Militants and about \$375 in socialist books and pamphlets were sold.

## L.A. march hits Simpson-Mazzoli bill

BY FRANCISCO SANCHEZ

LOS ANGELES — Some 3,000 people marched through the downtown area here June 11 to protest the racist Simpson-Mazzoli bill that both Democrats and Republicans are pushing in Congress. If passed, this bill will be used to curb the rights of undocumented workers and increase discrimination against all Latinos.

The demonstration was sponsored by a broad coalition of organizations. Contingents of Mexican workers represented by groups such as Hermandad Mexicana Nacional marched side by side with refugees from Central America fighting for political asylum.

The largest and most spirited contingents were from the El Salvador groups. They marched under the banners of El

Comité Santana Chirino Amaya, Refugiados en Lucha, El Rescate, and Grupo Farabundo Martí.

Some demonstrators carried placards with the names of their unions — United Farmworkers, United Electrical Workers, Laborers union, American Federation of Government Employees, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, United Auto Workers, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

As they marched down the street, the workers asked for solidarity from shoppers on the sidewalks and chanted slogans against the immigration cops. They also demanded "Jobs not raids" and "Full rights for undocumented workers."

The demonstrators rallied at City Hall where speakers committed their organizations to struggle against the Simpson-Mazzoli bill with the same unity reflected in the march.

Speakers included Antonio Rodríguez, one of the rally organizers; Bert Corona from Hermandad Mexicana Nacional; Frank Wilkinson, of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation; and Tony Bonilla, of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Two auto workers, Conrado Talcios and José Macías, also spoke.

The demonstration also reflected the strong antiwar sentiment of the crowd. There were chants of "Money for jobs, not for war — U.S. out of El Salvador."

## Chicago socialist backs school aid, opposes new tax

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

CHICAGO — "The Chicago school system is a disaster. Segregation and lack of funds has made it impossible for teachers to teach or for students to learn," said Ed Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Chicago's 1st Congressional District. The way to solve the \$202 million deficit in the Chicago public schools, he continued, is to take the funds from the \$200 billion war budget.

Warren made this comment after a rally of over 10,000 teachers, students, and parents was held in Chicago on June 16. The "Save Our Schools" rally was sponsored by the Chicago Board of Education's School Superintendent Ruth Love and the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU).

Both the Board of Education and the

CTU are pushing for increased property taxes to offset part of the huge deficit. The proposed increase would amount to \$100 per year on a modest home worth \$60,000. It would have the effect of raising the taxes of workers who can barely keep up their mortgage payments.

Other tax increases proposed to cut into the deficit include Mayor Harold Washington's plan for a 5 percent service tax. Washington spoke at the rally in support of the property tax as well.

Most of the teachers and parents at the rally favored the proposals as the only realistic alternative they saw to reduce the deficit. The Board of Education has made clear that without added funds, thousands of teachers will be fired and fewer programs will exist in the already inadequate

schools.

In a statement made after the rally Warren gave an alternative perspective: "I don't think funds for education should be raised through regressive taxes on Chicago workers. In fact, more and more workers in Chicago are beginning to call for a moratorium on home and farm foreclosures. It doesn't make sense for us to fight the banks one day to save our homes and then turn around and call for an increase in taxes on them the next."

"The source of the problem is the capitalist system that puts profits and war ahead of education, jobs, and other human needs. Taxes should be aimed at the rich corporate bosses and the war profiteers. They have caused the crisis and they should pay for it."