

CIA-backed terrorists mine ports in Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The U.S. government has escalated its war against Nicaragua by mining one port, El Bluff, on the Atlantic Coast, and threatening to extend the measure to others.

At a rally of tens of thousands in Managua's Plaza of the Revolution March 3, Commander Tomás Borge denounced the move as the beginning of "a new wave of criminal terrorism."

The rally, held to honor Col. Santos López, who fought with both Gen. Augusto César Sandino earlier this century and the Sandinista National Liberation Front until his death in 1965, symbolized the continuity over more than 50 years of Nicaragua's struggle against U.S. domination.

"Imperialism," Borge said, "has ordered its mercenaries to begin, in the coming weeks, a new escalation of criminal terrorism against economic objectives, and to reactivate once again counterrevolutionary military activity."

"They have ordered the infiltration of commando squads specializing in death. They have ordered the bombing of Nicaraguan localities. They are gathering together mercenary pilots in neighboring countries. They have given both the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, based in Honduras] and the ARDE [Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, based in Costa Rica] new aircraft and naval vessels.

"And what is worse, they have ordered the criminal act, unprecedented on our continent, of mining our ports, putting in danger international navigation."

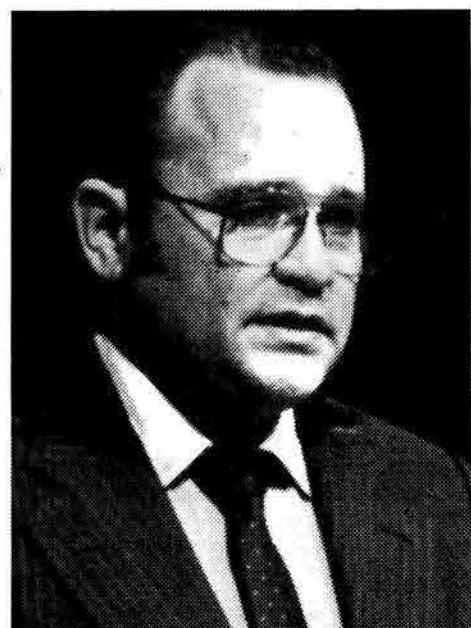
In a protest to Secretary of State George Shultz February 28, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto denounced the mining of El Bluff as the beginning of a "military blockade, in addition to the economic and political blockade your government is carrying out against Nicaragua."

El Bluff was sown with a number of mines February 24 by high-speed launches based in Costa Rica. The boats and mines are part of the equipment the CIA has provided to ARDE, the counterrevolutionary army headed by Edén Pastora.

Two Nicaraguan fishing vessels operating out of El Bluff have so far been sunk by these floating explosives.

On March 1, Pastora's forces announced that Nicaragua's other major port, Corinto,

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Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and other Nicaraguan leaders denounced counterrevolutionary terrorism; said mining of ports pointed to increased CIA assistance to rightists.

Strikes hit El Salvador, unions defy gov't threat



More than 10,000 workers are on strike in El Salvador, including unionists at state water company (above). Army surrounded water workers. Government threatens more repression.

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Defying threats by the U.S.-backed dictatorship, thousands of workers in El Salvador have been on strike for two weeks. As of March 6, more than 10,000 remained out.

On March 2 El Salvador's Minister of Labor Julio Samayoa threatened to send troops into the struck workplaces. The government, Samayoa said, had been "excessively tolerant" in allowing the strikes to continue. Later that day, four leaders of striking water workers were seized by army troops.

On March 6, 30,000 workers at more than 20 factories and work sites staged a two-hour work stoppage in the capital city of San Salvador in solidarity with the strikers. The action was organized by the Movement for the Unity of Trade Unions and Professional Associations of El Salvador (MUSYGES) — an umbrella organization made up of five union federations including a number of those out on strike.

The strikes and work stoppages occur in the midst of a deepening civil war and only weeks before the U.S.-staged elections scheduled for March 25.

On March 6 MUSYGES denounced

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Behind ending of Israel-Lebanon pact

BY HARRY RING

Washington and Tel Aviv suffered a significant setback with the March 5 decision by the Lebanese government to scrap the accord with Israel agreed to last May 17.

Voiding of the pact came after Lebanon's president, Amin Gemayel, visited the Syrian capital of Damascus for talks with Pres. Hafez al-Assad.

Coincident with rejection of the pact, negotiations were agreed on, to be held in Geneva, to discuss changes in Lebanon's political system, controlled by the nation's Maronite Christian minority, and to form a new government.

Those reported participating in the Geneva parley included: Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia; Rashid Karami, former Muslim prime minister; and Walid Jumblat, leader of the Druse Progressive Socialist Party.

Syria, which has some 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, has strongly insisted on tearing up the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli accord brokered by Washington on behalf of itself and Israel.

The U.S. State Department responded to the scrapping of the accord with "regret."

In Tel Aviv, the Lebanese decision was assailed as "a death sentence for Lebanese independence and sovereignty."

Meanwhile, hours before the announced scrapping of the accord, Israeli fighter planes made bombing attacks on two Druse-led villages about 14 miles east of Beirut.

The bombing assaults pointed up the crude demagoguery of Israel's professed concern about "independence and sovereignty."

The reality is that the May 17 pact was designed to tighten the U.S.-Israeli grip on Lebanon, diminishing its independence and sovereignty accordingly.

The media has persistently described the scrapped accord as an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

That's a real hoax.

To begin with, an unpublished agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv made Israeli withdrawal contingent on withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, as well as those of the Palestine Liberation

Organization (PLO).

Nor was there any agreement for a total pullout of Israeli forces. To the contrary, the public section of the agreement provides that for at least two years, a joint Israeli-Lebanese patrol would operate throughout a "security" zone embracing the southern third of Lebanon.

The Lebanese team would incorporate "existing local units" into the security patrol. These are the Israeli-armed ultraright paramilitary Christian forces that have brought such bloodshed to the Lebanese people and Palestinian refugees.

Like the precedent-setting 1979 Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel, the agreement with Lebanon would help legitimize the usurpation of the Palestinian homeland by the Zionist state of Israel. The pact declared that the parties "consider the existing international boundary between Israel and Lebanon inviolable."

The pact spelled out precise numerical limits on the personnel, and arms, of the Lebanese army in the southern third of its own country!

Article 1, Section H, declared, "In order to avoid incidents due to misidentification, the Lebanese military authorities will give

advance notice of all flights of any kind over the security region. . . ."

Washington, as well as Israel, was given a direct role in "securing" southern Lebanon. Article 8 of the accord stated that "A Joint Liaison Committee will be established by the parties, in which the United States of America will be a participant. . . ."

Politically, the agreement declared the state of war between Israel and Lebanon terminated and provides for creation of "liaison offices" — quasi-embassies — in both countries.

A principal responsibility of the Lebanese government would have been to "enforce special security measures aimed at detecting and preventing hostile activities as well as the introduction into or movement through the security region of unauthorized armed men or military equipment."

This, of course, was directed against the liberation fighters of the PLO and their Lebanese supporters.

Declaring the pact null and void was also a setback for the Lebanese rightists. Now, with the accord buried, divisions have de-

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New Bedford barroom rape case: putting the victim on trial

BY HELEN LOWENTHAL AND JEANNETTE TRACY

FALL RIVER, Mass. — The trial of six men charged with raping a woman last year in Big Dan's Tavern in New Bedford, Massachusetts, has provoked a nationwide debate on violence against women. The trial began here February 6.

On March 6, 1983, several men raped and beat a 21-year-old woman on a pool table for two hours, while other men in the bar cheered and shouted encouragement to the attackers. This horrifying crime provoked national media coverage and public outrage. A candlelight protest of 3,000 people, initiated by the Coalition Against

Sexist Violence, was held in New Bedford at the time.

Today, lawyers defending the accused men and the major media are doing their utmost to turn this into a trial, not of the rapists, but of the victim and of all women.

The defendants, who have pleaded not guilty to the charge of aggravated rape, claim that the woman "came on" to them and they are being unjustly victimized for going along with her. In an interview published on the front page of the *Boston Globe*, defendant Victor Raposo alleged that the woman was begging the men to have sex with her on the pool table.

Defense Attorney Ronald Sullivan said,

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

CHICAGO — "Plant-gate sales are the eyes and ears of the Socialist Workers Party." That's how steelworker Dave Salner explained regular sales of the *Militant* conducted by members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party at factory gates and mine portals across the country.

Salner is a laid-off iron ore miner and member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 6860 on Minnesota's Iron Range. He was describing the importance of plant-gate sales on the Range to a national meeting of socialist steelworkers held here February 18.

The Iron Range has been devastated by layoffs for well over a year. Socialist miners, who have been active members of several

USWA locals there, have been unemployed for a year and a half, Salner said.

The miners who are still working form the backbone of the organized labor movement on the Iron Range. They are going through important discussions and experiences and socialists put a premium on maintaining a political dialogue with them, as part of their continuing activity in the political life of the union.

The long winter and bitter cold means that sales at the mine entrances are not always easy. But they are vital to the life of the SWP branch there.

One mine where socialists have sold regularly is owned by National Steel. Over the course of 16 weekly sales in the fall of 1983,

Salner reported, 83 *Militants* were sold to steelworkers at this mine.

In January, U.S. Steel announced plans to buy National. Many workers expect one result will be the shutdown of the National mine because U.S. Steel's Minntac mining operation in the same area is more modern.

Important discussions about how the union can respond have begun among steelworkers in Local 2660 at National, and at Local 1938 at Minntac, explained Salner. The *Militant's* regular presence at the mines has helped put socialists in the middle of this discussion.

Salner's observations were echoed at the Chicago meeting by Joey Rothenberg, a member of USWA Local 2609 at Bethlehem

Steel's Sparrows Point plant. Some of the SWP's most effective plant-gate sales have been organized by socialists in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., at this giant mill.

In mid-February company plans to cut hundreds of jobs became known among Sparrows Point steelworkers. A response began to develop and socialists immediately stepped up their regular sales, Rothenberg told the Chicago meeting. Extra sales teams were quickly organized.

These teams, Rothenberg explained, put a priority on talking to workers as they sold the paper as a way of learning what was on steelworkers' minds.

Participants in the Chicago meeting reported that *Militant* sales to steelworkers are up over

the past months. One reason is a special offer that makes the Pathfinder Press pamphlet *Steelworkers Under Attack* available for only 25 cents to those who buy the paper. But most important is the organized effort SWP branches across the country are making to reach steelworkers at plant gates week in and week out.

John Votava, a member of USWA Local 7999 in Chicago, reported regular sales of 9 to 12 papers a week at two large mills owned by Republic and Jones and Laughlin Steel. Chicago socialists, Votava told the meeting, are complementing their plant-gate sales by going door to door in steelworker neighborhoods in South Chicago on Saturdays offering subscriptions to the paper.

Putting the victim on trial in New Bedford rape case

Continued from front page

"I don't think she gave a blanket consent, but I don't think she objected to doing it. I think she had enough at some point and just said, 'Get me out of here.'"

This is contradicted by the testimony of the bartender, the victim, and a witness who saw her flee the bar, who all testify that she was indeed raped and beaten.

The defense is basing itself on the reactionary argument that there is no such thing as rape. According to this argument, there are only "loose women" who end up crying rape because they regret what happened after they "asked for it."

'Rape victim on trial'

Liz Bennett, a spokeswoman for the New Bedford Coalition Against Sexist Violence, which was formed in response to the rape, explained, "In a real sense a rape victim in a rape trial is just as much on trial as the defendants. . . . In no other crime does that happen. . . . A rape trial is a hor-

rendous thing to hear, it is a horrendous thing to see. It is the job of the defendants' lawyers to basically put this woman on trial, to defile her reputation.

In proving rape, the prosecution must prove both that a sexual act occurred and that it was against the will of the victim. In this case, no one disputes that sexual acts occurred, so the defense must prove that the victim consented to the acts. To this end, an elaborate rumor mill has been constructed in the New Bedford area — which has been spread nationally via the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and other media — smearing the reputation and credibility of the woman.

Character assassination

The defense implies that the victim is a prostitute, and only called the cops on the men because they didn't pay her. The defense lawyer attempted to prove this by saying that the fact that the woman wanted to bring a witness back into the bar with her so she could point out her attackers is proof that she wasn't afraid of her assailants, but was simply angry that they hadn't paid her.

The defense also claimed that the woman ran out of the bar, not to escape her attackers, but to chase after them!

This was combined with attempts to brand the victim as a "welfare cheat." The fact that she has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the bar owners is being used to imply that she's really manufacturing the rape in order to make some money.

The *New Bedford Standard Times*, wrote that the victim had previously received "sexually related psychiatric treatment." The media makes a big point out of the fact that the victim is an unwed mother of two children.

The *New York Times* likes to talk about her "live-in" boyfriend, to further her image as a promiscuous woman.

The defense introduced what they claimed was a hospital report showing that the woman had filed a rape complaint sev-

eral years ago, which she didn't pursue — not unusual given the ordeal women are put through in rape cases. The purpose of this "evidence" was to mark the victim as the mythical woman who is always crying rape.

Even if every single slander manufactured by the defense about the victim were true, it wouldn't justify the rape. Rape is not sex that gets out of hand — it is sexual violence directed against women.

The defense is also trying to discredit the victim's testimony on the grounds that she can't remember every detail of what happened during her two-hour ordeal.

Anti-immigrant news coverage

The big-business-owned media is also using the trial to whip up anti-immigrant sentiments, as well as antiwoman prejudices. The six defendants are all Portuguese immigrants. Though New Bedford is 60 percent Portuguese, the Portuguese are second-class citizens there. In the wake of the rape, there were many expressions of anti-Portuguese sentiment. The media never fails to mention that the defendants are Portuguese and that they need translation to listen to the proceedings.

This is part of a broader anti-working-class tone to the media coverage, which implies that working people especially are prone to be rapists.

The media is also using the fact that the accused are immigrants to try to divide supporters of women's rights and opponents of discrimination; to confuse people into thinking that supporting the victim of this crime is incompatible with being opposed to anti-Portuguese discrimination.

The Coalition Against Sexist Violence takes a different view. It has spoken out against racism as an essential part of its campaign to educate people about violence against women, and in particular, the victim of this rape, who is herself Portuguese (a fact rarely mentioned in the media).

They believe it is "important to recog-

nize that because of racism, women of color have been, and continue to be, dually affected by sexist violence. Therefore we see it as imperative that all the efforts and outreach of the coalition reflect a strong position on prejudice and discrimination in any form and that we commit ourselves to continue a dialogue about racism and sexism, and how separately and in combination they affect all people."

Fair trial for victim

A "Committee for Justice" has been formed that takes a different approach than that of the coalition. Its leaders say their only concern is that the defendants get a fair trial, free from the effects of anti-Portuguese discrimination.

But in their actions, they have sided with the accused against the woman — who is not getting a fair trial. They raised bail money for the defendants and have been packing the courtroom with people protesting the trial. They say nothing about the real injustice that has occurred — the brutal rape of a young Portuguese woman. This is not a racist frame-up case, where a phony rape charge is being used to railroad an innocent victim of discrimination to jail.

A Cambridge psychologist announced on March 2 that he was organizing a group of Portuguese-Americans opposed to rape and violence against women. José Ornelas, a Portuguese-American who works as a counselor, said his group would discuss "rape and violence against women and sexism in our community."

Referring to the Committee for Justice, he said, "People talk about defending our community. Defending our community is to be against rape and against violence against women. If they want to create prestige for our community, we have to speak out against rape."

Ornelas said his group plans to invite feminist leaders to speak to the Portuguese community, and it may also begin monitoring the trial.



New Bedford antirape protest in March 1983 following barroom assault.

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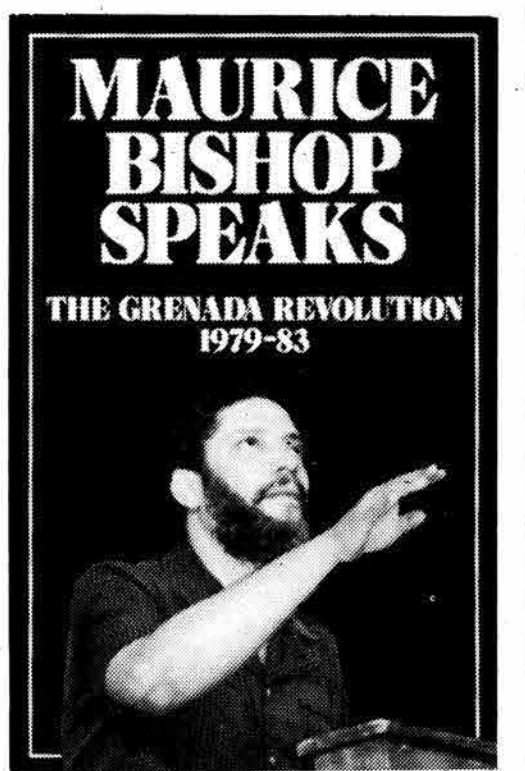
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Editors: CINDY JAQUITH

DOUG JENNESS

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Connie Allen, William Gottlieb, Arthur Hughes, Margaret Jayko, George Johnson, Malik Miah, Geoff Mirelowitz, Mohammed Oliver, Harry Ring, Larry Seigle, Mary-Alice Waters.

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Iraq charged with chemical warfare against Iranians

BY FRED MURPHY

Evidence is mounting that the Iraqi government has been using chemical weapons in its 42-month war against Iran.

Iranian officials have been charging for several months that its troops have come under attack from poison gas. Now even the Reagan administration — which has more and more openly sided with Iraq in the war — has had to recognize that "the available evidence" indicates that "lethal chemical weapons" have been used against Iran.

In recent days, the Iranian government has sent 15 of its soldiers to hospitals in Sweden and Austria for treatment. Two have died. "Our suspicions that he may have been exposed to chemical weapons remain and have been reinforced," Dr. Bengt Koerlof said of one of the victims at a Stockholm hospital March 5.

"The soldiers in Vienna," the Associated Press reported the same day, "burned over 10 to 40 percent of their bodies, told doctors they had been burned by gas bombs and described a 'slow descent of a spray-like cloud,' said Herbert Mandl, a plastic surgeon who spoke with some of the Iranians."

Iraqi Defense Minister Gen. Adnan

10 Tudeh Party members executed

In a new blow to the Iranian workers movement, the regime in Tehran executed 10 persons accused of belonging to the Tudeh (Communist) Party on February 25. The 10, of whom 6 were military officers, had been tried along with some 90 other accused Tudeh members on trumped-up charges of "spying for the Soviet Union."

Thousands of members and supporters of the Tudeh Party have been jailed since the party was banned in May 1983 as part of an overall anticommunist campaign by the Iranian government aimed at intimidating working-class fighters.

K.C. Black, church activists assail U.S. role in Lebanon

BY JOHN STAGGS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The massive shelling of Lebanese civilians from U.S. warships has touched a raw nerve among community leaders here. On February 16, leaders from civil rights, church, and peace organizations spoke out at a news conference condemning the U.S. military role in Lebanon.

This was the first time these organizations had united around a common statement on the Middle East. Their statement called on the U.S. government to stop the shelling, put the marines on the ships, and bring the ships home now. The participants in the news conference included leaders and representatives of Kansas and Missouri Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Operation PUSH, Interfaith Peace Alliance, Association of Black Social Workers, Catholics for Justice, Palestinians for Human Rights, and others.

The text of their statement said:

"President Reagan claims to be worried about what he calls the new barbarism in the Middle East.

"Last Wednesday, February 8, barbarism came from the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* which rained 500,000 pounds of high explosives down on Lebanese civilians. This bombing from U.S. ships continues to this day.

"The terror of massive U.S. firepower is being used to prop up the unpopular minority government of Amin Gemayel. This government, based on the same minority rule set up by the French colonialists, was installed by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Now, against the will of the

Khairullah refused to deny the accusations outright when speaking to reporters in Baghdad March 6.

An Iraqi major general who spoke with reporters in Basra, near the war front, on March 5, said his troops were "waiting impatiently to exterminate [the Iranians] like poisonous mosquitos." While saying that use of chemical weapons by Iraq would be "illogical," he added:

"If you gave me a pesticide to throw at these swarms of insects to make them breathe it and die, then I would do so. . . ."

The Iran-Iraq war began in September 1980 with a massive Iraqi invasion of Iran. Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein launched the attack in an attempt to overthrow the government brought to power in Iran by the 1979 revolution against the U.S.-backed shah. Washington and its imperialist allies welcomed the Iraqi invasion because they shared Hussein's fear that the revolutionary upsurge in Iran could spread to Iraq and other Arab countries.

Since then the Iraqi regime has been thrust onto the defensive. Its troops have been largely driven out of Iran, while the ongoing warfare has severely crippled Iraq's economy.

The Reagan administration has grown increasingly concerned about the possibility of an Iraqi defeat. On the pretext of protecting the entrance to the Persian Gulf, U.S., British, and French warships have been deployed in the Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean near the Iranian coast. Washington has some 30 naval vessels in the area, including the aircraft carrier *Midway* and a battle cruiser.

The Iranian government has rejected Washington's threats. "Right from the beginning we have said, and will continue to say, that as long as our ships can pass through the Strait of Hormuz we will not do anything to anybody," Iranian President Ali Khamenei said in February. "But should the U.S. fleet and their supporters wish to do anything in the strait, their fate would be decisively worse than their fate in Lebanon."

Lebanese majority, it is being supported by the U.S. Marines — called peacekeepers by the Reagan government — and the terror of U.S. artillery and bombs.

"President Reagan's claimed withdrawal of the American marines is only a cover leading to a deeper involvement of the U.S. in Lebanon.

"We believe that the Lebanese people should be allowed to determine their own form of government. We say:

"Stop the bombing now!

"Bring home the U.S. marines!

"Bring home the American warships!"

From Pathfinder

Israel's War Against the Palestinian People

By David Frankel and Will Reissner. The articles in this pamphlet explain the nature of Israel as a colonial-settler state, the character and history of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, and the Marxist attitude toward the Palestine Liberation Organization. 46 pages, \$1.25.

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



Wounded Iranian soldiers. Hundreds of thousands have been killed or maimed in Iran during 42 months of aggression from Iraq.

Behind the cancellation of Israel-Lebanon pact

Continued from front page

veloped among the right-wing forces.

Pierre Gemayel, head of the Phalangist Party and father of the president, supported his son's decision to void the pact.

But Phalange militia heads vowed continued "resistance." They also refused to join the Geneva discussions.

The foreign affairs director of the paramilitary force declared, "We are now back to the 5th day of June, 1982. All the political results of the Israeli operation are now wiped out."

June 5, 1982, was the day before the Israeli armed forces rolled into Lebanon, bringing death and destruction as they made their way into Beirut itself.

The U.S.-backed Israeli war of 1982 resulted in the installation of a new Christian Phalange government. Originally, Bashir Gemayel, head of the fascist-like militia, was tapped as president. With his assassination, his brother Amin was given the job.

The massively equipped Israeli and Phalange forces also succeeded in driving the PLO fighters out of Beirut.

Later, Syrian-backed dissident elements within the PLO embarked on a course of armed factional battle that forced PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his supporters to depart entirely from Lebanon.

But Israel's victory proved less substantial than it first seemed.

Its bloody aggression evoked strong popular protest within Israel.

This coupled with continuing resistance by Muslim and Druse militia fighters

forced Israel to withdraw from Beirut and consolidate its forces in the southern part of the country.

To fill the vacuum created by the Israeli departure from Beirut, an "international peacekeeping force" of U.S., French, British, and Italian troops was dispatched. Meanwhile, U.S. warships massed off the Lebanese coast.

But the Muslim and Druse forces, backed militarily by Syria, continued to resist the Christian-led Lebanese army. By this February, the Gemayel government was on the ropes.

This forced Gemayel to negotiate with Damascus. He agreed to scrap the accord with Israel, and to broaden his regime to include pro-Syrian politicians.

Syria's opposition to the Israel-Lebanon pact sprang from real concerns.

The continuing presence of thousands of Israeli troops in Lebanon makes that country a corridor for a potential invasion of Syria. The ongoing presence of Israeli troops in the Golan Heights underlines that Syria's concern is valid. An area of Syria, the Golan Heights, was seized by Israel during its 1967 June war, and formally annexed in 1981.

The Syrian government also strongly objected to Washington and Tel Aviv writing the terms of a settlement with Lebanon in which it had no voice — and predicated on forcing the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

The Syrian government took the lead in the negotiations with Gemayel and it convinced Lebanese opposition forces to drop their demand for his resignation.

In addition to ending the Israeli accord, the Syrian government had two principal aims.

One was the creation of a stable government in Lebanon more friendly to Syria.

The other, dating back almost a decade, was to prevent the reemergence of the PLO as a force providing social and political leadership to the oppressed Lebanese people, as well as to the Palestinian refugee population.

Meanwhile, although Israel and Washington have been set back in their aggressive designs against Lebanon, the fundamental conflict remains.

Gemayel retains the presidency. A strong Israeli force remains in Lebanon. It continues to arm and utilize the ultraright Christian militia.

And the powerful armada of U.S. battleships remains stationed off the coast of Lebanon.



Ala. workers, Black activists sign socialist ballot petitions

BY ANDY ROSE

BIRMINGHAM — When hundreds of Blacks marched in Selma, Alabama, for voting rights and against police violence March 4, campaigners for Mel Mason were there, selling the *Militant* and gathering signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate's name on the state ballot.

Participation in the voting-rights march capped a successful first weekend of the socialists' Alabama ballot drive, during which petitioners collected more than 800 signatures for Mason. State election laws require 5,000 signatures for a presidential candidate to appear on the ballot as an independent.

Campaigners also gathered more than 200 names to put Mark Curtis on the ballot as SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from the Birmingham-area's 6th Congressional District. Curtis, an aircraft worker and member of the United Auto Workers, announced his campaign March 1.

Many activists in the Selma voting rights fight are supporting Jesse Jackson's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Campaigners for Mason had good discussions with a number of Jackson supporters on the march. The socialists agreed with the desire of Jackson supporters to fight against war and racism and to win political power for the oppressed and exploited.

But, the socialists said, they are con-

vinced none of these goals can be achieved through the Democratic Party.

While some marchers would not sign ballot petitions for Mason, saying, "I've got my candidate already," others agreed to back the socialist candidate's democratic right to appear on the ballot. About 20 signed the Mason petitions.

Petitioning the day before in Birmingham, socialist campaigners had important discussions with hundreds of steelworkers, coal miners, railroad workers, hospital workers, unemployed, retirees, and others.

Some already knew of the Socialist Workers Party because of *Militant* sales at

their plant gate or at strike picket lines. Most were hearing of the party for the first time and wanted more information. Besides gathering signatures, campaigners handed out hundreds of pieces of literature and sold more than 30 *Militants*.

Petitioners found that the more they explained the program of the socialist candidates, the more willing people were to sign.

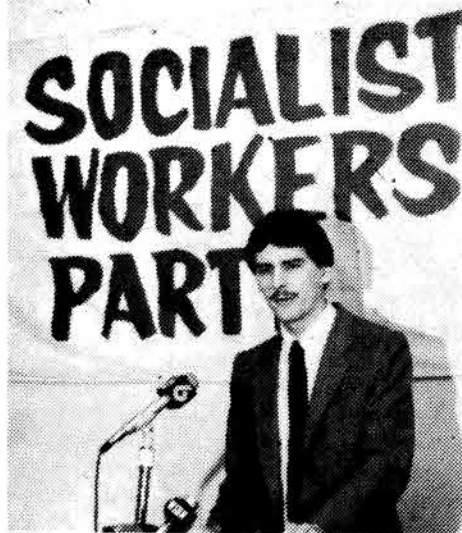
At a small cafe in the Black community, the proprietors were so enthusiastic about Mason's campaign that they took petitions to put by the cash register and asked patrons to sign. They also said they would circulate the petitions at their church.

Campaigners met several coworkers of SWP congressional candidate Curtis. Hayes International, the military aircraft plant where Curtis works, is the largest industrial employer in Birmingham and is organized by the United Auto Workers.

One Hayes worker, who ran into campaigners outside a supermarket, not only signed petitions for Mason and Curtis, but also came to that night's *Militant* Forum and decided to take a petition himself and get more signers.

Curtis announced his candidacy at a March 1 news conference. It was covered by the ABC-TV affiliate, both daily newspapers, and several radio stations.

TV coverage featured Curtis demanding "bring the troops home now from Lebanon



Militant/Andy Rose
UAW member Mark Curtis at news conference to announce he is running for U.S. Congress from Birmingham on SWP ticket.

— both on- and off-shore — and halt the shelling of that country's freedom fighters. The American people have no interest in killing and dying for a regime opposed by the majority of Lebanon's people."

Curtis noted that the 6th Congressional District incumbent, Democrat Ben Erdreich, had been elected with the support of unions and Black and women's groups.

But, Curtis said, "the worsening problems faced by working people in the 6th Congressional District proves we have no 'friend' in Congress. Erdreich has supported U.S. military actions in the Middle East and Central America. He applauds concession deals forced from the unions. He has joined the assault on women's rights with his vote to cut off federal funds for abortion."

The *Birmingham News* wrote: "Curtis also said Erdreich did not support strikers at Jim Walters Resources and at Hayes. 'I was on the picket line. He was nowhere,' Curtis said."

That is why, Curtis explained, "working people don't need any more so-called 'friends of labor' — we need *labor itself* in office. We need a labor party based on the organized power of the unions."

Curtis reports an enthusiastic response to work to his campaign. Coworkers brought in copies of the news coverage to show around and offered their support.

Now socialists at Hayes are looking forward to petitioning and campaigning at the plant gate with Mel Mason when the socialist presidential candidate tours Alabama next week.

Birmingham rally for Mel Mason

Hear Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. President; Mark Curtis, SWP candidate for 6th Congressional District; Georgia Fleming, editor, *Irish American Voice*; others. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Preceded by dinner reception at 5 p.m. (donation \$3.50) at 2900 10th Ave. S. Ausp: Alabama Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Alabama young socialists petition for Mason

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A team of supporters of the Socialist Workers presidential slate of Mel Mason and Andrea González began three weeks of campaigning in Alabama here in the state capital March 5.

The team is made up of four members of the Young Socialist Alliance, which is coordinating youth support for the Mason-González campaign.

A major task of the team is to help surpass the 5,000 signatures required on petitions to place the socialist candidates on the

ballot in Alabama. On the first day of the tour the team members collected 260 signatures, distributed hundreds of pieces of campaign literature including the *Militant* newspaper and the *Young Socialist*, and were invited to participate in a debate between representatives of presidential candidates at Alabama State University (ASU) on March 6.

Mel Mason will be in Montgomery March 9 to meet with his supporters and to win a broader hearing for the socialist perspective.

A large number of signatures were col-

lected at the predominately Black ASU. Many students hadn't heard of the socialist campaign and were planning on voting for Jesse Jackson in the Democratic Party primary on March 13. They were interested in the differences between the SWP and Democratic Party candidates. One student said, "socialism, that's where the rich don't have all the power."

Meanwhile, other team members petitioned among working-class shoppers downtown. They received support for the ballot-rights fight when they explained that socialists campaign against the U.S. wars in Central America and Lebanon and against union-busting and racist and sexist discrimination.

These are clearly the daily concerns of workers here, and they liked the hard-hitting stance of the socialist campaign.

The team ran into a number of workers from Lowndes County, one of the poorest counties in the United States. In the 1960s Blacks there organized the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, an independent Black party that ran candidates against the Democrats and Republicans. Some of the people the team met had participated in this organization and others remembered how it had organized Blacks to fight racist discrimination. They were glad to hear that the socialist campaign calls for the formation of an independent Black political party and for all working people to break with the Democratic and Republican parties.

One middle-aged Black man explained that he had read a socialist paper as a youth almost 30 years ago and it had made a lasting imprint on his political thinking. He said he had never supported any leader who called on Blacks and working people to support the "establishment parties." He thought most Blacks did so only because there was no alternative.

The man helped call people over to sign up for Mason's right to be on the ballot. He expressed hope that a campaign office for Mason-González could be set up in Montgomery.

The team members plan to petition and publicize Mason's central Alabama tour this week. They will be in Montgomery and Tuscaloosa, a city just south of the coal fields, where Mason will speak March 8 at the University of Alabama campus. The following two weeks the socialist campaign team will visit Selma and the textile towns in eastern Alabama. They will also go to industrial centers in northern Alabama and wind up in the southern port of Mobile the final few days of the tour.

Selma Blacks protest racist killing; demand voting rights

SELMA, Ala. — Hundreds of Blacks demonstrated here March 4 against police violence and for voting rights.

The march protested the firing last month of Black deputy voter registrars, as well as the recent police killing of a Black man, Jesse Smith. It also commemorated the 19th anniversary of the brutal assault of club-swinging state troopers on a 1965 voting-rights demonstration.

Some 200 to 300 Blacks defiantly retraced the steps of that historic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and cheered speakers who denounced the continued lack of political representation or social progress for Blacks since 1965.

The deputy voter registrars were fired for being too successful in registering Blacks — in the context of an election that pits 20-year white incumbent Mayor Joe Smitherman against Black civil rights leader and city council member F.D. Reese.

Participants in the march were urged by speakers to vote for Jesse Jackson for president in the upcoming Democratic state primary and to vote for Reese in the mayoral election this summer.

Reese was cheered at the rally when he condemned "public officials who still want to deny us the right to vote." He demanded: "we want our deputy registrars back!"

Marie Foster, a veteran leader of voting-rights efforts in Selma and one of those fired, said, "We're fired up, we won't take no more. Our foot is in the door, we're pushing for justice. Firing won't stop us, it makes us more determined."

— A.R.

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MASON FOR PRESIDENT • GONZALEZ FOR FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Mason hits cover-up in Miami cop trial

BY STEPHANIE KORSHUN

MIAMI — Mel Mason, Socialist Workers presidential candidate, toured Miami February 29–March 2, denouncing police killings of Blacks in Dade County and a February 28 federal court ruling denying Haitian refugees constitutional rights.

Mason attended the trial of Luis Alvarez, the Miami cop who gunned down a Black youth, Nevell Johnson, in an Overtown video arcade in December 1982. This unprovoked murder sparked a three-day rebellion in the Black community of Overtown, which forced the state to indict Alvarez for manslaughter.

Speaking with reporters at the trial, Mason said: "The charge should be murder, not manslaughter. I am outraged to see that there are no Blacks on the jury. This trial is a fraud — both the state prosecutors and the cop's lawyers intend to see Alvarez acquitted."

"I am especially outraged to hear the testimony today," said Mason, "to hear how they are portraying Nevell Johnson as a criminal and the entire Black community as criminals. They're trying to make Alvarez a hero for killing Johnson in cold blood."

Mason also discussed the case with Overtown residents at the arcade where Johnson was killed, and with members of Laborers International Union Local 478 — a majority Black local — at their union hall. These workers were eager to hear Mason's report on the trial proceedings and to discuss how to stop these racist attacks.

"If this murderer is allowed to go free, cops will have a green light to terrorize Blacks and other working people," explained Mason. "We need to march, rally, and protest against these racist cops, against this fake trial, and against the system that organizes and protects these cops."

Mason also explained that the increased attacks by police are part of Washington's preparations for more wars abroad. Said Mason: "The U.S. government is trying to intimidate working people and prevent us from organizing and protesting their wars at home and abroad."

He pledged to use his national speaking tour to publicize the fight to win justice for Nevell Johnson and to stop killer cops.

Mason also met with leaders of the Haitian community to discuss the February 28 court ruling that held that undocumented workers are not entitled to constitutional rights. Under this ruling, the Immigration

and Naturalization Service (INS) may discriminate on the basis of national origin and is not required to notify refugees of their right to petition for political asylum. Immigrants can be rounded up and thrown into detention camps, like Miami's notorious Krome Avenue Center.

Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, director of the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. (HRC), met with Mason and said that Krome is "the international concentration camp of President Reagan. There are immigrants from over 57 different countries imprisoned in Krome and the INS plans to open other camps, including one in Louisiana that will hold more than 5,000 refugees."

Mason called for support for HRC efforts to win freedom for Haitian refugees. He used his radio and newspaper interviews to urge people to attend a March 4 protest planned at the Krome Center.

"Haitian refugees come here to escape the brutal, U.S.-backed Duvalier regime," he affirmed. "My party is for full rights and asylum for these refugees."

Mason also met with Haitian garment

workers at the home of a campaign supporter in the Miami-area neighborhood called "Little Haiti." These workers described the problems they have faced at the hands of the INS, and the threats and harassment carried out by Duvalier's secret police, the Ton Ton Macoutes, who operate in Miami.

"Whether we are Haitians or Black Americans," Mason told the workers, "we are all one people. The slave ship just dropped some of us off a little further north than others. We must all fight together for our freedom."

While in Miami, Mason also campaigned at the huge Eastern Airlines maintenance facility, speaking with some of the 6,000 members of the International Association of Machinists who work there. He met with board members of the Dade County National Organization for Women, and with an organizer for the Black community organization PULSE (People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality), and had several newspaper and radio interviews.



Militant/Stephen Fuchs
Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president

Gonzalez campaigns at Pa. steel mills

BY AUGUST NIMTZ

PITTSBURGH — At the end of February, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Andrea González brought the socialist campaign to embattled steelworkers in this area.

Pittsburgh is one city that has felt little impact from the upturn in the economy. Unemployment remains a problem and steelworkers are among its chief victims.

At U.S. Steel's six plants in the area, where 20,000 workers held jobs as recently as 1981, fewer than 10,000 are working today. U.S. Steel's announcement last December of further plant shutdowns will throw thousands more out of work here permanently. Steelworkers still on the job are under relentless pressure to make further concessions in wages, benefits, and work rules.

González told the *Militant* that her discussions with steelworkers indicated an openness to discussing the ideas of the socialist campaign and the solutions it puts forward to defend workers from the effects of the capitalist economic crisis.

Some steelworkers, said González, no longer accept the false line that imports are the main cause of unemployment. Many think the government should do something about the jobs crisis. Others believe new leadership is needed in the steelworkers union.

On February 28 and 29, González went to the plant gates of U.S. Steel's Homestead and Clairton works, as well as Allegheny-Ludlum's mill. A Homestead worker told González that U.S. Steel tries to play off steelworkers here against workers overseas — while it imports steel from abroad when it suits its purpose.

Another steelworker told González that imports are "a nonissue." He said he believed that steel minimills here in the United States — smaller steel plants with predominately non-union labor — posed a bigger threat to the jobs of unionized steelworkers.

In response González suggested that rather than view overseas workers as a

threat, as the companies would have it, steelworkers should view them as allies who are facing similar attacks on wages and working conditions at the hands of their own bosses.

In response to U.S. Steel's plant shutdowns, the government should nationalize the steel industry, said González. She told workers here she favors publicly elected boards to oversee a nationalized steel industry with control of on-the-job conditions in the hands of steelworkers themselves.

The socialist candidate received good coverage in the local media. The local Black newspaper, the *Pittsburgh Courier*, which also has a national readership, carried a front-page story about González and the program of the Socialist Workers Party. Channel 11 televised a taped interview

with the candidate and KQV, a widely listened to, all-news radio station carried González' statement urging the nationalization of the steel industry.

González kicked off her tour here with a rally on February 26. In addition to González, the meeting featured talks by Clare Fraenzl and Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party candidates for the 22nd and 14th Congressional Districts respectively.

Fraenzl is a coal miner and member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1197. Duncan is a member of UMWA Local 2350. Several of Fraenzl's coworkers attended the rally, including the president of an area NAACP chapter. About half those participating in the rally were Black. The enthusiasm of the audience was indicated by the more than \$1,500 raised for the socialist campaign.

NOW assails judge's remarks linking abortions and killing

Roberta McCumber was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for manslaughter on January 26 in Du Page County, Illinois. A jury had found her guilty of killing her companion, but also decided she was mentally ill at the time.

In sentencing her, Chief Circuit Judge Peter Paolucci pointed to the three abortions the woman had saying, "Taking that in conjunction with taking the life of Jeff Williams, what value, may I ask, does she place on human life?"

Illinois president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Anne Courtney, condemned the judge's statement. "Judge Paolucci has condemned Roberta McCumber to additional years in prison based upon his own extrajudicial beliefs," said Courtney.

In responding to this charge, the judge admitted that McCumber's abortions were one of the factors that he took into account in determining the length of her sentence.



Militant/Betsy Soares
SWP vice-presidential nominee Andrea González

Workers' contributions boost 1984 socialist campaign fund

BY YVONNE HAYES

With only a few weeks remaining, the fund to kick off the 1984 socialist presidential campaign has been boosted by a number of new pledges. Over \$95,000 has now been promised — \$11,000 above the \$84,000 goal.

Two socialist workers were able to make a big contribution to this effort by pledging \$3,000 and \$7,000 respectively to the socialist campaign.

While not everyone can make such large contributions, every dollar that is sent in helps to make this fund a success. A contributor from Lincoln, Nebraska, sent in \$50 to cover and raise his \$25 pledge. A note accompanying the check had a two-word message: "new job."

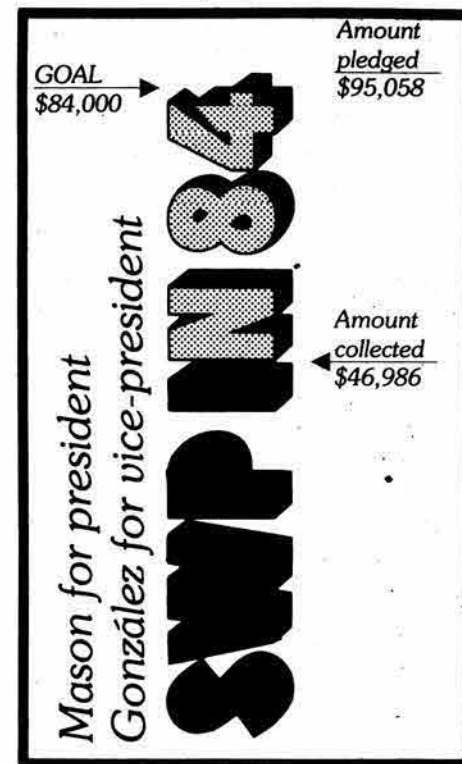
Around the country, many auto workers will be receiving "profit-sharing" checks from General Motors this month. A number of them in Kansas City, supporters of the Mason-González ticket, know that the only way they and their fellow workers will ever get a "fair" share is to cast in their lot with the socialist campaign. They have decided to raise their pledges.

In Phoenix, at a meeting to hear a report on Mason's fact-finding tour of Arizona copper-mining towns, over \$200 was raised. The \$84,000 fund had helped to make this tour possible.

A check for \$250 was sent in by an Indiana steelworker and a contribution of \$150 came from an oil worker who has since gone on strike.

These supporters and other workers like them have been inspired by the Mason-González campaign and its strategy for building a new society based on the power of the working class, a socialist society.

The fund is now past the half-way point with \$46,986 collected. The big challenge is to collect the remainder quickly. You can join in this effort and help put us over the top.



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Who controls El Salvador's death squads?

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Dramatic new information has recently been revealed detailing the workings of the right-wing death squads in El Salvador and their connection to the U.S.-backed government there. This evidence also points to the U.S. role in sanctioning the death squads and aiding the cover-up of their murderous activity.

A front-page article in the March 3 *New York Times* reports on interviews with a former Salvadoran military official "who has served at the highest level of the security police in El Salvador," according to the *Times*.

The official, whose name was not revealed for fear of reprisal, is a rightist who has no sympathies with the revolutionary struggle being waged in El Salvador by anti-government rebel forces. He evidently fears that death squad activity is becoming so widespread that it may lead to further pressure in the United States to cut off U.S. aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship. The official believes this aid is essential to keep right-wing forces in power in El Salvador.

He has provided extensive information to members of the U.S. Congress on the inner workings of the death squads: how and why they were formed, who directs and pays them, and who selects their victims. The information he has revealed, however, makes it plain that not only must Washington know these facts already, but it is also complicit in the death squad activity itself.

Among the facts reported in the *Times* are these:

- Top Salvadoran officials, who work closely with U.S. advisers, organize and direct the death squads. These include Salvadoran presidential candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson, Col. Nicolás Carranza, chief of the Treasury police, former Minister of Defense José Guillermo García, and other top-ranking officials.

- D'Aubuisson personally ordered the 1980 murders of Archbishop Oscar Romero and Christian Democratic politician Mario Zamora. Those who pulled the trigger were members of the Nicaraguan National Guard under former dictator Anastasio Somoza, overthrown in 1979. (Since then Salvadoran murderers have been recruited and trained.)

- Money for the killings comes from wealthy Salvadoran exiles, many of whom now send it from their homes in Miami.

- A complete cover-up has been orchestrated to conceal the truth concerning the 1980 slayings of four U.S. churchwomen. These killings were carried out by Salvadoran national guardsmen. The cover-up is directed by Salvadoran Minister of Defense Eugenio Vides Casanova. The murders were ordered by Casanova's cousin, a Salvadoran colonel.

The former Salvadoran military official names D'Aubuisson as the key death squad organizer. He in turn was trained by Guatemalan rightists recruited by the U.S. CIA in the early 1950s to help carry out the job of overthrowing the elected Guatemalan government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán in June 1954.

Two of the Guatemalans involved are Mario Sandoval Alarcón and Leonel Sisniega Otero, leaders of the ultraright National Liberation Movement. This is a group formed with the help of the CIA. These U.S.-trained terrorists taught D'Aubuisson whatever he did not already know about the organization and implementation of political murders. Rightist killers who needed a place to hide out following a murder in El Salvador were given refuge in Guatemala.

These are just a sampling of the facts offered by the former Salvadoran military man. He reports in the *Times* that right-wing violence has so permeated Salvadoran society that "Young people . . . go to his [D'Aubuisson's] office and ask what they can do to help. Someone gives them a gun and the name of someone to kill. . . . People see that all they have to do is go out and shoot someone and nothing will happen to them," he said.

"It reaches the point where his hitmen get bored. . . . So he sends them out to kill

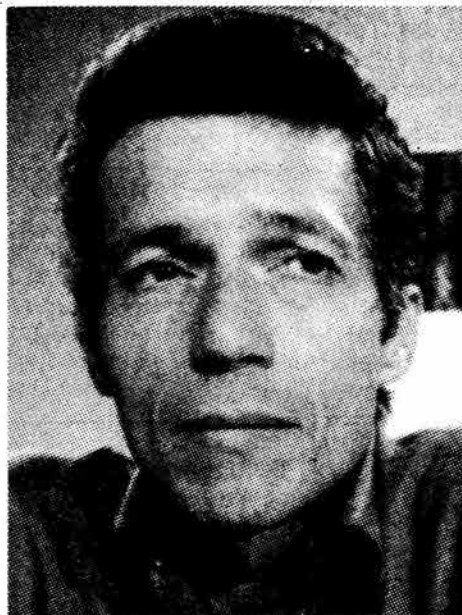
a professor or throw a bomb at some union leader," the official continued.

He also asserted that Christian Democratic presidential candidate José Napoleón Duarte, was told all the information concerning the murders of the U.S. churchwomen while he was provisional president in 1981. Duarte chose not to act.

In an example of classic "stonewalling" that would have made the Watergate gang proud, the U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, told a Senate subcommittee that such evidence of Salvadoran officials' connections to the death squads is "inconclusive."

There is good reason for such stonewalling. The U.S. government advises and aids these officials on a daily basis. This raises the obvious question of U.S. government agencies, like the CIA, being involved with the death squads.

And it's Washington's massive aid to this brutal regime that allows these killers to remain in power and continue their terror.



Former high Salvadoran official has provided information that Roberto D'Aubuisson (left), Defense Minister Eugenio Vides Casanova (right), and other top Salvadoran officials direct and cover up death-squad murders.

Salvador strikers face gov't repression

Continued from front page

these elections calling them "no solution to national problems," because "even minimum conditions for guaranteeing the exercise of political rights" do not exist in El Salvador.

Little or no news of these strikes, the March 6 work stoppage, or the MUSYGES statement have appeared in the U.S. media. The *Militant* obtained this information from Managua, Nicaragua, correspondent Michael Baumann, based on a February 27 broadcast on Radio Farabundo Martí, a voice of the Salvadoran revolutionary forces, and from daily newspapers in Managua.

Wage freeze

Baumann reports that paychecks have been frozen in El Salvador, by government decree, for the last four years. Prices, however, have been rising an average of 40 percent a year.

The work stoppages, centered in the capital city of San Salvador, began in late February over the issue of wages and spread rapidly. Government employees at the Institute of Civil Security walked out February 22 demanding higher pay.

On February 24 foundry workers at San Salvador's Sarti steel plant walked off the job demanding a 30 percent increase in wages.

Workers at the Ministry of Education and other government offices went out to demand back pay that had been owed to them for several months.

On February 27, 4,000 workers at ANDA, the national waterworks, struck for a pay increase.

At the Institute of Distribution, a state marketing agency, government employees also walked out. They publicly named "corrupt functionaries" who have hoarded scarce consumer products "for their own benefit and profit."

An important protest has also developed at a major textile plant in the southeastern provincial capital of San Miguel where workers are demanding the return of funds they were forced to contribute towards a crooked housing scheme. The workers are unemployed following the shutdown of their plant at the end of February.

Government employees have been offered a 10 percent pay increase, the first wage concession offered since 1979. But at the same time both the army and the death squads have threatened to unleash a wave of terror.

Col. Adolfo Blandón, chief of the Salvadoran army general staff, has denounced the strikes as a "campaign of economic destabilization aimed at undermining the electoral process." He says they are being "run by subversives."

An army unit surrounded water workers on the first day of their strike, threatening severe reprisals if they refused to return to work.

The ultrarightist Secret Anticommunist Army (ESA) has phoned death threats to strikers at the Social Security Agency.

Despite these threats, as of March 1 strike leaders had rejected the 10 percent

pay increase offer as insufficient.

These strikes, and virtually all union organizing in El Salvador, occur under daily conditions of extreme repression directed against the workers movement.

El Salvador's right-wing government fears a deepening of the struggle in the urban centers of the industrial working class, which will ultimately be decisive in toppling the dictatorship and ending domination of their country by U.S. imperialism.

Rebels back union rights

The liberation forces are winning the war precisely because they offer the working people of El Salvador a program to end the poverty, social injustice, and repression they have suffered for decades. While the Salvadoran government is attacking strikers, for example, the liberation forces of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) call for freeing all political prisoners, restoring full democrat-

ic rights, passage of laws allowing farm workers to organize, and reparations to unions for the damage caused to their property by the government's troops.

The Salvadoran regime attempts to systematically deny virtually any exercise of trade union rights. This was the conclusion of a delegation of U.S. unionists who participated in a fact-finding trip to El Salvador last summer organized by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

The solidarity needed by El Salvador's striking workers is the same solidarity needed by other working people in that war-torn country: action by U.S. working people to demand that the U.S. government get out of El Salvador and stop all aid to the right-wing dictatorship there. It is U.S. support that props up the Salvadoran regime and its death squads and prevents the Salvadoran workers and farmers from freely exercising their right to determine for themselves what type of government they will have.

Salvadoran unionist, terror victim, asks solidarity from U.S. workers

Earlier this year an important tour by a Salvadoran trade union leader brought the truth about the situation in El Salvador to unionists, Blacks, Latinos, women, and others in the New York-New Jersey area. Marta Alicia Rivera, an exiled leader of the Salvadoran teachers union (ANDES), also toured cities up and down the West Coast last fall along with trade union leaders from Guatemala and Nicaragua.

The following article on Rivera's recent tour appeared in the February 24 issue of the *Public Employee Press*, a publication of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, District Council 37 in New York.

Speaking to a group of DC 37 local union leaders, members and staff on Feb. 9, El Salvadoran teacher and trade unionist Marta Alicia Rivera condemned United States policy in El Salvador and recounted her terrifying experience at the hands of that country's right-wing death squads.

Rivera began teaching in El Salvador in 1972, and became a member of ANDES, the National Association of Salvadoran Teachers. Working with ANDES, Rivera organized slum dwellers and participated in a literacy campaign that continues to this day. The campaign is the only one of its kind in Latin America being conducted against the will of the government in power.

In 1975, Rivera became General Secretary of ANDES for San Miguel Province. Four years later, after receiving many death threats, she became one of a long list of El Salvador trade unionists to be kidnapped by the death squads.

Four men abducted Rivera outside of her brother's house. Her account of the events that followed are harrowing: "They stripped me naked and began to interrogate me. They kept hitting me with their rifles until my face opened up and my jaw broke. They made cuts all over my body with a razor blade. They cut off all my hair, shaved my eyebrows and even tried to cut out my tongue. . . . Finally, they tied me up, put my slip back on and threw me in a garbage dump somewhere. Miraculously, someone found me and brought me back to the university."

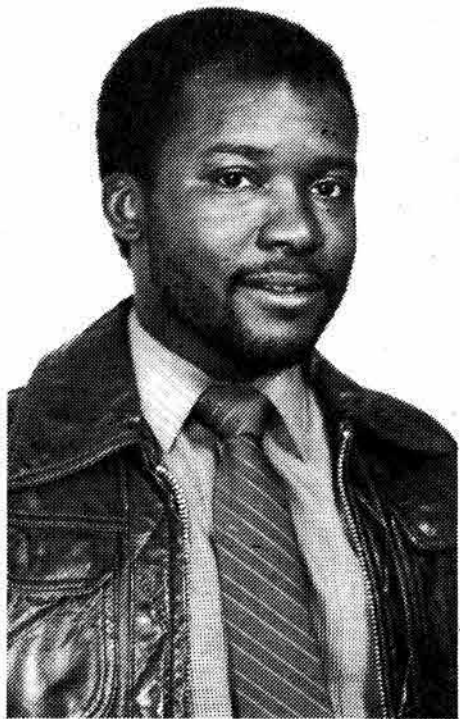
Rivera concluded by saying that the only reason she is alive today is that the death squads thought she was dead, counting her among the more than 300 members of ANDES already murdered.

According to Rivera, ANDES considers literacy to be a political process, a way to empower the poor. ANDES is a target for the death squads, she said, for this same reason.

Rivera fled El Salvador in 1981, and she now works on behalf of ANDES in the United States. Speaking through an interpreter, she warned that recent United States military maneuvers in Honduras — called Big Pine — could turn into an actual invasion of El Salvador. She also appealed to the group to oppose United States aid to the government of El Salvador, which she said was wedded to the death squads.

Her talk at District Council 37 was sponsored by the DC 37 Women's Committee, chaired by Louise DeBow. While in the New York area, Rivera spoke to other trade union groups, including District 1199; District 65, UAW [United Auto Workers]; and CWA [Communications Workers of America] Local 1180.

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Militant
Newport News shipyard worker Eli Green

Socialist Steelworker runs for city council in Virginia

BY CHARLES BARNET

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Eli Green will be the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party in the Newport News City Council race this spring.

On February 23, Green submitted petitions with the names of 470 registered voters at the circuit court in downtown Newport News. At least 125 signatures are required for independents to be listed on the May 1 ballot.

At a news conference outside the courthouse he explained his decision to challenge the Democrats and Republicans who run the city in the interests of the rich minority.

"This is a city of working people and servicemen and women, and it is in their interests that this city should be run."

Green is a pipefitter at Newport News Shipbuilding and an active member of

United Steelworkers of America Local 8888. Last fall the local decisively defeated a union-busting decertification attempt.

Noting President Reagan's statement the night before that the role of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon would continue, Green told the press that he supported the "immediate, unconditional withdrawal" of U.S. forces from the area.

The Tidewater metropolitan area, which includes Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and other cities, is home to numerous military bases. The Newport News shipyard specializes in building nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines for the U.S. Navy. Green's campaign supports the right of GIs to speak out against Washington's imperialist war policy.

Green also spoke to the issues of desegregation of schools and representation

of Blacks on the city council.

Last summer in downtown Norfolk, over 10,000 people marched in support of school desegregation and busing. They were protesting the attempt by the Norfolk school board to adopt a plan to end cross-town busing of elementary school students. At this same time 6 Black parents and 16 Black children filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the plan. The trial of the suit just recently ended.

Green, telling the press that he is for "defense of busing, both in Newport News and in Norfolk," stated that the case would have ramifications for busing plans throughout the Tidewater area and nationwide.

Green also spoke out against the racist districting set-up for city council elections. Currently in cities across Virginia, city council members are chosen in at-large elections which discriminate against Black voters.

For example, the Black population is 32 percent in Newport News, yet no more than one Black has ever been elected to the council, which totals seven members. In Newport News, as in most other area cities, the mayor is not elected by popular vote, but by the city council. The state NAACP is initiating lawsuits in selected cities to establish single-member district elections.

Solidarizing with this fight for democratic rights, Green called for single-member district elections for city council in Newport News. He explained that denial of political representation to Blacks is part and parcel of the two-party system of the Democratic and Republican parties, which is stacked against Blacks and all working people. Green said he favors the formation of an independent labor party, based on the unions, that would challenge the Democrats and Republicans and champion the rights of Blacks, women and unionists.

Green also condemned the February 17 attempted bombing of the Hillcrest abortion clinic in Norfolk. The clinic was unharmed but a bank next door was damaged slightly.

Portland socialists hit union-busting

BY TOM FISKE

PORTLAND, Oregon — "Working people in Portland need their own government. The current government, led by both Democrats and Republicans, pretends to work for us, but really governs for the rich. As the first act of my campaign, I'm going to Nicaragua to see first-hand how workers and farmers there have created a government that works for them."

This is how Joe Kear announced his campaign at a press conference as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Portland. Kear is participating in a brigade of North Americans who are volunteering to help with the coffee, cotton, and other harvests threatened by a shortage of labor in Nicaragua. That shortage exists because Nicaraguan workers are volunteering to go defend their country from CIA-backed counterrevolutionary troops on their borders.

Kear is a water meter reader for the city and a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. His main opponent is the incumbent mayor, Democrat Frank Ivancie, who regularly travels to other countries to entice foreign companies to Portland with offers of fat tax giveaways and a union-busting climate.

"The significance of my trip to Nicaragua and Ivancie's trip to Japan are exactly opposite," Kear stressed at the news conference. "Ivancie stands for the big corporations who promote competition between workers around the world — a competition that means union-busting and low wages for us, and higher profits for the bosses. I stand for international solidarity between workers around the world — a solidarity that gives working people the strength to fight back against low wages, union busting, and imperialist war."

Also announcing with Kear in the Socialist Workers campaign in Oregon is Deborah Higdon, who announced her campaign for U.S. Senate against the liberal Republican Mark Hatfield. "The interests of working people are opposed to the interests of the capitalist owners who profit from our labor," she charged. "It is the program of the rich to impose war, unemployment, union-busting, and attacks on

Blacks, Latinos, and women.

"This is the program implemented and advocated now both by the liberals like the Republican Hatfield or the conservatives like the Democrat Ivancie."

The press conference February 6 announcing the campaigns of Higdon and Kear was covered by two TV stations, four radio stations, and the state's main newspaper, the *Oregonian*.

Higdon is a victim of union-busting efforts of Portland's Democratic Party city administration. She works at the notoriously anti-union Wacker Siltronics plant, to whom city land and tax breaks were given in order to locate them here. Higdon is also an activist in the National Organization for Women.

As the first effort of her campaign, Higdon has been speaking out and organizing her campaign supporters against the union-busting campaign of the employers and their government in Oregon. Union-busting is a major issue for workers here. In the past year union contracts and union jobs have been lost at a series of Portland-area manufacturing plants and construction sites.

At the Bingham-Willamette machine works, 300 members of the International Association of Machinists have been on strike nine months, and the company has recruited dozens of scabs to keep the plant operating. At the Oregon Steel Mill, 350 members of the United Steelworkers of America have been on strike four and a half months.

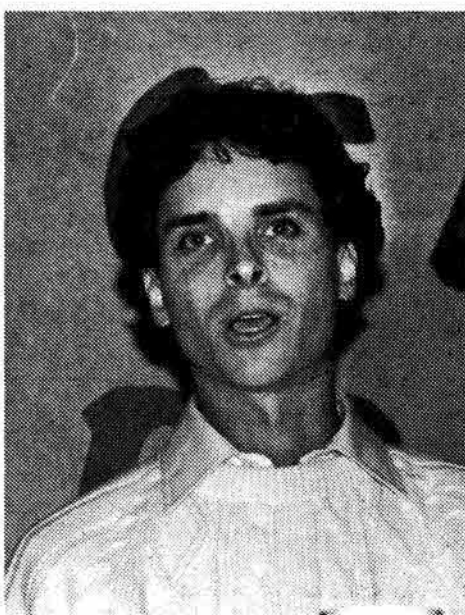
In both strikes the company has easily obtained court injunctions limiting the union pickets to two for each gate. At the Oregon Steel Mill, the city cops looked the other way when scabs assaulted strikers.

Higdon visited the picket lines and marched with strikers at Bingham-Willamette and Oregon Steel. Campaigners for Higdon and Kear leafleted picket lines, plant gates, and shopping centers in working-class communities with a special leaflet against union-busting in Portland. "The time is now," the leaflet states, "for the labor movement to fight back on the political level. The labor movement needs to break from both the Democratic and Republican parties and launch a party of labor."

In Portland, the leaflet explains, "it is the Democratic Party that has stabbed labor in the back on this issue. The city council is entirely composed of Democrats. It's their cops who look the other way when strikers are assaulted. It is they who sign big construction contracts with nonunion outfits like the R.A. Hatch company."

The leaflet points to the need for a labor party that would fight for a workers and farmers government in this country, to replace the capitalist government attacking the rights of workers here and abroad.

The leaflet was well received, especially on the picket lines. At the union plants, the leaflet gets read and talked about. Most workers think union-busting could happen to them in their next round of contract negotiations.



Militant/David Strayer
Joe Kear, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Portland.

Iowa Pork struck over takebacks

BY PETE BRANDLI

ST. PAUL, Minn — "This strike is over dignity. We will stay out until we win or they win," said a Chicano meatpacker on strike against Iowa Pork Industries, a subsidiary of Weinstein International Corp. This was the mood of striking workers on February 23 as the company ran scabs through the picket line.

On February 13 the 210 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 4P voted 188 to 5 to reject the company's takeback demands and struck the plant. The company proposed a contract that would establish a two-tier wage system, paying new hires \$5.50 per hour — or \$1.75 per hour less than employees hired before the new contract. The union is fighting this attempt to pit the current work force against new hires.

The strikers see the two-tier wage system and frequent firings as a threat to their job security. One young striker told me Iowa Pork fires workers on the slightest pretext, like missing a day for illness.

Iowa Pork proposes a three year contract that extends the wage freeze accepted by the union in December 1982 for another 18 months. It has offered raises of less than 25 cents an hour for the last 18 months.

The line speed has been increased from 360 hogs to 560 hogs an hour over the past four years with no increase in the work-force. Five strikers showed me scars from operations for tendonitis from the increasing pace of work. Many strikers said that the pay isn't the most important issue, but if the company was going to treat them like animals they should at least get more money.

Other company takeback demands include changing the workweek to Tuesday through Saturday, no overtime pay on Saturday, overtime pay after a 40 hour week instead of an eight hour day, lowering the guaranteed work week from 36 to

32 hours, and elimination of bonuses for good attendance.

In a clear attempt to bust the union, Iowa Pork started advertising in Twin Cities newspapers for scabs to permanently replace the strikers, at the \$5.50 an hour wage rate. On February 22, Iowa Pork began running about 200 scabs into the plant. The local union responded by mobilizing its ranks to stop the scabs from entering the plant.

The picket lines have also included members of United Auto Workers (UAW) locals 125 and 879, International Union of Electrical Workers Local 1142, United Steelworkers of America Local 7263, and Grain Millers Local 1 in support of the striking UFCW workers.

Before the police escorted the scabs' cars through the picket line, most strikers thought the police would treat both sides equally in this battle. As the St. Paul police and Dakota County Sheriff's Department began to arrest strikers, a discussion broke out among strikers on the role of the police. Some strikers began shouting, "The cops are the Gestapo! The cops are bought off by Iowa Pork!" Iowa Pork secured an injunction limiting the number of pickets to seven. One striking meatpacker asked, why can't they get an injunction against Iowa Pork's scab running?

The Iowa Pork strike has also sparked a wide-ranging discussion at Gross Given Manufacturing, an IUE-organized shop where I work. Many of my coworkers are discussing the issues in the strike, the offensive by the meat-packing industry against the unions, the role of the cops and the courts, and the need for solidarity.

What the unions need to do is to unite and fight each attack on the union movement. It's this type of union solidarity that is needed to stop union-busting operations like Iowa Pork.

Steelworkers Under Attack

How to fight back and defend jobs
by Geoff Mirelowitz, 95 cents, 40 pp.

In March 1983 the steel corporations imposed big wage, benefit, and work rule concessions on steelworkers. Despite their claims, not a single job was saved by these giveaways. Steelworkers still face tough times and signs are that they may get worse. In this pamphlet, Mirelowitz, a laid-off steelworker, answers the employers' attempts to blame workers for the economic crisis in the steel industry. This pamphlet proposes a course for the steelworkers' union and the entire labor movement to fight back.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage.

'Maurice Bishop Speaks': Grenada revol

Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution 1979-1983. Introduction by Steve Clark. Pathfinder Press, New York, 1983. 352 pp., \$6.95 paper.

BY NAN BAILEY

Maurice Bishop Speaks documents the accomplishments and the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), which ruled the Caribbean island of

BOOK REVIEW

Grenada from March 13, 1979, to Oct. 12, 1983.

There is no better record of the achievements and inspiring perspectives of that revolution than the speeches of Maurice Bishop. Bishop was prime minister of Grenada and the central leader of the PRG and the New Jewel Movement (NJM), the party that led the revolution.

Invaluable reading

This book is invaluable reading for workers, farmers, and oppressed peoples in the United States who share the same goals as those set by the Grenada revolu-

tion. In a speech celebrating one year of the revolution, Bishop summarized those goals:

"The Grenada revolution," he said, "was a revolution for democracy, for justice, for social progress, for equal participation by the people of our country in all the decisions which affect their lives."

Grenada, a tiny island of 133 square miles and a population of 110,000, carried out the first socialist revolution in a predominantly Black, English-speaking country.

This people's revolution, begun on March 13, 1979, kicked out the hated U.S.-backed dictator Eric Gairy and installed a government of the workers and farmers of Grenada — a government that acted in their class interests as opposed to those of the imperialist and local businessmen and plantation owners.

This revolution also made a contribution to the process of constructing a new revolutionary leadership of the working class and its allies in the Americas and around the world.

Bishop recognized the international significance of the Grenada revolution. In one interview he emphasizes the "importance of the progressive forces worldwide joining together. We see that struggle as being

one struggle, indivisible," Bishop said.

In that same interview Bishop said, "We certainly place a great deal of importance on the activity, the potential, and the possibilities for the American working-class movement." Not only its potential for solidarity with national liberation struggles and opposition to Washington's war moves, but also "in terms of the potential of doing mortal damage to the international capitalist and imperialist system from within the belly of the main imperialist power on earth."

On Oct. 12, 1983, Bishop was placed under house arrest by a secret faction in the NJM organized by Grenadian Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

On October 19, 1983, Bishop and five other government ministers were murdered in cold blood at the orders of Coard's clique.

On October 25, 1983, the U.S.-led invasion brought Grenada to world attention. The invasion was accompanied by a barrage of imperialist lies and slanders against the revolutionary process and the Bishop government.

Bishop knew these lies well. The PRG was confronted with them since the first days of the revolution. And his speeches

contain answers to every one of those slanderous charges. What did the Grenada revolution set out to accomplish from the beginning?

"People of Grenada, this revolution is for work, for food, for decent housing and health services, and for a bright future for our children and great-grandchildren," Bishop declared in a radio address to the people of Grenada on March 13, 1979.

The record of the PRG's accomplishments includes:

- Legalizing and encouraging the formation of trade unions.
- Reducing unemployment from 49 percent to 14 percent.
- Increasing productivity in the country.
- Upgrading medical care so that the number of doctors increased from 1 for every 4,000 Grenadians to 1 in every 2,700.
- Providing free secondary and university education.
- Launching a literacy campaign, which reduced illiteracy to 2 percent.
- Distributing free milk to children.
- Eliminating income taxes for 30 percent of the lowest paid workers.

The Grenada revolution showed what is

Caribbean countries alive with discussion on Grenada events

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

During a recent trip to Grenada and other Caribbean countries, I found that a discussion is raging there about the overthrow of the Grenada revolution and the lessons of that defeat.

This debate is, naturally, most widespread in Grenada itself. There, a layer of young workers is beginning to buck attempts by the U.S. government to turn back gains made under the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) headed by slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. These young fighters are looking for a program for struggling against the reimposition of imperialist domination of the island. They recognize in Bishop's ideas such a program for national liberation.

Bishop's legacy is an obstacle to the Reagan administration's effort to establish a stable proimperialist regime in Grenada. That's why the U.S. government and its Grenadian lackeys are trying to bury the revolutionary leader's memory beneath a pile of lies and slanders.

Keeping Bishop's ideas alive

To help combat this U.S. propaganda campaign, supporters of the Grenada revolution set up the Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983 Martyrs Foundation. The organization's aim is to keep Bishop's ideas alive.

Last month, while in the foundation's offices in St. George's, the capital, I noted that many people came to view the photo exhibit on the achievements of the four and a half years of the Grenada revolution. They discussed the PRG's programs among themselves and with foundation

volunteers. They also talked about the attacks against these gains being made by the present U.S.-imposed regime.

But the main topic of discussion was: what went wrong? What led to the house arrest of Bishop on Oct. 12, 1983, and the subsequent murder of Bishop and five other PRG leaders?

What motivated Bernard Coard, the deputy prime minister, and his followers to adopt a course that destroyed the revolution? A combination of personal ambition, factionalism, and ultraleftism, or, as claimed by the big-business media and Coard himself, communist principles? What lessons can be drawn from the overthrow of the workers and farmers government of Grenada about how to build a revolutionary socialist leadership? What role did the revolutionary leadership of Cuba play?

These and many other questions are being discussed by the Grenadian people. Until recently, they were only hearing Washington's lies about the Grenada revolution and its leadership.

Now the truth about the overthrow of the PRG is beginning to get out in Grenada. Among the pieces of literature being distributed in the country is the Dec. 26, 1983, *Intercontinental Press* containing an interview with Don Rojas, Bishop's press secretary. The interview is about the defeat of the Grenada revolution, and hundreds of copies are in circulation there. I saw dog-eared copies of the magazine even in the homes of well-to-do Grenadians, and Rojas' views on what went wrong in Grenada were being openly discussed at many a dinner table.

An important contribution to this on-

going discussion is the publication by Pathfinder Press of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Besides being the most up-to-date compilation of his speeches, the book contains statements by the Cuban government on the coup that ousted Bishop and also Fidel Castro's November 14, 1983, speech in Havana, where he answered all the lies and slanders about Cuban responsibility for the overthrow of the Grenada revolution.

The events in Grenada last fall had a profound effect on other Caribbean nations. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines revolutionists are discussing the meaning of the Grenadian defeat and its implications for the struggle in that country, which, with its population of 150,000, is comparable in size to Grenada.

Vincentians had looked to Grenada under the PRG as an example of how a small country, economically underdeveloped by centuries of colonial and imperialist domination, could provide jobs, education, free health care, and economic development and other benefits for its people. Right-wing forces in the country are trying to use the defeat of the Grenada revolution to convince Vincentian working people that revolutions that place political power in the hands of workers and farmers can only end in violence and bloodshed for the people.

To answer this lie, the Movement for National Unity (MNU) is conducting a campaign to tell the truth about the PRG's achievements and overthrow.

Another Vincentian organization, the United People's Movement (UPM), is conducting Grenada solidarity work. This group, which opposes the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the dismantling of the PRG's programs, disagrees with the Cuban leaders and the central leaders of the Grenada revolution who say Coard and his followers opened the door to the imperialist assault through their own treacherous betrayal of the revolution. UPM leaders told me that in the dispute between Coard and Bishop they sided with Coard, who, they said, led a principled, Marxist battle against the "right-opportunism" of Bishop.

This same charge was leveled at the Bishop leadership by Michael Als of the People's Popular Movement (PPM) in Trinidad and Tobago.

Oil workers union

Other groups in that oil-rich nation have a different view. The leadership of the Oil-fields Workers Trade Union (OWTU), for example, blasts the Coard grouping's betrayal. The OWTU had supported the PRG since the victory of the Grenada revolution on March 13, 1979. The union had organized trips to Grenada for its members and solidarity activity with the Grenada

revolution in Trinidad and Tobago.

Part of the discussion in the Black, English-speaking Caribbean is on the role of the Cuban leadership. One of the leaders of the OWTU pointed out that the statements of the Cuban government about the October events in Grenada and Castro's November 14 speech had greatly increased the prestige of the Cuban revolutionaries in the Black Caribbean.

Among the materials that groups on these islands are using are *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and *Maurice Bishop Speaks to U.S. Workers*.

In addition to the countries mentioned earlier, I also visited Martinique, which remains a French colony, and the Dominican Republic. In these countries too there's a lot of discussion on the meaning of the Grenadian defeat.

The Revolutionary Socialist Group (GSR), the Martiniquean section of the Fourth International, went on a campaign to demand U.S. hands off Grenada following the invasion of the island last October. The group organized picket lines and other demonstrations against the U.S. invasion. The GSR also published a pamphlet in French that contained excerpts from the Rojas interview published in *Intercontinental Press* along with comments by leaders of the GSR. They went on a campaign to sell the pamphlet and their newspaper, *Révolution Socialiste*.

The GSR is working with other activists in the solidarity movement to build a Caribbean-wide conference in Martinique this July to discuss how to coordinate activities in solidarity with the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean.

In the Dominican Republic there were also many protests against the U.S. invasion of Grenada. The demonstrations were organized by the Front of the Dominican Left (FID), which includes the Dominican Communist Party (PCD), Socialist Bloc (BS), and Dominican Workers Party (PTD), among others.

The FID sponsored a forum in Santo Domingo on February 28 where I gave a first hand account of the current situation in Grenada based on my two-week visit there. I presented my view of the lessons to be drawn from the Grenada revolution and its defeat. More than 100 people attended and the discussion was lively, centering on what lessons could be learned about how to build a united, revolutionary leadership in the fight for national liberation and socialism.

Several people said they regularly read *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*, and had read with great interest that publication's translation of the Rojas interview. They were eagerly awaiting other such material in Spanish.

AVAILABLE NOW

"Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again"

Videotape of interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

In this film, which was produced by the National Black United Front, Rojas describes the events that took place between Oct. 12, 1983 — when Bishop was placed under house arrest by Deputy Prime Minister Coard — and Oct. 19, 1983 — when thousands of Grenadians freed Bishop and marched to Fort Rupert, where he was killed.

Rojas explains the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution, Cuba's aid to the Grenadian people, and the developments inside the ruling party, the New Jewel Movement.

Length: 80 minutes, standard speed VHS videotape. Rental fee: \$35. Order from: The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014; (212) 929-3486.

tion's achievements and its overthrow

possible when the workers and farmers are able to boot out imperialist domination and take their destiny into their own hands.

Role of women

One of the earliest speeches in this book is directed to the question of the role of women in Grenadian society. Bishop outlines his views of the evolution of women's oppression and its ties today to the social system of imperialism and capitalism. He explains the intention of the revolution to challenge the laws and ideas that contributed to the enslavement of Grenadian women. The PRG outlawed sexual victimization of women. It provided maternity leaves for women workers. The PRG also promoted the founding of the National Women's Organization, which encouraged women to step forward to play leading roles in every aspect of the revolutionary process.

Truly democratic society

Was the PRG an undemocratic government? Was it imposed on the people against their will, as another slander claims? Bishop explained at a mass rally in 1980:

"There are those who believe that you cannot have a democracy unless there is a situation where every five years, and for five seconds in those five years, a people are allowed to put an X next to some candidate's name, and for those five seconds in those five years they become democrats, and for the remainder of the time, four years and 364 days, they return to being nonpeople without any right to say anything to their government, without any right to be involved in running their country. We in Grenada do not regard that as being the real proof of democracy....

"We say that when in a particular country the question of a new health policy has to be formulated and the people of the country are involved in discussing that policy, and organizations and mechanisms are introduced to ensure that the people will be able to participate in bringing that new policy into existence, we say that is real democracy."

Grenadian revolutionaries began to practice real democracy for the first time in the country's history. Parish and zonal councils (the equivalent of state and county councils) were established as forums for dialogue between the people and government ministers. During sessions of the councils, the people heard reports and gave ideas, suggestions, and criticisms that went into the making of government policy on every major question, including in 1982-83, the organization of the national budget.

To U.S. demands that Grenada have no relations with revolutionary Cuba, Bishop maintained that Grenada had the right to choose her friends. And Bishop repeatedly spoke of the tremendous respect the Grenadians held for the Cuban people and their revolution.

"We recognize in Grenada, just as imperialists recognize, that without the Cuban revolution of 1959 there could have been no Grenada revolution, nor Nicaraguan revolution in 1979," he said in a speech delivered to the massive 1980 May Day rally of the Cuban people.

What's behind U.S. threats

Bishop outlined frankly to the Grenadian people why the U.S. government hated and feared their revolution so much:

"Sisters and brothers, we must face the fact that the present United States administration, even against the will of their own people, is firmly opposed to the rights of all independent countries to act independently and to conduct their affairs in their own way....

"This is the reason why they are attacking us economically and with so much negative propaganda; they hope to cause suffering to our people, so that when our people feel the pain of no work and less benefits they would turn against their government, thus giving the opportunity to overthrow our popular people's revolution and put in a Gairy-type government."

And in his June 1983 speech to a predo-



Militant/Mohammed Oliver

Women view photo display in Grenada office of Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983 Martyrs Foundation. Exhibit shows accomplishments of Grenada revolution, which are explained in Bishop's speeches printed in new book.

minantly Black audience of more than 2,500 at Hunter College in New York City, Bishop pointed to another side of the Grenada revolution the U.S. rulers feared:

"They said that 95 percent of our population is Black — and they have the correct statistic — and if we have 95 percent of predominantly African origin in our country, then we can have a dangerous appeal to 30 million Black people in the United States."

This fear was held for good reason. Many U.S. Blacks learned of the Grenada revolution in spite of U.S. media attempts to keep out information on the revolution. They and others were inspired by the Grenada revolution, proud of its example, identified with its accomplishments, and

worked to win support for the revolution and demanded that the U.S. government keep its hands off Grenada.

In addition to the lessons to be drawn from the achievements of the Grenada revolution, there are important lessons to be drawn from its defeat.

Over the last few months supporters of the Grenada revolution around the world, including many leaders of the NJM, are discussing these lessons.

In the wake of the revolution's overthrow, the Cuban government and Communist Party led the world working class by drawing the lessons of what happened, giving direction to revolutionary fighters everywhere. The Oct. 20, 1983, and Oct. 25, 1983, statements of the Cuban Com-

munist Party and government are printed as appendices to *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. The book also contains Fidel Castro's Nov. 14, 1983, speech in Havana, where the Cuban leader spoke before more than a million people gathered to honor Cuban workers killed during the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

Maurice Bishop Speaks also contains an introduction by Steve Clark, editor of *Intercontinental Press*.

As Clark chronicles in his introduction, a secret faction in the NJM, led by Bernard Coard, Deputy Prime Minister of Grenada, organized against the Bishop leadership. Claiming to be the real "Marxists," this group set upon a course that eventually led to the betrayal of the interests of the workers and farmers of Grenada.

The actions of Coard and his followers culminated in placing Bishop under house arrest Oct. 12, 1983 — thus overthrowing the revolutionary government — and ordering the executions of the prime minister and other leaders on October 19. This paved the way for the October 25 U.S. invasion.

Castro explained in his November 14 address, "Coard's group objectively destroyed the revolution and opened the door to imperialist aggression. Whatever their intentions, the brutal assassination of Bishop and his most loyal, closest comrades is a fact that can never be justified in that or any other revolution."

History will record that the U.S. will lose more than it gained in the invasion of Grenada. As the lessons of Grenada are discussed and absorbed, the spectacle of the most powerful imperialist country attacking one of the smallest countries on the planet will be seen by more and more workers and farmers around the world as a moral defeat for the United States.

And finally, the lessons of Grenada must be discussed and shared among more workers, Blacks, Latinos, women, and farmers. As Steve Clark points out in his introduction, "Making this material accessible to the widest possible audience is an elementary responsibility of all those engaged in the struggle against world imperialism and for freedom and justice of the vast majority of humanity."

Bishop book popular at meetings on Grenada

BY SANDI SHERMAN

Public meetings and rallies in solidarity with the Grenada revolution have been taking place in many cities as March 13, the fifth anniversary of the revolution, approaches. In addition to defending the gains of the revolution, these meetings have become important forums for discussing the lessons of the events in Grenada.

On February 16, over 300 people attended a rally in Windsor, Ontario, sponsored jointly by the Center for Black Studies at Wayne State University in Detroit and the African Students Association at the University of Windsor. The featured speaker at the rally was Don Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop.

Interest in the new Pathfinder Press book, *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, was high at the Windsor meeting, where six copies were sold, along with over 20 copies of the pamphlet, *Maurice Bishop Speaks to U.S. Workers*, and \$145 in other Pathfinder literature.

The discussion on Grenada continued two days later, when over 100 people jammed into the Militant Labor Forum in Detroit to see the film *Malcolm X Speaks*. Many of these people had attended the Rojas meeting in Windsor.

Because the forum crowd was so large, a second showing of the film was required. Many waited for over an hour and a half to see the movie and spent the time engaged in discussions throughout the bookstore area while purchasing books and other materials not only on Malcolm X but on the Black struggle as a whole.

The discussion following the movie took up not only the example of Grenada as a way forward for Blacks and all working people but also the relationship of racism to

class exploitation; the need for white and Black working-class unity; the need for white workers today to back the fight for affirmative action including dual seniority systems; and why Jesse Jackson's campaign doesn't advance the Black struggle for liberation.

Eighteen people bought subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper and \$100 in literature was sold. Books and pamphlets on Grenada were the most popular.

Kenrick Radix, former member of the Grenada People's Revolutionary Government and a founding leader of the New

Jewel Movement, the party that led the March 13, 1979, revolution, spoke at a meeting at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn on February 26. Over 500 people attended the meeting.

The *Maurice Bishop Speaks* book was also well-received at this meeting. The chairperson of the meeting announced its availability, and all 24 copies brought to the meeting were bought, including 12 sold at the table set up by the Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983, Martyrs Foundation and another dozen at the Pathfinder Press table.



Maurice Bishop Speaks

A collection of more than 20 major interviews with and speeches by the slain leader of the Grenada revolution and New Jewel Movement, including his June 1983 speech in New York City.

Contents also include a major new introduction covering the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the devastating blow dealt to the Grenada revolution by the murder of Prime Minister Bishop and other outstanding leaders of the New Jewel Movement; the October 20 statement by the Cuban government on the killing of Bishop and the other leaders; and the October 25-26 and November 14 statements by Cuban President Fidel Castro on the U.S. invasion and Cuba's role in Grenada.

400 pp., \$6.95, published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for shipping.



Turning victim into criminal, Arizona authorities indicted Black residents of Miracle Valley following this cop assault on their community in 1982.

Chicago union wins victory in race-discrimination suit

BY MAUREEN COLETTA

CHICAGO — On February 20 the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2000 announced that Chicago State and County Public Aid officials have been ordered to pay \$15 million in back pay to nearly 1,000 Black employees to settle a racial discrimination lawsuit. This brings to a close a 12-year battle resulting in what union officials call the nation's largest racial discrimination award.

The battle began with a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and was followed by a federal lawsuit charging violation of Title VII of the 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act. The actions charged that the Cook County Department of Public Aid (taken over in 1974 by the Illinois Department of Public Aid) maintained what amounted to an illegal, dual classification system for employees. Whites were mostly hired as caseworkers, but Blacks were hired as caseworkers' aides and caseworkers' trainees, even though Blacks were performing essentially the same job functions. According to the lawsuit, the aides earned \$583 a month and trainees \$472, compared to the \$742 a month received by caseworkers.

In 1979, a U.S. district court ruled that the state and county were guilty of racial discrimination. State and county government officials appealed the decision and lost, leading to the damage award of \$15 million. AFSCME Local 2000 Pres. Max Liberles explained that the government

raised many flimsy legal and technical arguments in its appeal attempts. "They also claimed they did nothing intentionally. But if the result of the employers' practice is to effectively keep one race in a lower paying job and another race in a higher paying job, then this is discrimination." Liberles also noted that at least 95 percent of the Black welfare workers discriminated against are women. "I would say that this is clearly a case of sex discrimination too."

The individual settlement awards to the employees will range from \$2,000 to more than \$50,000 each. Those receiving the highest individual settlements will be those who were lowest paid — the caseworkers' trainees. Many of these trainees were previously welfare aid recipients.

This victory follows on the heels of two other similar lawsuits filed by unions.

On December 1, 1983, a federal judge ordered that the state of Washington must give an estimated \$838 million in raises and back pay to women workers found to have been paid less than men for jobs of comparable worth. This lawsuit, filed on behalf of 15,000 women workers, was also initiated by AFSCME. However, the settlement is currently being challenged by the Reagan administration.

The same Chicago law firm that represented AFSCME Local 2000 recently won a \$10 million settlement for former and current Black employees of the Burlington Northern railroad. That case also involved racial discrimination.

Phoenix protest of racist killing

BY KIBWE DIARRA

PHOENIX — With chants of "I'm fired up! Won't take it anymore!" a spirited demonstration February 25 marched through the housing project where Stanley Wesley, a Black youth, was shot in the back by a white cop. The demonstration was led by the Committee for a Unified Phoenix (CUP).

The march itself was the midpoint of CUP's day of Saturday activities to protest police harassment of the Black community.

After the march, with a reggae band playing in the background, one of the leaders of CUP, Fonzy West, proclaimed the day as "Black Day in Phoenix." West outlined CUP's strategy of turning the local East Lake Park into a mobilization, cultural, and education center for the Black community.

At a Militant Labor Forum that evening several leaders of CUP further explained their strategy to fight police brutality. Carolyn Lowery, a community activist, said that as a Black woman and leader of her community she felt the time had come to speak up against the actions of the police. "We must protect our own against this unnecessary police brutality. This is a

terrible way to have to live. It's time for us to speak up and unite!"

Lonnie Landrum, also representing CUP, said he was asked by a reporter recently "was CUP a Black thing?" Landrum said his answer was "yes and no." CUP is a response to years of police brutality and it is Black because "Blacks are rising up to free themselves from brutality," he explained. But, he added, CUP was open to all who fought against brutality and for unity.

Landrum went on to say, "the police have no right in our community!" For this he received a round of applause from all present.

The Socialist Workers Party speaker, Sherry Smith, said the "police are not there to serve the interests of the people." The job of the police is to protect the "handful of super-rich owners."

Fonzy West ended the forum by saying, "The reason I am here is because I am scared, but I thought I was alone." West narrated a videotape that showed the community to be against the unprovoked police attack and solidly behind the efforts of those who are mobilizing and educating the community to fight against police brutality.

Arizona Blacks win frame-up dismissal

BY DAN FEIN

TUCSON — On February 22, Pima County Superior Court Judge Thomas Meehan dismissed rioting and assault indictments against 19 members of the all-Black, Christ Miracle Healing Center and Church. The defendants faced sentences ranging from 40 years to more than 100 years each if convicted.

The case was a classic one of turning the victim into the criminal.

In 1980 the Black church members moved from Chicago to Miracle Valley, Arizona, a small rural community near the Mexican border. They immediately faced racist harassment by Cochise County Sheriff Jimmy Judd and his deputies who tried to drive them out. The harassment included trumped-up charges of traffic violations and installation of a street sign by the county with a racial slur painted on it.

On Oct. 23, 1982, the county deputies carried out an armed assault against the church members, leaving two dead, William Thomas, Jr., and Augusta Tate, and two paralyzed for life, John Jamison and Roy Williams. To this day the big-business media claims what happened was an ambush by Blacks against police officers carrying out their duty to deliver subpoenas for traffic violations.

Instead of investigating the murderers of Thomas and Tate, the Cochise County Grand Jury returned felony indictments against 19 church members. The autopsy report at the time showed both Thomas and Tate were shot in the back. The cops nevertheless claimed that they shot in self-defense.

In July 1983, Patrick Halloran, who had since quit the sheriff's department, revealed the following:

- Deputy Ray Thatcher, who shot William Thomas, Jr., told two officers he was planning on killing Thomas.

- A sergeant in the department said Sheriff Judd asked him if he was ready to "go kill niggers."

- A sergeant complained afterward that he "missed the biggest trophy of my life" because he failed to shoot a church member.

At the same time Department of Public Safety (DPS) Sgt. Noval Fogle revealed that deputies were carrying "military issue" M-16 or AR-15 rifles and semiautomatic pistols. Fogle also noted that Black officers in the DPS, the state police, did not want to be assigned duty in Miracle Valley because of the racial prejudice in the sheriff's department.

Another DPS officer told of a meeting where "Judd wanted the governor to declare an emergency because the National Guard could be activated and we could go in and wipe the place out."

The Cochise County Sheriff's Department has a long history of carrying out racist, antilabor terror. In 1917, they and their vigilantes deported at gunpoint more than 200 copper miners to the desert in New Mexico. The miners, mostly Mexican, were striking against Phelps Dodge Corp. in Bisbee.

The victory for Black church members came in a roundabout way. Cochise County refused to pay any more money for lawyers representing the church members. The county is required to pay for lawyers if defendants lack the funds. The county asked the Arizona state legislature for a \$500,000 loan, but was turned down.

Judge Meehan ruled that the cut-off of funds for the defendants' lawyers "severely violated" the Blacks' constitutional rights to a fair trial, and he dismissed the case.

After Meehan's decision Amos Thompson, one of the defendants, said, "The only regret I have is the people of Cochise County will not get to hear the bad acts of the Sheriff's Department." Another defendant, Julius Gillespie, said, "I want to see justice done." No branch of the government has done anything to prosecute Deputy Ray Thatcher, the admitted killer of Thomas and Tate.

Cochise County Attorney Beverly Jenney said the county would appeal a provision in the judge's ruling that bars refiling the charges against the defendants.

The Black church, meanwhile, has filed a \$75 million civil rights suit against Cochise County.

Outrage over INS deportation of fourteen-year-old Latino

BY PEDRO VÁSQUEZ

SEASIDE, Calif. — Outrage has spread throughout almost every Latino community in California against the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), commonly known in the barrios as *la migra*.

On February 15, in the process of waging one of its round-up raids of immigrant workers in Santa Ana, California, an INS patrol seized 14-year-old Mario Moreno López, a legal resident of the United States. He was standing on a Santa Ana street corner along with other Latinos waiting for rides to work.

Moreno López, who comes from Mexico, has a U.S. resident card, but wasn't carrying it at the time. He asked the INS agents to take him to his father's place of work, to prove that he had a card. The agents refused.

Moreno López and 33 other suspected "illegals" were deported that evening to Tijuana, Mexico. For several days, not knowing anyone in Tijuana, Moreno López wandered the streets, finally crossing the border into the United States at San Isidro.

Asked later why he had waived his rights and submitted to deportation, Moreno López responded, "because I didn't want to get beat up."

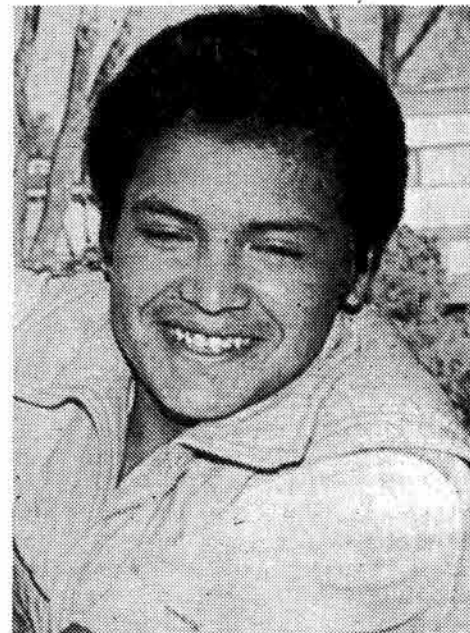
He explained that while he was in custody with the other round-up victims, an immigration agent handed out a declaration of illegality which everyone was expected to sign. One worker refused to do so and was shoved against the wall by an agent. This was enough to convince Moreno López and the others to sign. Later, the immigration authorities denied this act of coercion and intimidation.

The boy was finally reunited with his

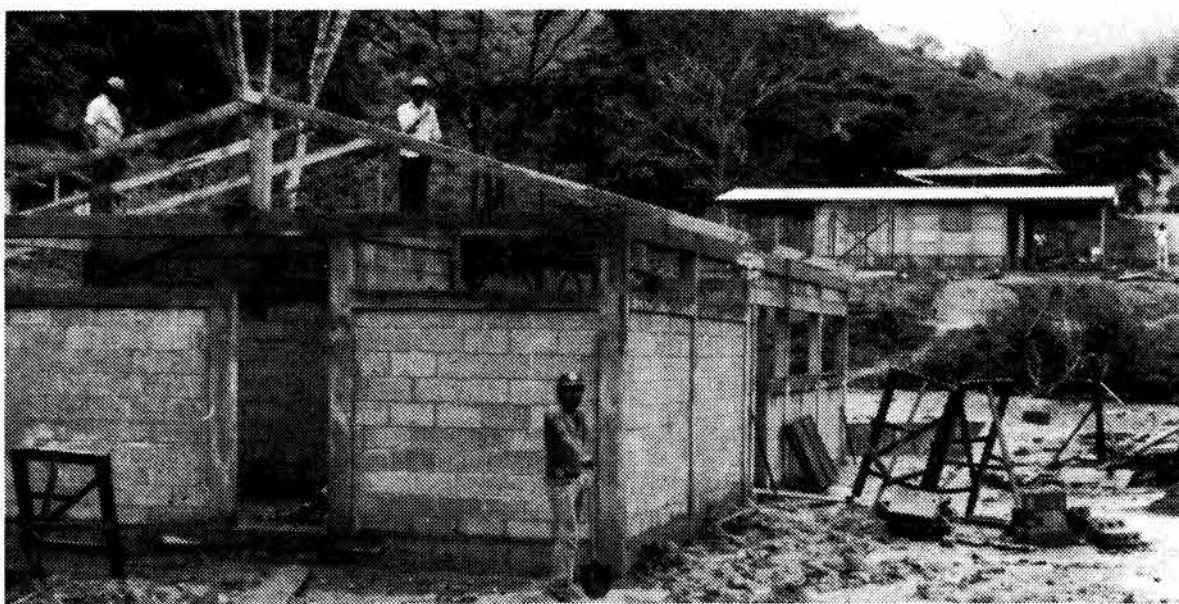
family in Santa Ana. His father had jeopardized his job as a plumber's helper and gone to Tijuana to search for his son.

The INS refused to help find Moreno López or to even assist the Tijuana police in the search. When asked about their inaction, INS spokesman John Belluando said, "... we cannot form a search party to help locate him, that is beyond our jurisdiction."

As the news spread of the deportation and the callous attitude of the INS, there was an outcry up and down the state of California. The case put into sharp focus the racist nature of the treatment that Chicanos and Latinos face at the hands of *la migra*.



Mario Moreno López



Nicaragua Ministry of Housing

Prefabricated housing in construction at "La Estancia" cooperative in Jalapa, Nicaragua.

War-torn town in Nicaragua rebuilds

BY JANE HARRIS

JALAPA, Nicaragua — Counterrevolutionaries have been plotting for nearly two years to take this town, some 120 miles north of Managua, and then establish a provisional government recognized by Washington and Honduras.

Jalapa is situated in a triangle with two sides bordering on Honduras. Although the *contras*, as the counterrevolutionaries are called, are armed to the teeth by the U.S. and aided by the CIA's vast experience, they have failed miserably in their plans.

Many Jalapans have sacrificed their lives and suffered tremendous economic damage, but the *contras*, in all this time, have only succeeded in occupying two square kilometers of the Jalapa region — the border town of El Porvenir. And that was only for two weeks. Since they were chased out in June 1983, they have never held any territory.

Changes with revolution

Much of this fertile valley surrounding the town used to be administered by pro-Batista Cubans who fled their country following the 1959 revolution. They were made more than welcome to exploit the labor here by former dictator Anastasio Somoza, who owned the land.

With the establishment of a workers and farmers government in Nicaragua in 1979, small farmers were given that land to work cooperatively or individually. Some tobacco farms were taken over by the state.

So one of the reasons Jalapans have fought so determinedly and successfully is material. They have only recently had some of the country's most fertile lands turned over to them.

One example of this is the Escambray cooperative where the members fought the *contras* for nine months with Czech 10-shot automatic rifles of Korean War vintage.

The government thought the families there would have to be moved in order to protect them, but later it realized they had earned the right to stay, and supplied them with better arms.

Naturally the first reaction to the aggression was to step up preparations for defense. Many who lived in isolated hamlets in the mountains around Jalapa moved down to the valley for protection. *Campeños* grouped together to better defend themselves; the people's militia doubled in size; foxholes, observation posts, and refuges were built.

Today, says zonal delegate Sergio Lobo, Jalapa is experiencing "a normal situation within an abnormal situation."

That is, with the highly organized participation of the local population and the muscle of the defense, agriculture, housing, education, and health ministries, life here is not only stabilizing, it is steadily improving.

New invasion expected

However, at the same time, Jalapa is preparing for an expected invasion of 3,000 to 4,000 men, which will include Honduran soldiers dressed in uniforms of the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, one of the *contra* groups. Details of this plot, known as Plan Sierra, were reported in January by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega.

In fact it is quite possible that U.S. pilot Jeffrey Schwab was carrying out exploratory work for the plan when his helicopter was downed in early January, killing him. Forty other such air space violations of Nicaraguan territory took place in the first 15 days of January alone.

In addition to the vital defense work being carried out here, the Ministry of Agriculture is engaged in a detailed study of the area's topography, water supplies, and land productivity.

On the basis of that study, planners will know what the valley should look like for

maximum agriculture production, how many people will be needed to populate the area, and what kind of communities to build.

Right now eight and nine year olds, victims of circumstance (their fathers are at war), can be seen in the fields, helping to make sure the crops don't rot. Because of the labor shortage, the valley cannot produce at the optimal level.

Population decline

In 1982, there were 32,000 inhabitants in the valley area. Today, because of the aggression, the population has fallen to 22,000 (10,000 relocated) but National Director of Urban Planning Roberto Chávez feels that it's stabilizing, adding, "To the degree that Jalapa is more secure, people will move there."

After completing a week of field work here "armed to the teeth," Chávez was pleased to tell the *Militant* of the "very profound changes brought about in part by the revolution and in part by the campesino's response — the defense against the counterrevolution."

For example, because of the mobilization of men in defense, many women are now driving tractors or heading up the irrigation and harvesting the tobacco, he said. Two years ago, this would have been unthinkable.

Before the aggression made the regrouping of Jalapans so imperative, isolated campesinos were living "almost in the Stone Age" in some regards. Today at the Santa Cruz settlement where four cooperatives exist, the planting and irrigation of potatoes is 100 percent mechanized thanks to the investment of the revolution.

Today a key concern of the *cooperativistas*, reports Chávez, is how they will store the giant yields of potatoes they're expecting — quite a worry compared to those of their former lives.

In the future there will be more cooperatives and mechanization for the Jalapa valley. Health posts and child-care centers are in the works but heavy financial and labor investments in defense measures impede their rapid completion.

For example, to protect the 1,000 residents of the border town of Teotecacinte from mortar attacks, five heavy-duty air raid shelters complete with latrines and cement floors have been built at the cost of \$5,000 apiece. Each will protect between 50 and 60 people.

The *Militant* visited one cooperative whose 80 families "have all been displaced and had to confront the *contras*" as one member put it.

Donations from Cuba

Neat rows of prefabricated cement houses stand thanks to donations by Cuba for their construction.

Two middle-aged women, involved in the adult education program, put down their math homework to make sure this reporter caught a glimpse of their school and children's cafeteria.

These are the kinds of gains that make Jalapans determined to organize and fight back.

Seventy-six-year-old Jalapa Emilio Antonio Moreno fought with General Augusto César Sandino against the U.S. Marines some 50 years ago "with only three bombs of dynamite, our sticks, and machetes." Scratching his whiskers, he explained it this way, "There is nothing more beautiful than freedom."

'For us democracy is education, health care'

BY BRENDA BRDAR

ALBUQUERQUE — "There is no way the Somoza regime will return to Nicaragua." This was the confident prediction of Magda Enríquez, who spoke to 130 people at the University of New Mexico.

A member of the Nicaraguan Council of State, Enríquez is a veteran of the Sandinista-led struggle, which overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979. She is also a founder of AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's organization; an editor of the women's magazine *Somos*; and an editorial writer for *Barricada*, daily paper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Enríquez spoke of the tremendous con-

tributions made by women, before, during, and after the revolutionary triumph. The status of women, she explained, is an important way to measure the advances of a society. The problems of women are viewed as problems of the whole society by the revolutionary leadership, the FSLN.

Women were an integral part of the "unity of forces" it took to destroy the U.S.-backed dictatorship. "We learned we could lead a battle. We learned we could lead a battleground. We learned we could lead a battlefield," Enríquez stated.

She stressed the hardships the Nicaraguan people have had working against them: the cost of the revolutionary war — 50,000 dead, a devastated, dependent

economy, and continued U.S. attacks against the revolution.

Although the young Nicaraguan fighters were inexperienced in running a nation, much has been accomplished. Enríquez expressed pride in these gains and anger at the need to put such great resources into the defense effort.

Defense of the country against U.S.-sponsored *contra* (counterrevolutionary) attacks and bombings is one of the most important campaigns in which women are actively participating. Women make up 48 percent of the militias and 45 percent of the police. Recently, the first woman pilot was shot down and killed by the *contras*.

Enríquez spoke about the Nov. 4, 1984, national elections scheduled by the Nicaraguan government. She also talked about the big advances in democracy — the "institutionalization of the political will." She described Nicaragua as a "gigantic school without walls" because of the successful 1980 literacy drive and the on-going campaign to educate the population.

Women number 45 percent of the participants in adult education and now make up 48 percent of the university population (a rise from 20 percent). "For us, that is democracy," she stated.

Enríquez cited advances in health care such as the elimination of whooping cough and other childhood diseases. "For us, that is democracy."

The laws are made by the people who are armed by the government. "For us, that is democracy," she said.

The opinion of the Nicaraguan people about the U.S. people has changed, Enríquez concluded. The actions of hundreds from the United States who have traveled to Nicaragua and helped with the harvests, clinics, and schools, "taught us the difference between the U.S. government and the people." She urged the people of the U.S. to fight to change U.S. foreign policy because "our struggle is your struggle."

Nicaraguan ports mined with CIA aid

Continued from front page

on the Pacific Coast, had also been mined.

As of March 5, no ships in Corinto had yet been reported damaged by the explosives.

Planting of the mines came during an increase in military conflict on both the southern border with Costa Rica and the northern border with Honduras.

On February 18, 22, and 23, counterrevolutionaries based in Costa Rica carried out, from the other side of the border, attacks on the Nicaraguan border post El Naranjo. When Sandinista troops finally returned the fire February 23, the Costa Rican government called a special meeting of the Organization of American States, seeking to portray the defensive measure as a "grave aggression."

On February 24 came the mining of El Bluff, preceded by an unsuccessful attempt to blow up the port's fuel supplies.

On March 1, counterrevolutionaries based in Honduras began to shell three Nicaraguan border villages in northern Yelapa province on the Atlantic Coast.

On March 3, helicopters flying in from

Honduras fired rockets on facilities in the small northern port of Potosí, and on a Nicaraguan patrol boat in the Gulf of Fonseca, the international waterway between the two countries. That same day a unit of the Honduran Army opened fire on the Nicaraguan border post Las Minitas.

The message is clear: no one should be lulled into a false sense of security, said Commander Hugo Torres, political director of the Sandinista army, summing up the situation March 4.

"Despite the efforts toward peace being made in the framework of Contadora [the peace commission made up of the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama], attacks... and sabotage will continue in the months ahead."

Neither the fact that "we are about to hold elections here" nor "the fact that the United States will be holding elections at the same time will stop the aggression."

Moreover, Torres warned, "there is no assurance that U.S. candidates, in an effort to gain votes, will adopt policies aimed at finding peaceful channels, or a resolution to the problems of Central America."

Makes your skin glow — Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler wants to expand use of irradiation to kill in-



Harry Ring

sects on fruits and vegetables. "Thirty years of research," she said, "have shown that the proposed levels of irradiation are safe and nutritious."

Deprived — There's a reason why Edwin Meese, attorney-general-to-be, is so hard-nosed in his hostility to poor people, Blacks, etc. An old friend and colleague confided to a reporter, "His emotional awareness is lacking in that area. If you went everywhere in a limousine, your emotional awareness might be lacking too."

Field study — Privately sponsored soup kitchens are providing adequate help to those who want it, reports Suzanne Block, spouse of the agricultural secretary. Disguised in a wig, jeans, and an old coat, she and a department staff member dined in several of the D.C. area kitchens. She says she

got curious after Reagan explained some people are poor and hungry by choice.

A cop's cop — Gerald Banks, the Dallas assistant D.A. who helped railroad Lenell Geter, a Black engineer, on a robbery rap, has resigned. A former Marine captain, his office featured three decorations: His Marine Corps citation, a portrait of John Wayne, and a picture of an electric chair.

Ask a foolish question — Diner at the Jean-Louis in the Watergate complex runs up to \$90 (The truffle-flavored special, \$120.) Wines, up to \$1,000 a bottle. But

if people realized his costs, the operator told the *Wall Street Journal*, they'd consider it cheap. Like, 38% of the take goes for labor. In the kitchen, the reporter found French chefs, plus four Salvadoran women cleaning pigeon hearts, frogs legs, etc. Wonder what part of the 38% they take home?

For sure — The Justice Dept. said that, after due investigation, it has found no evidence that an actual crime had been committed when members of Reagan's campaign staff ripped off some of Carter's briefing papers. Asked if the department would issue a statement deploring such practices, a

spokesperson advised, "No. We're not an ethics agency."

Burp — The feds recalled "Li'l Squeaker" pacifiers. Tests indicated the pacifiers could be pulled from the shields and babies could choke on them.

Why the discrimination? — R.J. Reynolds has had it with the soft approach to health hazard findings on tobacco and will wage a big ad campaign in defense of smoking. Anti-smoking sentiment, the company prez declared, has "clearly reached a point beyond reason." Yet they also say some of the ads will oppose puffing in bed.

—CALENDAR—

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Celebrate International Women's Day. Panelists on women's issues and history from Valley organizations. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 17 E Southern (corner of Central). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 268-3369.

CALIFORNIA

Salinas

Stop the Deportations! Stop Racist Attacks! Speaker: Héctor Marroquín, socialist fighting deportation. Forum in Spanish with English translation. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. Santa Lucia Library, 615 Williams Rd. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (408) 899-1316.

San Francisco

Behind the Tragedy in Grenada. Videotape of interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop; presentation to follow. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

COLORADO

Denver

Colorado Labor: A Fighting Tradition. Speakers: Mike Riley, Young Socialist Alliance; Michele Smith, Coal Employment Project. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 126 W 12th Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 534-8954.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

International Women's Day. A panel discussion. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10, 7 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Hear the 1984 Socialist Workers Candidates: Mel Mason for U.S. President, Dave Ellis for Congress. Fri., March 16. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. Pearl's Lounge, 116 W McLean (at 2100 N Illinois). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers '84 Campaign Committee. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

The Fight to Desegregate Our Schools. An educational conference. Class 1. "The Defeat of Radical Reconstruction and the Rise of Jim Crow." Sat., March 17, 2 p.m. Class 2. "The Battle of Boston." Sat., March 17, 4 p.m. Both classes by Mac Warren, participant in Boston desegregation struggle and national committee member of Socialist Workers Party. 809 E Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

Stop the Attacks on Desegregation and Busing in Jefferson County! A panel discussion. Speakers: Mattie Jones, chairperson of Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Peggy Kreiner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.; Mattie Mathus, Black Protective Parents; Ms. Ralph (Lois) Morris, Louisville alderman and community activist; Mac Warren; Dr. Gertrude White-Coleman, educator. Sat., March 17, 8 p.m. 809 E Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Commemorate 5th Anniversary of Grenada

Revolution. Videotape of interview with Maurice Bishop. Speaker: Reba Williams Dixon, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

International Women's Day Tribute to Commander Ana Maria. Slide show on Salvadoran teacher and trade unionist Marta Alicia Rivera and conditions in El Salvador. Sun., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

Lebanon: Is the U.S. Really Pulling Out? Speaker: Fateh Azzam, Palestinian activist. Sun., March 18, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Crisis in Lebanon: the U.S. War Continues. Speakers: Fadia Abulhajj, Palestinian-American and member of Minneapolis Council for Peace and Justice in the Middle East; Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again. Videotape of interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Sat., March 17, 3 p.m. Martin Luther King Center, 270 Kent St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: National Black Independent Political Party, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Women's Stake in the Struggle for Peace and Justice in Central America. Speakers: Kate Balch, member of Latin American Solidarity Committee; Sheila O'Day, member of Carpenters Union Local 795 and Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., March 11, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, room 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Grenada Revolution: What We Can Learn From Its Strengths and Weaknesses. Speaker: Mohammed Oliver, staff writer for the *Militant*, just returned from Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. (corner of Raymond). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Two Classes on Lessons of Grenada Revolution. 1. "Achievements of the Revolution." Speaker: Bob Miller, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 17, 11 a.m. 2. "The Grenada Revolution's Death: Lessons of the Escalante Affair in Cuba." Speaker: Mike Taber, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee. Sat., March 17, 2 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 141 Halsey St. (corner of Raymond). Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque

Which Way for '84 Elections: A Discussion. Speakers: Howard Fenster, Citizens Party; Manuel Ramero, member of University of New Mexico Rainbow Coalition; Brenda Brdar, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

In Solidarity With the Copper Strikers.

Speaker: Fina Raman, Women's Auxiliary for striking miners. Film: *Salt of the Earth*. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. Plumbers Hall, 510 San Pedro SE. Ausp: Albuquerque Coalition of Labor Union Women.

NEW YORK

Albany

Women In Struggle: Celebration of International Women's Day. Panel discussion. Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 23 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Iran-Iraq War: Roots of the Conflict.

Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, editor of the *Militant* and eyewitness to February 1979 Iranian revolution. Fri., March 16, 8 p.m. 23 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Celebrate International Women's Day. Day-long cultural-educational activity with women's organizations representing different parts of the world. Crafts, food, workshops, discussion panels. Sat., March 10, 2 p.m. Cultural presentations, 7 p.m. PS 41, 116 W 11th St. Ausp: Coalition to Celebrate International Women's Day. For more information call (212) 795-6845 or 206-1906.

Back from Nicaragua. Music, slides, performances, and dialogue with cultural workers recently returned from Nicaragua. Thur., March 15, 4 p.m. Aaron Davis Center at City College of New York, 135th St. and Convent Ave. Donation requested. Ausp: Artists Call, Ventana, Robbie McCauley. For more information call (212) 690-6900.

OHIO

Toledo

Film: Americas in Transition. Speakers: Paul Tierney, Toledo Area Committee on Central America; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Wed., March 14, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again. Videotape of interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Malcolm X: The Man and His Ideas. Speaker: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers candidate for 14th Congressional District and member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2350. Sat., March 10, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

The Crisis in Steel and How to Solve It. Speaker: Geoff Mirelowitz, staff writer for the *Militant*, laid-off member of United Steelworkers of America. Sat., March 17, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Iran-Iraq War: The Iranian Revolution Today.

Speaker: Fred Feldman, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., March 24, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

1984 Socialist Campaign: The Fighting Strategy for a Black-Latino-Labor Alliance. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers

candidate for vice-president; Beverly Andalora, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; José Alvarado, SWP candidate for 18th Congressional District. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10. Reception, 6 p.m.; dinner, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda Rd. Donation: \$5 rally and dinner, \$2 rally only. Ausp: Texas Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again. Videotape of interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Discussion to follow. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 677 S 700 E. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

International Women's Day: Together We Change Worlds. Rally and organizing fair. Speakers: Marv Williams, Washington State Labor Council; Diane Sosne, Group Health Registered Nurses Union 1199; Ginger McMann, vice-president, Service Employees International Union 925; Peggy Homes, plaintiff in comparable work suit and Women's Committee of state AFL-CIO; Diane Hale, director, Everett Feminist Women's Health Center; Elayne Bernard, member B.C. Federation of Labor Committee and OPEIU Local 14 in British Columbia; speaker from El Salvador. Special feature: film and presentation on the NORD Door strike. Sun., March 11, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. John Sullivan Union Hall, 5515 Airportway S. Ausp: Coalition of Labor Union Women. For more information call (206) 623-8580 or 682-6002.

The Civil Rights Commission and Attacks on Affirmative Action. Speakers: representative of Socialist Workers Party; others to be announced. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Capitalism, Slavery, and Civil War in the U.S. — Marx and Engels as Partisans of the Second American Revolution. Two classes by DeAnn Rathbun. 1. "The development of U.S. capitalism, slavery, and the land question." Sun., March 11, 1 p.m. 2. "Revolutionary policy and strategy in the Civil War: the Marxist analysis." Sun., March 11, 3 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Celebrate International Women's Day. Speakers: Sister Rose Della-Tezza, recently returned from Nicaragua; Ruth Robinette, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Anita Caddell, member of Concerned Citizens of Monongahela County. Sat., March 10, 8 p.m. 957 S University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Crisis in Steel: How to Solve It. Speaker: Geoff Mirelowitz, staff writer for the *Militant*, laid-off member of United Steelworkers of America. Sun., March 18, 7 p.m. 957 S University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Working Women's Struggles Then and Now. Film: *With Babies and Banners*. Speaker: Faye Shouter, former fire fighter challenging firing on basis of sex discrimination; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Marvel Scholl: fifty years in the fight for socialism

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO — At a February 18 meeting here, comrades and friends of Marvel Scholl paid tribute to her half-century of membership in the revolutionary socialist movement. Scholl died February 13 at age 76.

In his remarks at the meeting, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes, who was a close friend of Scholl's for two decades, began by explaining that when he thought about her life, two things above all stood out. One was the fact that she remained a member of the communist movement for 50 years. The other was her contributions to maintaining the continuity of the Socialist Workers Party during the difficult years of the 1950s and early '60s.

Joined in 1930s

Scholl joined the Communist League of America, predecessor of the SWP during the Teamsters strikes of 1934 in Minneapolis. In her diary she described how she made the decision — on the very day Minneapolis police brutally attacked Teamster pickets, killing two strikers and wounding more than 60 workers and their supporters.

"It was on July 20, Bloody Friday, that I made up my mind, or rather my heart, to join the Communist League of America. . . . The [strike] headquarters had become a frontline battle hospital for a few hours. . . . When the last of the casualties had been taken out to the many hospitals for further treatment, I slipped out, went down to the hotel where [SWP leaders] Jim Cannon and Max Shachtman had a room. Jim was alone in the room. I told him, 'I don't know what the league is all about, but whatever it is, if it is against what happened today, I want to join.'"

"Jim was gentle with me. He explained that nobody was allowed to join the party purely from emotional reasons, that they had to know what they were joining, what it stood for, what it was against, and with this knowledge make up their minds if they wanted to devote their lives to the cause.

"He must have recognized my state of shock, and while he welcomed my intentions, advised that I learn what the program was, what becoming a revolutionary socialist meant. But from that day on my intentions were clear," Scholl wrote. She joined the party after the strike was over.

Scholl's husband, Farrell Dobbs, had joined the Communist League a few months earlier and was a central leader of the Teamster strikes.

Dobbs and Scholl had graduated together from North High School in Minneapolis in 1925 and married a short time later. By the time of the strikes, the young couple was struggling to support three small daughters in the middle of the Depression.

Ladies Auxiliary

Scholl was a leader of the Ladies Auxiliary of Teamsters Local 574, an organization formed specifically to support the

strikes. In her diary she describes how the idea for the auxiliary first came from Teamster organizers who were members of the Communist League.

"It all began for me when Farrell took me to meet V.R., Miles, Grant, and Clara Dunne; Oscar Coover; and Skogie [Carl Skoglund]. The meeting was at the home of Grant and Clara — its purpose to talk about the organization of a Women's Auxiliary to help the forthcoming May strike.

"Since Clara and I were both wives of members of the Organizing Committee, we were asked to begin the work of getting the wives and girlfriends of the strikers interested in participating — both as active workers for the strike and as boosters, not detractors, of the strike because of the inevitable financial difficulties these women would face when the strike began, especially if it went on for any length of time."

During the strikes of May and July 1934, the Ladies Auxiliary ran a commissary that sometimes served 5,000 meals a day, set up a small hospital in the strike headquarters itself, and played a key role in the distribution of the strike newspaper, the *Daily Organizer*. In the course of the struggle, other tasks presented themselves — from visiting wounded or imprisoned strikers to fighting the evictions of destitute families, to organizing a protest march to the mayor's office.

Scholl subsequently wrote the "National Picket Line" column for the *Northwest Organizer*, a paper put out after the strikes to help organize class-struggle fighters in the northern Midwest labor movement.

Defense of unemployed

Scholl also served on the staff of the Federal Workers Section (FWS) of Local 574. The FWS was an auxiliary section of the union made up of unemployed workers. It was open not only to jobless Teamsters, but to all the city's unemployed. The FWS, with Teamster muscle behind it, fought to improve the conditions of Minneapolis unemployed, and Scholl played an important role in this.

The FWS launched a fight to raise the relief aid given to the unemployed for food, rent, clothing, utilities, and medical care. It took on the cause of women receiving Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), who, like today, suffered harassment and measly handouts from the state with which to raise their children. The FWS went to bat for these women, defending them in court when the state tried to take their children away.

In her diary Scholl wrote, "In every case in which we appeared [in court] for one of our members, formal custody was awarded to a representative of the union and we placed the child in the 'foster home' of its mother. Many tragedies were prevented this way. Farrell and I, for example, were at one time jointly and separately guardians for 14 children."

The story of the FWS, Ladies Auxiliary, and of Scholl's role in both is mainly told in *Teamster Rebellion* and *Teamster Power* by Farrell Dobbs.

In 1940, Scholl and Dobbs left the Midwest to move to New York, where Dobbs was to serve as SWP labor secretary and later as the party's national secretary. They went first to Mexico, where the two of them met and talked with Leon Trotsky, the exiled Russian revolutionist, about the situation facing the U.S. labor movement with Washington's entry into World War II looming.

Communist for 50 years

Barnes pointed out how "unusual it is" for someone to have been an organized member of the communist movement for 50 years. A lot of revolutionists lose their lives in the struggle well before they become old, he noted. For many others, the wear and tear of life takes its toll, and they leave the movement.

Scholl was not an elected national party leader. She considered herself a rank-and-file member and never underestimated what party members are capable of. It is the millions of revolutionists like Scholl,

Barnes said, who give their entire lives to the communist movement, that are "the reality of the continuity of our movement" from Vietnam, to Cuba, Nicaragua, and the United States.

This 50 years of service, in and of itself, Barnes said, is a tribute both to the strengths of Scholl and the strengths of the movement.

Pressures of the '50s

After coming to New York, Scholl took on numerous assignments. She expanded her responsibilities when 18 leaders of the party and the Minneapolis Teamsters — including Dobbs — were jailed during World War II on federal frame-up charges of sedition.

Scholl was one of a relatively small number of people who kept the continuity of the SWP unbroken during the difficult years of the 1950s and early 1960s.

SWP members in the industrial unions were forced out of their jobs, as were many other radicals. There was unremitting pressure on many socialists from harassment by the FBI. The lack of any visible results from one's political work, the steady year after year decline in what was objectively accomplishable, including the dramatic decline in party membership, all took their toll.

At a time like that, said Barnes, you needed to have "imagination, confidence, and understanding, not just the fact of an earlier commitment." The real challenge, he said, was to "prevent the thread from being broken."

The impact of the '50s on the revolutionary movement and its cadres continued well into the '60s. Barnes noted that the net membership figures of the SWP did not bottom out until 1967, in spite of the young recruits who began to join after the Cuban revolution and the development of the civil rights movement.

Scholl was one of those who helped hold things together so these young people would have a party to join when the '60s came. For more than a decade it had been a tremendous challenge just to pay for printing the *Militant* every week, to publish a few books and pamphlets, to defend the right of the party and its members to function.

Scholl threw herself into all these projects, in spite of the fact that she also had to work and take care of her family.

Helped keep publishing projects alive

Barnes gave several examples of Scholl's party-building activities.

She participated vigorously in the American Committee for European Workers Relief, which was established in April 1946. The committee — forced by the U.S. government to register as the agent of a foreign power — raised thousands of dollars to send food and clothing to European revolutionists, including members of the Fourth International, who had been victimized by both the "democratic" Allied governments and the Nazis during World War II.

Barnes credited Scholl with helping to keep alive the publication of socialist books. Even if only a few pamphlets a year could be printed — with borrowed money — Scholl made sure they got done.

Barnes told the story of how Scholl got James Cannon's history of the early U.S. communist movement printed in 1961. Scholl found a small commercial publisher named Lyle Stuart, which agreed to print the book if the SWP would do all the preparatory work of typesetting, proofreading, and editing.

'Don't ever call me again'

Barnes said that Scholl often helped the party obtain lawyers when the need arose. At that time, it was very difficult for a communist group to find a lawyer who would help them out. Sometimes, said Barnes, it was impossible.

In 1964, the SWP decided to run Clifton DeBerry, a party leader who had a long record of activity in the union movement and the Black struggle, for U.S. president. De-



Militant/Mohammed Oliver

Marvel Scholl

Berry was the first Black ever to run for president.

The FBI, it was later revealed, was on a concerted campaign at the time to discredit DeBerry and the SWP. Three weeks before his candidacy was officially announced, the Chicago cops picked DeBerry up on phony charges of nonpayment of child support.

This was clearly a challenge to the party and how it responded was very important. Scholl was in New York and didn't know many lawyers in the area. Through lots of phone calls she finally found a lawyer and convinced him to take the case.

Scholl always remembered the last sentence that lawyer said to her: "Now Marvel, don't ever call me again."

In the late 1960s, deteriorating health forced Scholl to cut back on her activity, but she continued to write for the *Militant*. She was the "National Picket Line" columnist for several years, and wrote about the beginnings of the Miners for Democracy movement in the United Mine Workers Union. She wrote scathing articles condemning the capitalist system of health care and the mistreatment of old people in this society.

Always talking socialism

"Marvel was the furthest thing from a closet socialist or communist you could ever know," said Barnes. At the drop of a hat — on the street, in the library, or in a restaurant — she would initiate discussions with workers around her about socialist ideas. And she would often urge them to read the *Militant*.

Even very late in her life, Scholl was an active participant in the massive petitioning efforts required to get the SWP candidates on the ballot in California.

Scholl was greatly inspired by the Cuban revolution, which she saw as proof of how socialism can work better than capitalism. At the end of her life she made plans several times to visit the island, but was never able to make the trip. Part of her interest in Cuba was her revulsion at the medical industry under capitalism. She wanted to visit Cuba, where medical care is free and available to all, and to learn about the scientific advances the revolution has achieved.

In recent years, Scholl was also inspired to hear that a number of the party leaders assigned to attend the SWP's Leadership School were women with young children. She saw this as a sign of the party's strength.

'Join with hearts and fists'

In his speech, Barnes explained how the lives and ideas of young workers can change very fast when their class goes into action in a powerful way. This is what happened with the young Marvel Scholl and Farrell Dobbs in 1934.

"It may be true," Barnes concluded, "that Marvel didn't really make up her mind when she decided to join the party. That, as she says, she made up her heart. That is nothing to be apologetic for. It may be better getting people to join with their hearts and their fists, in some combination. Because they can always be educated about the politics inside the movement. But unless they come, and stay, with their heart, you can teach them until the cows come home and there's nothing they can really learn. Marvel is a good example. She's the type of person we are going to gain thousands of in the future."



Procession of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 574 during massive funeral for slain striker in 1934. Scholl's participation in Teamster strikes convinced her to join communist movement.

Against forced school prayer

The U.S. Senate is conducting a highly-publicized discussion on a proposed constitutional amendment that would force public schools to allow organized prayer.

On March 5, the Supreme Court ruled that a city government may include a "Nativity" scene as part of an official Christmas display without violating the Constitution, despite the fact that the Bill of Rights provides for strict separation of church and state.

The Reagan administration is a prime mover behind the school prayer amendment and had filed a brief in support of Pawtucket, Rhode Island's, inclusion of the "Nativity" scene in its Christmas display.

Reagan has been making the imposition of prayer in the public schools an issue as he campaigns for re-election. Right-wingers of every stripe have hailed his "leadership" on this issue.

At a recent news conference, Reagan called compulsory school prayer a "basic right."

But the democratic right to practice one's religion has nothing to do with the school prayer proposal. In fact, forced school prayer, like government displays of religious symbols, violate the rights of Jews, Muslims, Buddhists — and atheists — who are not adherents of the Christian doctrine imposed on this society by U.S. ruling circles.

The separation of church and state, like the rest of the Bill of Rights, was added to the Constitution in 1791 at the insistence of working people in order to protect their rights against the minority of propertied rulers.

The school prayer campaign is also part of further tailoring the education system to meet the ruling class' need for a docile, divided work force.

It's pushed by the same forces that are trying to prevent the teaching of evolution; who support government funding for private schools at the expense of universal, public education; who oppose busing for school desegregation; who oppose laws that prohibit discrimination against women in education; who support censorship and book burning under the guise of opposing pornography; and who condemn sex education.

In a March 6 speech to the National Association of Evangelicals, Reagan acknowledged that his support for the reimposition of school prayer was part of a broader social program, which he described as a renunciation of the "liberal attitudes" of recent years.

He attacked the right of women to choose abortion. He condemned welfare programs. And he linked the reim-

position of compulsory school prayer with a militarily "strong America."

But it's not primarily Reagan's personal opposition to abortion rights and busing — nor an expression of his piety — that causes him to campaign for the "good old days" of prayer in the schools.

Reagan is simply the chief spokesperson for the tiny handful of ruling families that own and run this country. The capitalist system they preside over is in a deep crisis, one they intend to solve through imposing drastic sacrifices on working people — here and around the world.

In order to prevent an effective response to their anti-working class assault, the rulers are attacking democratic rights.

By linking church and state, the rulers are undermining the right to practice religion, or to choose not to. This is part of a broader assault on other democratic rights — free speech, assembly, the right to political association.

The rulers must also try to reverse the progressive social and political ideas that broad layers of working people have adopted in the last two decades, especially as a result of the struggle against the Vietnam War and the civil rights and women's liberation movements.

They want to convince us that women's place is in the home and Blacks really are inferior.

They want to convince us that "we" the U.S. workers and bosses have a common interest in going to war against "them" — the workers and peasants of Nicaragua, Cuba, Lebanon, and El Salvador.

The rulers foster religion and mysticism of all sorts to convince us to be more willing to accept the status quo.

They try to turn our attention from the real source of our problems — the capitalist system and its money-grubbing, warmongering ruling class — by telling us the real root of our plight is the proliferation of "loose women," "godless communists," "trouble-making" young people and "uppity" Blacks.

The solution, they say, is not to organize a united struggle of all working people against the ruling class, but to unite with the employers against each other. They tell us to pray to god and then do what we're told — whether it's taking a pay cut or going off to kill and be killed in El Salvador.

The school prayer campaign is reactionary and a deliberate attempt to divert working people from achieving political clarity. It should be condemned and combated.

March 13, 1979: How Grenada revolution began

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

March 13 marks the fifth anniversary of the Grenada revolution. It will be observed around the world by those who look to "the big revolution in a small country."

Despite the setback suffered by the Grenadian people and the world revolution when the workers and farmers government led by Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement (NJM) was overthrown, opening the door to the U.S. invasion last October, the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution and its leadership provide important lessons.

The ruling-class media in the United States continues to slander the Grenada revolution and falsely misrepresent what actually happened five years ago on March 13. To hear them tell it, a tiny handful of NJM radicals

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

organized a bloody coup against the legitimate government of Eric Gairy and imposed an authoritarian regime. This NJM gang, the slanders continue, got what it deserved last October when the Grenadian masses "welcomed" the U.S. invaders who proceeded to restore democracy on the tiny island.

The story's a lie from beginning to end. What took place on March 13, 1979, was not a coup. It was a popular uprising led by a revolutionary party with deep roots among Grenadian workers and farmers. The real story is told in the new book published by Pathfinder Press entitled, *Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution 1979-83*.

In a 1981 interview published in this book, Maurice Bishop explained, "Over the years our party had always defended the rights of the people, had always struggled for those rights. . . . The masses therefore knew they could rely on us. Hence, when the call was made on March 13, 1979, they eagerly responded."

The Gairy regime was a brutal and corrupt one. His secret police force, called the "Mongoose Gang," attempted to terrorize all opponents of his dictatorial rule. NJM members, and others, were brutally beaten, and some were murdered.

In the weeks leading up to March 13, 1979, NJM leaders learned of a plot by Gairy to assassinate them while he was out of the country. This plan was thwarted when the NJM organized a successful armed takeover of the True Blue army barracks and the island's sole radio station.

Bishop, who had been a member of the Grenadian parliament, immediately went on the air of the renamed Radio Free Grenada and appealed to the people to come into the streets in support of the uprising. Tens of thousands responded. Gairy's forces were thoroughly isolated and put up no effective resistance.

With the Gairy forces successfully smashed, the new People's Revolutionary Government headed by the NJM began to act in the interests of the nation's workers and farmers to solve the deep social and economic crisis caused by years of imperialist domination and the Gairy regime.

This was no simple task. Advances in health care, education, women's rights, trade union organization, and general economic progress were not easily accomplished in this tiny country of some 110,000 people with very limited economic resources.

Nevertheless, in its four and a half years in power, the PRG managed to make health care and education free, outlaw sex discrimination, increase real wages, and drastically lower unemployment.

The NJM leaders recognized that consistent efforts to carry out these tasks would inevitably bring the workers and farmers into conflict with the profit needs of both the foreign and local capitalists. But they did not shrink from this. They organized the working people to undertake a socialist course of development.

The NJM leaders, deeply influenced by the Cuban revolution, were convinced of the need to tackle the small country's problems in this way well before they took power. In a 1977 interview with the Cuban magazine *Bohemia* Bishop explained:

"Socialism is the future we would like to see in Grenada," said Bishop. "At present the reality is that the most backward forms of capitalist exploitation exist in Grenada. We have to remember that Grenada — with its small territory, high unemployment, great poverty and misery, with the small size and low level of consciousness of its working class, with all its commercial ties to imperialism, and with a profoundly repressive government — must accomplish democratic advances in step with the march of the other countries in the region."

"However, despite the difficulties," he concluded, "we feel that the perspectives for the cause of social revolution in Grenada are good."

Bishop was right. The NJM and the people of Grenada wrote a glorious page in the history of the struggle against imperialism and capitalism.

New attack on affirmative action

The U.S. Justice Department is continuing its assault on the civil rights of Blacks and women. The agency has joined 10 white male cops and fire fighters in challenging actions taken by the city government in Birmingham, Alabama, under a consent decree aimed at increasing the hiring and promotion of Blacks and women in the city's police and fire departments.

When it took effect three years ago, the decree had been signed by the Justice Department.

The Reagan administration officials now claim that the charge of "reverse discrimination" made by the 10 whites could "establish a course of conduct which we believe to be unlawful."

The truth is that the U.S. ruling class has escalated its campaign against the legal right to equality of Blacks and women — with affirmative action programs being a central target.

In addition to the Birmingham case, the Reagan administration has sided with challengers of affirmative ac-

tion programs in Boston, New Orleans, Memphis, and Detroit. The opponents of affirmative action claim that plans that include numerical goals for the hiring and promotion of Blacks and women discriminate against white men.

But it's Blacks and women who are the victims of discrimination. They're the last hired and first fired. They've got the dirtiest, lowest-paying jobs.

Affirmative action programs can be effective in combating this oppression when they have teeth — numerical goals. The Birmingham consent decree is an example of this fact.

Birmingham's Blacks account for 54 percent of the city's population, 19 percent of the police and 13 percent of the fire fighters. In 1981, when the decree was adopted, only 13 percent of the police and 9 percent of the fire fighters were Black.

To stop the attack on affirmative action, Blacks, women, and the entire labor movement will have to wage a united fight against the employers.

Anti-Soviet bombing in N.Y.

On February 23 three bombs rocked a Soviet diplomatic compound in the Bronx, New York. The blasts shook the 25-story building and set a car on fire. To date, authorities have done nothing to find and prosecute those responsible.

A mere 10 minutes after the bombing a man identifying himself as a spokesperson for a group called "Jewish Direct Action" (JDA) phoned United Press International and claimed responsibility. Later that day the group's leader denied responsibility.

However, the JDA leader, Chaim Vancier, applauded the bombing. "I do not know who did it," he said, "but I am sympathetic to them."

Vancier feels comfortable openly endorsing this blatant act of terrorism because he obviously has no worries that the New York police or federal authorities will act to do anything about it. Evidently he is right.

The Soviet embassy said the bombing "constitutes an outrageous and barbaric act of terrorism that endangered

the lives of Soviet official personnel and their families."

An embassy spokesperson noted that the Soviet embassy has repeatedly informed the U.S. State Department of "the continuous flow of threats received by Soviet representatives in this country." It has repeatedly asked for additional protection. These appeals have been systematically ignored by U.S. officials.

The embassy noted that "the bombing is just the latest incident in a long chain of incidents . . . which includes harassment, vandalism, shootings, and bombings." It demanded that the U.S. government act to punish the criminals responsible. It noted that in this case "those involved . . . are well known. They even openly advertise their identity."

The U.S. government is quick to charge "terrorist" whenever it wants to frame up Puerto Rican independence supporters, Black liberation fighters, socialists, and antiwar activists. But it's unwilling to lift a finger to punish the terrorists responsible for repeated attacks on Soviet offices.

Shell Oil workers discuss takebacks in new contract

BY JOHN CANNON

HOUSTON — After more than a month of dragging its feet, Shell Oil finally came to terms February 13 on a new two-year contract with Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 4-367, which represents some 1,800 refinery and chemical plant workers at the giant Deer Park Manufacturing Complex just outside Houston.

Local 4-367 members had been working under almost-daily extensions of the 1982-83 contract agreement,

UNION TALK

which expired January 8. The local approved the new contract, which makes a number of concessions to Shell, on February 14 and 15.

Ours was the only large Shell local still without a contract. The new terms paralleled settlements agreed to by the international union and other OCAW locals.

The company eventually withdrew four takeback demands and modified all but four of the remaining ones.

In addition to this "carrot," Shell used a heavy stick to pressure union members to accept the proposal. Shell put out copies of the proposed agreement along with a company cover letter at many of the units before the membership could hear the proposals from the union leadership

and discuss them collectively. Shell addressed the packet to "all supervisors."

Workers then heard that this was "the company's best offer, although not necessarily the final offer," meaning that if we rejected it we would probably have to strike and get even less.

Terms include a 1.5 percent raise the first year and 2.5 percent the second, plus first-year \$10 and second-year \$5 monthly increases in Shell's contribution to the medical plan.

The main sticking point all along was "local issues" — those not covered by the national wage and benefit package.

The oil barons, like those in auto, steel, and rail, have been quite successful in isolating and dividing union locals from each other and preventing a united response by the whole union to their attacks, by forcing each local union to separately negotiate working conditions with each individual company.

While all union members are affected by the concessions in the new contract, new hires will suffer especially. The probationary period will be 130 working days — at least six months — instead of the present 120 calendar days.

In addition, a three-year wage rate and job progression is established for all operations workers. Previously there were fewer progressions, and an operator would make

top pay after one year, not three.

Workers can now be forced off their permanent jobs for up to 50 days and put on other jobs at company discretion under certain conditions. This weakens seniority.

These are just some of many takebacks Shell was able to win. This agreement was not only important to Shell, but to the rest of the oil industry, because previously our local had one of the best contracts in the country.

In the months prior to contract negotiations there had been a rash of suspensions and firings. Black workers had been hit the hardest.

Under these circumstances, many workers are beginning to think seriously about what it will take to defend our jobs, working conditions, and our union. The contract settlement has deepened this discussion.

Some workers, under the pressure of the company offensive, are looking for individual solutions to their problems. Some blame the union as well as the company.

Some members have quit the union, but a growing layer of the membership is beginning to recognize that it is only through the union that we can defend ourselves. This requires a strategy that relies on the strength of an informed, mobilized, and united rank-and-file union membership.

John Cannon works at Shell Oil and is a member of OCAW Local 4-367.

LETTERS

Mental illness aid cuts

I'm sure *Militant* readers know about the savage cuts in disability benefits by the Reagan administration. I am a psychiatric patient and a member of a group therapy. About two years ago, another member had his disability cut off. He appealed twice and lost twice, despite protests from his doctors that he was too ill to work. On the second appeal the judge accused him of "exaggerating his symptoms."

Famous last words. This past week I heard the awful news that he had committed suicide.

By no means is this an isolated incident. There has been some stuff in the press about this very same thing happening all over the country. People with mental disturbances are being forced to deal with the intolerable sacrifices demanded by the government.

This must be stopped!

Patricia Hefner
Birmingham, Alabama

Canadian steelworkers

One error crept into your otherwise excellent article on the meeting of Canadian socialist steelworkers in the February 24 *Militant*.

The article cites Annette Kouri as saying that the United Steelworkers of America's (USWA) Quebec national assembly was the first union to adopt a resolution

supporting self-determination for Quebec.

In fact, the USWA's 1972 annual Quebec conference was the first union body to pronounce itself in favor of Quebec sovereignty.

Quebec self-determination has been the position of most Quebec unions now for a period of decades: that is, the right of the Quebec nation to freely determine its own future.

Support for Quebec sovereignty (independence, separation) represents a further step along the road of national self-determination: the selection of this particular option as the best way in which Quebec's national emancipation can be realized.

Quebec steelworkers have indeed paved the way in promoting the sovereignty option among Quebec workers. A Steelworkers local in Verdun was the first union to present an independentist resolution in the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) in 1961. Steelworkers played an important role in supporting French as the language of work in the 1960s and 1970s.

Bob Braxton
Montreal, Quebec

FPL statement

Thanks kindly for sending me the Dec. 30, 1983 issue of the *Militant*. I will use the translation of the FPL [People's Liberation

Forces-Farabundo Martí — a Salvadoran revolutionary organization] communiqué in a small publication a group of us have begun here in Montreal.

Don Sugden
Montreal, Quebec

Attica prisoners write

The following are portions of a letter signed by 13 inmates at Attica prison in New York and sent to Gov. Mario Cuomo. The prisoners sent a copy to the *Militant*

Dear Mr. Governor:
Permit me to communicate to you these most ... barbaric ... inhuman ... and cruel and unusual ... conditions that not only myself, but also my fellow prisoners and human beings confined here at "Attica Correctional Facility," are being forced to live under.

Persons held here in the "special housing unit," are being deprived of their fundamental rights. We are being subjected to harassment and physical abuse by the corrections officers.

These officers are the most racist and belligerent individuals that I have ever, in all my life, come in contact with.

We here in this unit are also being confined in cells covered with a plexiglass shield, which



lack adequate ventilation and are fire and safety hazards.

We are also being denied a proper amount of food and are being fed under unsanitary conditions. We are constantly finding strands of hair and cigarette ashes in our food.

We the undersigned prisoners confined here at Attica Correctional Facility, special housing unit, respectfully request that there be an investigation initiated of all the issues stated herein.

Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Signed by 13 prisoners
Attica, New York

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: **Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.**

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.

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ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 17 E. Southern Ave. (Central and Southern). Zip: 85040. Tel: (602) 268-3369. Tucson: SWP, YSA, 2960 W. St. Trotaz. Zip: 85713. Tel: (602) 622-3880.

CALIFORNIA: Bay Area District: 2864 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 444-3083. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94606. Tel: (415) 839-5316. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: SWP, YSA, 1184 Broadway. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

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MINNESOTA: Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 112 Chestnut St., Virginia, Minn. 55792. Send mail to P.O. Box 1287. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

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Texas farm workers demand gov't aid after freeze leaves thousands jobless

BY PATRICIA SÁNCHEZ

SAN JUAN, Texas — On February 26, 600 farm workers gathered here in the high school gym for the sixth annual Texas United Farm Workers (UFW) convention. The main topic discussed was the *helada*, the devastating freeze that hit south Texas two months before.

The freeze destroyed 10,000 acres of citrus crops and severely damaged many sugar cane and winter vegetable crops leaving 20,000 farm workers out of work. Thousands of Rio Grande Valley families that are poor in the best of times have become even poorer. Many face evictions, electricity and heat cutoffs, loss of their homes and cars, soaring medical costs, and miles of red tape for dole-outs of food.

In spite of protests demanding relief, including a march of more than 2,000 here February 19, government assistance has been meager and far from adequate. The principal action of Texas Gov. Mark White has been to urge state church leaders to make a special collection during church service on one Sunday.

The main report at the UFW convention, presented by Benjamin Orozco from San Juan, described the extent of this disaster. During the discussion period, many delegates vividly related what it meant for them.

Augustín Chávez said, "We are the ones who work and gather the food, now the food has died — from where will we get our food?"

A delegate from Weslaco described the long lines in the cold waiting for food, yet "many of us went home with nothing."

"We had to unite. We united with 300 others to march," said another referring to a march on the Hidalgo County courthouse in January.

Maria Montes said, "It is a struggle based on necessity. We all asked for help and nobody hears us."

The next speaker condemned Hidalgo

County Judge Saldaña, who refused to set up soup kitchens because, "He said we farm workers in the food line embarrass them, that we are a sore sight for the tourists."

A delegate from Pharr held up some small slips of paper and explained that these vouchers are all the Texas Employment Commission hands out. "I have three," he said, "but they don't pay the rent, they don't buy gas for heat, they don't buy food."

César Chávez, president of the UFW nationally, gave a keynote address where he proposed that the federal government extend disaster unemployment compensation from 13 weeks to 52 weeks. Those who go north to seek work should not lose their eligibility, he said.

He also proposed a federal program to provide jobs for out-of-work farm workers building badly needed public services. He urged that Governor White prepare legislation for a general assistance program to help victims of the economic disaster.

His final proposal was that an all-out letter-writing campaign be launched to ask President Reagan why he isn't doing anything about the problems of farm workers.

Chávez argued that "Reagan will not be elected unless he wins Texas and he will not win Texas unless he wins the Valley. What do you think will happen if he receives 100,000 letters from voters here?" He paused for a response from the delegates.

"Nothing, absolutely nothing!" someone shouted.

Chávez continued, "Something must happen. It will force him to clean house, to take responsibility."

In response to Chávez's letter-writing proposal, one delegate during the discussion protested, "We are not beggars. We will not be used as mops with which they are going to clean their house. Neither the Democrats or Republicans have helped us.



Farm workers in south Texas. Thousands have lost jobs since devastating December freeze. State government refuses to provide adequate aid.

They don't help poor people. We are not beggars. We have dignity, that's why we are here."

The convention also heard from Texas Lt. Gov. William Hobby, son of a millionaire, who claimed that *we* — business, farm workers, and consumers — have made a lot of progress on workers compensation, and *we* all have the same interests, and that *we* must continue working together in good faith.

State Agriculture Commissioner James Hightower urged everybody to work together to get on the "inside" in Washington, D.C. Several Democratic candidates for senator, congress, and county commissioner were endorsed. Resolutions endorsing lobbying efforts to raise the minimum wage were adopted.

During the convention a march was held from the high school to the UFW headquarters. Among the participants was a team of campaign supporters for Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president. They were in south Texas to get a first-hand look at the plight facing farm workers there and to solidarize with their struggle for relief.

Their proposal that money from the bloated war budget be used to help finance immediate disaster relief and a massive public works program to provide jobs was well-received. There was also interest in their call for the labor movement to break from the Democrats and Republicans and launch a labor party to fight for the interests of all working people.

N. Carolina textile workers welcome Marroquín

BY GREG McCARTAN

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1391 T welcomed Héctor Marroquín to their monthly meeting here and pledged their support in his fight against deportation.

Local 1391 T represents 2,500 textile workers at the Cone White Oak plant here. Lewis Presely, local president, welcomed Marroquín and turned the floor over to him for a presentation and discussion.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Héctor Marroquín is fighting government moves to deport him.

Marroquín explained the history and importance of his case and the support it has won.

Today a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, Marroquín fled his native Mexico to avoid persecution by the government there in the 1970s. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is trying to deport him because of his socialist views.

Marroquín is fighting for political asylum in this country and has also petitioned the INS for permanent residence status based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen. His case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, which may rule at any time.

Textile workers nodded in agreement when Marroquín explained that he has been the victim of a frame-up similar to that experienced by the Wilmington Ten civil rights fighters and trade union activists.

After the meeting adjourned, all the members shook Marroquín's hand, talked with him about his case and the labor movement, and wished him success in his fight.

During his tour of Greensboro, Marroquín also attended the trial of nine Klan and Nazi members who are charged with violating the civil rights of demonstrators at an anti-Klan rally in Greensboro on Nov. 3, 1979. The Klan and Nazis attacked the rally with an arsenal of pistols, rifles, and shotguns, killing five demonstrators. None of the over 40 Klan, Nazi, or government agents involved in the attack has ever been convicted of any crime.

After attending a morning session of the

trial, Marroquín issued a statement to the press. In it he expressed his solidarity with the victims of the racist, anti-labor assault and called on the government to prosecute to the fullest extent all Klan, Nazi, and government agents involved in the murders.

Marroquín said that if those responsible for the killings are allowed to go free, "the rights of all citizens would be seriously threatened — especially those activists in the labor, Black, and women's movements and those who are opposed to a new Vietnam-style war in Central America."

The judge in the case has put into effect a "gag order" that denies the right of any potential witness to make statements to the press. This is aimed at preventing any surviving participants in the November 3 demonstration from building public pressure for justice in the case. Marroquín called for the lifting of the gag order "so the victims of this attack can speak out and win support."

The other high point of the tour was a public rally in support of Marroquín. The meeting was sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, North Carolina National Lawyers Guild, Carolina Refugee Fund, and Triad Citizens Concerned for Central America.

The panel featured a broad array of civil and Black rights fighters. The central theme expressed by all the speakers was the need to fight the government's assault on democratic rights in this country and its war against the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Lebanon.

Rev. Bill Finlator, a member of the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union, kicked off the rally by welcoming Marroquín, "not as a stranger, but as a friend and part of the cause."

Finlator emphasized that "no boundaries or borders exist where civil rights are concerned. Whatever happens to Héctor happens to us."

The North Carolina NAACP was represented at the rally by Emery Rand. Rand pointed out that the NAACP was "very concerned" about Marroquín's case and felt that the INS has "in this case bitten off a bit more than it can chew."

Rand ended up his talk pledging to Marroquín that the "NAACP will be behind you and others who will be victimized like you."

The meeting heard messages from Sr. Evelyn Mattern of the North Carolina Council of Churches, and Earl Jones, a Black city council member.

Other speakers at the rally included Travis Payne from the National Lawyers Guild, Gail Korokin from the Greensboro Civil Rights Fund, and Richard McGough representing the Carolina Coalition for Justice in Central America.

A representative from the Winston-Salem chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party, Rev. Carlton Eversley, ended the evening with a rousing talk. He linked Marroquín's fight against government persecution to that of Black liberation fighters. "Marroquín stands in the tradition of Marcus Garvey, Frederick Douglass, and Malcolm X," he said.