

## Kampuchea rebuts lies of Pol Pot terrorists

BY STEVE CLARK  
AND DIANE WANG

PHNOM PENH — Kampuchea's Deputy Foreign Minister Kong Korm, in an interview conducted here March 13, rebutted claims by Pol Pot's reactionary Khmer Rouge that it scored major military victories in the northwestern provinces of this country during the early months of 1984.

"Right after the Khmer Rouge claimed they had occupied Battambang and Siem Reap provinces," Korm told us, "a number of journalists went to that region and were surprised to see that the propaganda of our enemy was different from the reality."

While here in Kampuchea, we spoke with several of these journalists. They had been flown into Battambang province by the Kampuchean government a few days prior to our arrival. They told us that recent Khmer Rouge activities there were clearly "hit and run" attacks by small groups, not military operations.

"It should not be surprising, given the support to these terrorists by Peking expansionism and U.S. imperialism," the deputy foreign minister told us, "that there have been such acts. There have been terrorist actions, but no attacks on our military bases."

"These actions by a small terrorist outfit," he said, "are committed against civilians, burning down their houses and other buildings. I think that such infiltration could also happen in Bangkok, New York, or Paris."

"But such actions cannot overthrow a government that occupies the entire country and has the support of the people," Korm said. "All the journalists and other foreigners who have visited the places where these incidents have occurred have been told by our people that if our enemies were strong, then they would attack our military bases."

Contrary to radio reports by the Pol Pot  
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## U.S. troop maneuvers target Central America



U.S. "adviser" trains Honduran troops. Some 33,000 U.S. troops are slated to join military maneuvers threatening Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Cuba.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Behind the smokescreen of "democratic elections" in El Salvador, the U.S. government is mobilizing troops, ships, and warplanes for massive military maneuvers in Central America and the Caribbean. The maneuvers, scheduled to begin April 1 and involve 33,000 U.S. troops, represent a dangerous escalation of Washington's war against the people of Central America.

On March 26, in Managua, Nicaragua, the Sandinista government called the troop exercises "unprecedented" and warned that they bring "even closer the possibility of military intervention against El Salvador and Nicaragua."

Nicaragua called on governments of the world to provide it with economic and military aid to repel the "state terrorism the U.S. government has unleashed." It has also urged the governments of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia (who make up the Contadora Group) to respond to the latest U.S. moves by increasing efforts to find a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Central America.

Nicaragua's concerns are well-founded. U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries have succeeded in mining Nicaragua's major ports on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, resulting in damage to a Soviet

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## New Bedford rapists are sentenced

BY MIKE GALATI

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — The second of two trials in the Big Dan's barroom rape case ended in Fall River, Massachusetts, March 22 with the conviction of two of the four remaining men accused of raping and beating a 21-year-old New Bedford, Massachusetts, woman on March 6, 1983.

The jury of six men and six women found John Cordeiro and Victor Raposo guilty of aggravated rape — that is gang

rape — after only seven hours of deliberation. They joined Daniel Silva and Joseph Vieira who were convicted of the same charge in a trial that ended March 17. The jury, however, also acquitted the two remaining defendants in the case, Virgilio Medeiros and Jose Medeiros (they are not related). They were acquitted despite the fact that a number of witnesses testified that both these men took part in and encouraged the attack against the victim and

despite the Big Dan's bartender's testimony that he was physically prevented by them from leaving the bar to get help for the woman during the course of the two hours in which she was repeatedly raped on the barroom table.

On March 26 Judge William Young sentenced Daniel Silva, John Cordeiro, and Victor Raposo to not less than 9 and not more than 12 years to be served in prison. Joseph Vieira was sentenced to not less than six and not more than eight years for his part in the rape.

Afterwards, more than 300 supporters of the rapists cursed the rape victim. One woman said of the victim, "She should have been home in the first place." "They should hang her," said another.

Ever since the trials began, an attempt has been made to present the rapists as the victims, and turn the victim into the criminal.

On March 23, for instance, a demonstration of some 7,000 people took place in downtown New Bedford. It was called to protest the convictions of Silva and Vieira, and to "show the unity of the Portuguese community." The demonstration quickly turned into a victory celebration for the two rapists who were acquitted, one of whom, Jose Medeiros, was carried on the shoulders of the crowd as if he were some conquering hero.

It also became clear that the political intent of the demonstration was to pressure the judge in the case, William Young, to hand down the lightest sentences possible, if not to completely overturn the guilty verdicts in the case.

Signs prominent in the crowd that evening included: "Remember, justice crucified March 17, 1984," and "Justice for all, not frame-ups — overturn the verdicts."

This demonstration and a larger one the following day, March 24, held in Fall River was called by the Committee for Justice and a few other Portuguese community groups. The Committee for Justice has

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## British miners expand strike against gov't

Our correspondent Bruce Kimball has just completed a one-week tour of the British coal fields. Kimball is a working miner in southern Illinois and a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295.

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

LONDON, England, March 26 — British miners scored some important victories last week as their strike against the government's plans to close more than 20 mines

and lay off over 20,000 miners in the next year reached a crucial stage.

Now in its third week, the strike has spread to include more than 150,000 miners — 85 percent of the total — in England, Scotland, and Wales.

All week, it's been the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) against the National Coal Board, the police, the courts, the press, and every other force the government has been able to organize in this historic confrontation.

Squads of "flying pickets" organized from Yorkshire, South Wales, Kent, and Scotland spread throughout the country shutting down pits, stopping the movement of coal, and building solidarity actions in Britain's major cities.

These flying squads have faced a virtual army of 20,000 police, coordinated by Scotland Yard. I visited a picket coordinating center in Aberaman, South Wales, to learn about some of the problems faced by the pickets. Aberaman is like many of the towns in South Wales. It is built around a colliery (a coal mine and the buildings connected to it), and its entire economy is dependent on the jobs produced there. When the mine, or "pit" as they are called here, closes, the town may well die. Twenty-three of the twenty-six mines in South Wales are scheduled for closure by the government.

"First of all, we meet the police everywhere we go," one miner told me. "In spite of that, we've already got North Wales shut down." He was referring to the two coal mines in North Wales that were successfully picketed out early this week.

"Now we're concentrating on Staffordshire, and Leicestershire." Several times a week, buses rented by the union go off to these areas carrying pickets. When they encounter police, they are told that if they go any further they will be arrested. The buses

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Militant/Bruce Kimball

South Wales miners are solid in strike against mine closures.



# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BALTIMORE — Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, was in the Baltimore-D.C. area the first week in March as part of a campaign swing through the nation's steel centers. An important aspect of her tour here was talking with steelworkers about the massive layoffs and concessions being demanded today by the steel bosses. She discussed what the United Steelworkers of America can do to fight back against these attacks.

A highlight of the tour was the March 3 stop at Bethlehem Steel's giant Sparrows Point plant. Socialists have had regular *Militant* sales here for several years. Many workers are familiar with the *Militant's* opposition to the U.S. government's war in Central America and the paper's defense of trade union rights in this country.

Many workers stopped to shake her hand and wish her good luck. A Cuban worker, who is a union activist, stopped and talked with González in Spanish for a few minutes. A young Black worker wished her luck and began walking into the plant. After a few steps he turned back and asked what she thought of Reagan's sub-minimum wage plan for teenagers. González responded that this was an attempt to lower the wages of all workers and should be opposed by the labor movement.

Supporters of the SWP campaign spent several days prior to her Sparrows Point appearance publicizing the tour stop. A leaflet was prepared announcing her visit to the plant and the public rally that evening. A statement outlining the basic ideas of the socialist campaign was printed on the back

side. The statement dealt with the crisis in the steel industry and proposals made by her campaign for solving the problems faced by steelworkers. These included a call to nationalize the entire steel industry; shorten the work week with no cut in pay to spread the available work around; and to use the billions of dollars now spent on war to build new schools, hospitals, houses, and mass transit systems.

The day before González' appearance, teams of campaign supporters fanned out to several of the mill's clockhouses at the shift changes. They sold the *Militant* and passed out hundreds of campaign leaflets with the announcement of her visit the next day.

The statement on the back of the leaflet generated several discussions inside the plant. Joe Kleidon, a campaign supporter

who works at the mill, gave a copy of the leaflet to a coworker. He looked it over for several minutes and then commented that he was opposed to the idea to use the war budget to build more schools. He wasn't sure if we needed more schools in this country. Several workers standing close by jumped into the discussion explaining the deplorable state of public education today. They agreed more money should be spent on schools to alleviate the problem of crowded classrooms. Another worker was heard to comment, "This is just what we need" as he read the campaign leaflet with a friend.

This advance work, coupled with weekly *Militant* sales teams, was a big reason for González' successful tour stop at the Sparrows Point plant.

Many workers are thinking poli-

tics in this election year, comparing the programs of the different candidates. Many are turned off to the big-business politics of the Democrats and Republicans. Supporters of the socialist campaign have found a growing interest in the ideas of their candidates among industrial workers. The call for a labor party, based on a fighting labor movement that doesn't subordinate the interests of workers to those of the bosses, is picking up more support within the unions.

A regular presence at the plant gates with the *Militant* and our other campaign materials is essential for continuing this discussion throughout the election year. It's the best way to lay the groundwork for the appearances of socialist candidates at industrial work sites as they travel around the country in the coming months.

## Gov't attempts to intimidate Boudin supporters at trial

BY STEVE CRAINE

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., March 27 — There were very few observers in court today for the trial of Kathy Boudin. But that's not surprising since Westchester County authorities are going out of their way to discourage attendance at this important trial.

Boudin is accused of robbery and murder stemming from the 1981 holdup of a Brink's armored car in Nyack, New York, across the Hudson River from here. The trials arising from this robbery have been used in many ways to attack the rights of all defendants.

The government has made use of elaborate "security" measures to create an atmosphere prejudicial to Boudin. The goal is to create an impression in the minds of jurors and the general public that she, her codefendants, and supporters are extremely dangerous.

Similar security measures helped set the stage for the conviction in an earlier trial of three others involved in the Brink's case. They were sentenced to 75 years to life — the maximum sentence possible.

When a team of *Militant* reporters arrived at the courthouse this morning, we weren't surprised to see the building surrounded by concrete barriers, designed, they say, to stop car bombs. We had read about that in the newspapers. We had also read about the airport-style metal detectors on the ground floor that everyone entering the building must pass through.

But once inside we discovered the elevators are set so they won't stop on the eighth floor, where Boudin's trial is being held. Instead, we had to ask a guard to call a special elevator serving only that floor. The elevator operator was an armed guard.

Once on the eighth floor we were asked

our business and frisked before entering the courtroom.

Keeping observers away from the trial is only part of the way the government is isolating Boudin to better violate her rights as a defendant. She has been in prison ever since October 1981, often under extremely harsh conditions, even though she has not been convicted of any crime. She is presently held in a jail so far away from this court that her transportation by police caravan — up to an hour and a half each way — seriously interferes with the time she can consult with her lawyers.

An organization has recently been established to help break through the isolation the state has imposed on Boudin. Called Friends of Kathy Boudin, the group seeks to get out the facts about her case and encourage support for her rights. Already the group has printed a pamphlet entitled "On Trial: Kathy Boudin," which includes a chronology of her case and some of her letters from prison. In the letters she describes the conditions of her solitary confinement, harassment by prison guards and officials, her fight to receive visits from her three-year-old son, and her attempts to communicate with other prisoners.

The pamphlet concludes by urging people to attend the trial. Directions to the White Plains courthouse can be obtained by writing Friends of Kathy Boudin at 163 Joralemon St. Suite 1370, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Telephone: (212) 624-5921.

A broad smile came over Kathy Boudin's face when she realized that the three new arrivals in the courtroom were supporters of her rights. I now appreciate much more how important it is to get out the truth about what is being done to this woman and to defend her rights, which are, in fact, our rights.



Copper workers on strike against Phelps Dodge in Morenci, Arizona.

## Copper strikers win medical benefits

BY DAN FEIN

TUCSON, Ariz. — In a victory for copper unions on strike against Phelps Dodge Corp., U.S. District Court Judge Alfredo A. Márquez ordered the company March 12 not to cut off medical benefits to strikers.

Thirteen unions, led by the United Steelworkers of America, have been on strike since July 1, 1983 in Morenci, Ajo, and Douglas, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas. Phelps Dodge, with the help of the state and county governments, is pushing to destroy pattern bargaining in the copper industry, force through major concessions, and bust the unions.

Last fall the company announced that

since the strikers were no longer employees of Phelps Dodge, their medical benefits would be cut off. The unions took the issue to binding arbitration and in December arbitrator Leo Kotin ruled in favor of the strikers. Medical benefits were maintained.

The company didn't like the decision and announced on January 12 that they would continue the benefits for the 1,500 strikers and their families for only 60 more days. The unions were forced to go to court to prevent the company from ignoring the arbitration decision.

The company continues to refuse to negotiate seriously. The last negotiation session was held January 23.

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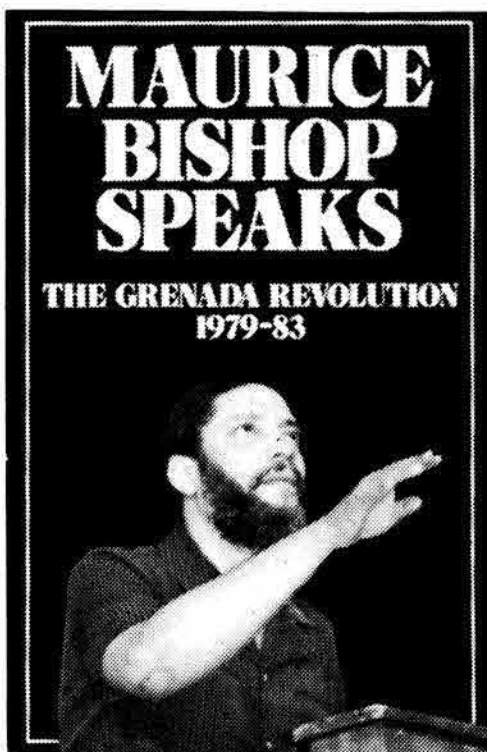
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# Salinas Valley workers hear Marroquín

BY DIANA CANTÚ

**SALINAS, Calif.** — Héctor Marroquín, Mexican trade-union and political activist seeking political asylum in the United States, spoke at a public meeting here March 16. It was part of a nationwide speaking tour to build support for his case, which is currently before the Supreme Court. Marroquín is fighting Washington's seven-year attempt to deport him because of his political ideas.

Marroquín's case is of particular interest to Salinas Valley residents because of the large number of immigrant workers here and the increasingly vicious and racist attacks by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) against all Latinos.

The meeting, "Stop the deportations! Stop racist attacks!", drew about 50 people in spite of heavy rain. The audience was made up mainly of farm workers and other Latinos, as well as students, community activists, Blacks from nearby Seaside, and workers from several plants in the area. (The meeting was held in Spanish with translation to English.)

Marroquín received greetings and messages of solidarity with his case from a number of organizations and individuals. José Camacho spoke on behalf of 700 workers laid off by the Sun Harvest Co., which closed down and reopened under another name with no union. José Carlos Fajardo gave greetings and solidarity on behalf of the Latin American Solidarity Committee of Salinas. Prof. Enrique Méndez Flores spoke for the Equal Rights Congress. And Ken Collins, Socialist Workers candidate for Seaside City Council, gave his support to the Marroquín case.

Other area endorses of the Marroquín case include William Monning, of the National Lawyers Guild; Richard Criley, Northern California regional director for the American Civil Liberties Union; Lancelot McClair, mayor of Seaside; John Brisco, president of Black Students Union at Monterey Peninsula College; and Alonso González, trustee of League of United Latin American Citizens.

In his talk, Marroquín pointed out how important the broad base of support in his case is, saying that what is happening to the workers at Sun Harvest is only part of the attacks being launched against workers in this country and around the world.

He stated that the INS policy of largely denying asylum to Latinos is racist. The solidarity of Collins, who is Black, is important, he said, because in order "to be able to triumph in the struggle against racism in this country, against the INS in this country — which is treating us like slaves — it is important that we win the solidarity of Black *compañeros* in this country."

Marroquín blasted the U.S. war drive in Central America and made the point that his case is not just that of an individual, but represents all the Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees who are hypocritically being denied asylum by the U.S. government.

During the lively discussion period, a woman worker from the nearby Keiser brick plant spoke about how the company

tries to use threats of closing down to divide the workers and impose big wage cuts.

A Latino worker laid off when the big Firestone plant here closed down, stated that even Latinos with documents shouldn't feel safe. During the depression in the 1930s, he explained, U.S.-born Latinos were deported in an effort to blame them for unemployment, and this could happen again.

In addition Marroquín accompanied a *Perspectiva Mundial* sales team to local plant gates to discuss his case.

Marroquín's tour received extensive media attention in Monterey, Salinas, and Santa Cruz. He had nine interviews both in English and Spanish with major radio and TV stations. Said Marroquín, "The warm reception by the press reflects the importance of the issue of immigrant workers in this area."

BY DIANA CANTÚ  
AND JOHN HARRIS

**SAN JOSE** — "Héctor Andrés Marroquín is not behind bars, but he has been a political prisoner in the 10 years since he fled across the Texas border from his native Mexico." So begins an article about the Marroquín case by Delia Ríos in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

While in San Jose recently, Marroquín received impressive support for his case. Peter Gautschi, business agent for the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council endorsed the case, as did San Jose City Councilman Jerry Estruth.

The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 endorsed Marroquín's appeal for political asylum, stating in part, "the United



Militant Héctor Marroquín linked his fight against deportation with struggle of thousands of Central American refugees.

States has been a haven for the oppressed and those seeking independence and freedom." The Committee for Solidarity With El Salvador sent a letter to the INS saying, "the action of the INS in refusing political asylum to Héctor Marroquín represents an attack on the democratic rights of all those who live in the United States. . . . The INS has deported thousands of Salvadorans, many of whom were immediately tortured and killed."

While in San Jose, Marroquín talked with Levi Strauss workers and solidarized

with their fight against INS raids. (They recently won a victory when workers who had been fired were reinstated and received temporary stays from deportation pending the appeals process.)

Marroquín also met with workers from FMC, a plant which manufactures tanks and armored personnel carriers, and discussed the war in Central America. Twenty-two members of International Association of Machinists Local 562 at FMC signed a telegram sent to the INS opposing the deportation of Marroquín.

## Salvador death-squad chief is CIA man

BY HERMAN CHAUKA

Col. Nicolás Carranza, head of El Salvador's dreaded Treasury Police and a principal architect of the country's right-wing death squads, has been on the CIA payroll for the past five or six years.

He is paid by the CIA to the tune of \$90,000 a year. A U.S. official explained he receives that kind of money because he shares some of it with subordinates. He didn't say what the subordinates do to earn it.

According to the March 22 *New York Times*, Treasury Police chief Carranza works closely with El Salvador's top hit man, Roberto D'Aubuisson. Former president of the Salvadoran national assembly, D'Aubuisson is currently a contender for president of the country. He's also the active leader of the death squads.

Along with the former defense minister, Gen. José Guillermo García, Carranza has provided D'Aubuisson with police and military personnel for the death squads.

Carranza also works with D'Aubuisson in selecting death squad targets. Number-

ing in the thousands, these have included unionists, peasant leaders, students and others deemed to be dissidents.

Perhaps the most notorious of the death-squad executions were the slaying of the four U.S. church women in 1980; the slaying earlier that year of Mario Zamora, a Christian Democratic politician; and the assassination of Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Romero was gunned down while saying mass.

The murders of Zamora and Romero were carried out under the direction of D'Aubuisson, with the protection of Carranza and General García.

Concrete information about the death-squads links with top government figures was provided the *Times* and several members of Congress by a former ranking Salvadoran military official. He is a right-winger who apparently feels the death-squad bloodletting has reached the point of becoming counterproductive.

He is also the one who named Carranza as a CIA hireling, as well as a key death-squad organizer.

The *Times* then obtained independent confirmation of Carranza's CIA status from several U.S. officials.

The CIA has refused to confirm or deny that Carranza is on its payroll.

One former U.S. intelligence official told the *Times* that the CIA often hires top military brass in other countries to do its bidding and doesn't necessarily support or condone other activities of its hirelings.

"You can't always do business with honorable people," he piously explained. "In such cases, the less you know, the better."

There's a scant kernel of truth to that. Obviously U.S. politicians don't need to know the gory details of each murder committed. It gives them a better posture of "deniability."

But it is a hoax to suggest that the CIA did not know its agent Carranza is a key figure in the death-squad operation.

Carranza is on the CIA payroll not despite the fact that he is a mass killer, but precisely because he is one.

That's because Washington's real aim in El Salvador is to crush a popular rebellion against a hated, tyrannical oligarchy that U.S. capitalism is determined to save by any means necessary.



Nicolás Carranza

## Mozambique gov't raids homes of ANC activists

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

In an ominous move, Mozambican police mounted raids on March 24 and 25 on the homes of activists in the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC is the chief national liberation organization in the fight to overturn the apartheid regime of South Africa.

The police raids come in the wake of the Mozambican government's signing of a "nonaggression" treaty with South Africa on March 16.

Mozambican government and ANC officials in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, said that at least 12 homes were raided, including that of Joe Slovo, a prominent white leader of the ANC. According to the March 26 *New York Times*, government officials said the raids were prompted by the refusal of ANC figures to hand over weapons.

The raids, however, took place just one day before a joint South African-Mozambican commission opened its deliberations in Maputo to see that the terms of the March 16 treaty are put into effect.

The March 16 accord commits both the Mozambican and South African governments to preventing their territory from being "used as a base, thoroughfare, or in any other way by another state, government, foreign military forces, organizations, or individuals which plan or prepare acts of violence, terrorism or aggression" against the other.

While Mozambique's government has emphasized that this means an end to South Africa's support to the right-wing guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance, the Pretoria regime insists that the Mozambican government restrict the activities of the ANC in Mozambique.

The ANC doesn't maintain any military bases in Mozambique. In the past, however, they have been able to travel through Mozambican territory. The recent raids signal Mozambican Pres. Samora Machel's intention to curb ANC activity.

Meanwhile, José Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan president and head of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), and Fidel Castro, head of

the Cuban government and Communist Party, released a joint declaration March 19. The statement was promptly denounced by South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha.

The apartheid regime has said it is willing to discuss the possible independence of its colony of Namibia — on the condition that the Cuban troops now in Angola are withdrawn.

The declaration of the Cuban and Angolan governments rejects this linkage of withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola to independence for Namibia. They reiterated that Cuban troops will be gradually withdrawn when 1) South African troops are withdrawn from Angola, 2) South African troops are withdrawn from Namibia and that country granted its independence, and 3) the U.S. and South African governments and their allies halt all acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, including their support to proimperialist guerrillas of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).



# Push 'Mason for President' ballot drive; Socialists launch state, federal races

## Working people sign petitions in Alabama voting-rights towns

BY MATT MUNRO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The drive to put Mel Mason and Andrea González on the ballot in Alabama ended successfully March 24. Campaigners collected more than 9,100 signatures (4,100 above the legal requirement) for the Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential ticket and over 3,200 (1,500 above the legal requirement) for Mark Curtis, SWP candidate in the 6th Congressional District.

Playing a big role in the success of the drive was a full-time team of Young Socialist campaign supporters who traveled throughout the state campaigning and petitioning. They brought the *Militant* and socialist campaign to many areas of Alabama for the first time. In three weeks this team collected more than 3,000 signatures and distributed some 2,500 pieces of campaign literature.

The team spent a lot of time in the Selma-Montgomery area, site of many civil rights battles of the 1960s. In Selma, the socialist campaign met an especially warm response in the Black community, which has been protesting a modern-day attack on voting rights — the firing of eight Black deputy voter registrars.

Selma activists welcomed the socialist campaign's support to their struggle and saw their fight as linked to the right of a Black socialist to win access to the ballot in Alabama.

The response of local police to the socialist campaign was not quite so warm. On March 13 the team pulled into Selma to spend a day petitioning and campaigning. Within five minutes a plainclothes detective who had caught sight of a campaign leaflet rushed over and informed the team that they were not allowed to pass out any literature anywhere in town. Democratic and Republican parties were having their primaries that day, he said, and campaigning wasn't allowed on election day.

The cop, trembling with rage at the thought of a Black socialist campaigning in Selma, quickly called in reinforcements and came up with the idea of impounding all the team's campaign literature. The team refused to open their car without a search warrant and sent one person to call the attorney for the socialist campaign.

The cop called the police chief, who, after the socialists explained what they were doing, had to admit they did indeed have the right to talk socialism in Selma.

The campaign team then spent the day collecting more than 250 signatures in downtown Selma and in a Black housing project.

They also met with local civil rights leaders, one of whom had witnessed the incident earlier in the day and told them, "if they try anything like that again, just come and see me."

In Montgomery the team petitioned at Alabama State University and in the downtown area where they met with supporters of the campaign and discussed their experiences in the civil rights struggles.

Later that week, the team took the Mason-González campaign to southeastern Alabama where they collected more than 800 signatures in three days. In Eufaula they were able to discuss the campaign with a relative of the Russaw brothers, two Black youth who were killed by police last year while trying to escape from a traffic ticket. The Russaw family has a suit pending in court against the city.

The team spent most of its time petitioning in Black and other working-class communities. They were also able to meet with a number of trade unionists as well as civil rights activists.

They took the campaign to the state convention of the Alabama Education Association. They petitioned and distributed *Militants* to workers at the large B.F. Goodrich plant in Tuscaloosa. Socialist campaigners also leafleted and gathered signatures at the Republic Steel mill in Gadsden, which is now threatened with closing due to the approval of the Republic-LTV steel company merger.

In Phenix City the team met with leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union who had just waged a successful fight against their bosses' attempt to impose a takeback contract.

On the wall of the union hall were charts and diagrams showing the union organization within the mill; people to call on each floor and in every department so the union could reach the entire membership on one day's notice.

The local union leaders, who, like the rank and file, are mostly Black, outlined their gains such as a dental plan and significant wage increase. In order to win these they had mobilized over half their 1,200 members.

The team talked with union leaders and activists about the Socialist Workers campaign and also discussed the Jesse Jackson

campaign and the AFL-CIO endorsement of Walter Mondale.

The team brought the campaign to organized textile workers in Opelika as well. They petitioned outside the Opelika Manufacturing Corp. during a shift change. The plant, organized by ACTWU, employs about 200 workers. Two socialist campaigners got 29 signatures in half an hour.

"The company's trying to bust the union," one woman worker said with a frown. One Black worker who was very interested in the campaign and the *Militant* called his friends over to sign the petitions as well. He also made plans with one friend to bring their socialist newspapers in on Monday. One had the *Militant* and the other had the *Young Socialist*, and they planned to trade so that each would be able to read both papers.

The team petitioned in Lowndes County, an impoverished, majority-Black county that was the birthplace of the Lowndes County Freedom Party in the mid-1960s, an early example of independent Black political action.

In Anniston, a textiles and metals-industry town, socialist campaigners gathered signatures in a Black community and at Jacksonville State University.

The final stop of the regional team was the Mobile-Prichard area, which has a history of protest over racist gerrymandering that has denied Blacks representation in the city government. Socialists collected hundreds of signatures in communities in both cities. They also petitioned at the University of South Alabama and at Bishop State College, where two petitioners gathered 95 signatures in less than half an hour.

## Michigan unionist runs for Senate, calls for end to military budget

BY DAVID FRANKEL

LANSING, Mich. — At a well-attended news conference here at the Michigan state capitol March 20, Helen Meyers announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

Meyers, a machinist at the General Dynamics tank plant in the Detroit suburb of Warren, is a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1200. She has just returned from a month-long visit to Nicaragua, where she took part in an international brigade helping in the cotton harvest there.

When Meyers called for the elimination of the U.S. military budget, one reporter asked, "Do you see a conflict between making tanks and advocating the elimination of the defense budget?"

"No," Meyers replied. "I think the problem is that we have to redirect the priorities of this country as a whole. My coworkers would much prefer producing socially useful products, but in the meantime we have to take the jobs that are available in order to live."

As far as her political activity is concerned, Meyers declared, "I pledge all my efforts to fight for working people's rights here and to fight against the new U.S. war in Central America."

Another big question facing working people is unemployment. Meyers pointed out that there are currently 150,000 unemployed UAW members. "If there had been no forced overtime last year," she stated, "55,000 more jobs would have been created in the auto industry alone."

Meyers also used the announcement of her campaign to protest a bill being considered by the Michigan legislature that would increase the already onerous requirements for minor parties to qualify for ballot status. Among other things, the proposed law would raise the signature requirement from about 20,000 to more than 100,000.

An editorial in the *Detroit Free Press*, which appeared on the same morning as Meyers' news conference, called the proposed law "protectionism for the two major parties."

"There is no good reason for the legislature to set the qualifications for minor parties and independent candidates so high as to bar them from the ballot," it declared. "Voters are entitled to choose from the widest possible range of candidates and ideologies. That's called democracy. Or did someone in Lansing forget?"

Meyers, who testified before the House committee holding hearings on the bill, stressed that the proposal was not only an attack on existing parties such as the SWP, but was also aimed at the rights of Blacks and of the labor movement as a whole.

Meyers noted that the SWP was the key plaintiff in a suit that resulted in an earlier discriminatory election law being ruled unconstitutional two years ago. She vowed that the SWP would carry out a similar fight if the current bill is passed. Also testifying against the bill were Peggy Frankie of the Communist Party and Cheryl Labash of the Workers World Party.

## SWP opens drive in W. Va. coalfields, runs miner against Rockefeller

BY KATHY MICKELLS

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — On March 31 supporters of the Socialist Workers 1984 campaign of Mel Mason for U.S. president and Andrea González for vice-president will be fanning out across the coal fields of West Virginia to begin the most massive petitioning effort that the Socialist Workers Party has ever conducted here. Well over the required 7,500 signatures necessary to put the socialist candidates on the ballot will be collected in the coal communities throughout the state over a three-week period.

This will be the first time that the Socialist Workers campaign has tried to get ballot status in West Virginia for a presidential ticket. Supporters expect to find many miners, rail workers, teachers, garment workers, and other working people receptive to the socialist program.

West Virginia has the highest rate of unemployment in the country. In a state rich with coal reserves, miners in District 31 and 17 of the United Mine Workers of America find over half of their members on indefinite lay-off. And those lucky enough to find themselves working confront almost daily attacks by the coal operators on their safety, health, and job conditions. Miners know that a major battle with the

coal companies is brewing. On September 30, their national contract expires.

The Socialist Workers Party is running Joan Radin, a coal miner, for U.S. Senate, and Dave Ferguson, a laid-off coal miner currently working as a garment worker, for governor. Their campaign will wholeheartedly endorse and support the miners' battle for a decent contract.

Miners know that an owner of industry such as Radin's Democrat opponent John Rockefeller can hardly be expected to represent or support miners.

By signing up thousands of West Virginians who support the right of the Socialist Workers candidates to appear on the ballot and by waging a campaign to put public pressure on the secretary of state, the socialist campaign is confident that it will meet any challenges to its right to be on the ballot.

To help with this effort, Mel Mason will be on tour in West Virginia April 5-7.

On April 7 Mason will join Radin and Ferguson at a campaign rally in Charleston. (See calendar on page 16 for details.)

To help with the petitioning effort that will run through April 21, call (304) 345-3040 in Charleston or (304) 296-0055 in Morgantown.



March 4, 1984, voting-rights march in Selma, Alabama. Socialist campaigners joined march and petitioned to put Mason-González ticket on state ballot.



# Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador

Mass Protest in Wash



Militant/Lou Howort



Militant

Steelworkers and socialist candidates Nelson González, left, for U.S. Senate, and Ed Warren for Congress.

## Chi. socialists kick off '84 campaign, call on trade unions to form own party

BY CANDACE WAGNER

CHICAGO — Ed Warren announced his candidacy for congress from the city's 1st Congressional District and that of Nelson González for U.S. Senate from Illinois here at a Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential campaign kick-off rally. Both Warren and González are employed by the Sloan Valve Co. and are members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 7999.

They were joined on the platform by Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers' presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Warren, the SWP's candidate for mayor and congress last year, explained his decision to run again for public office. "The 1st Congressional District is the largest congressional district in the country with 600,000 people, mostly Black.

"This district played a central role in the election of Harold Washington as Chicago's first Black mayor and elected Charles Hayes, the first top union official to serve in U.S. Congress in decades.

"The people of this district are looking for an alternative to racist, anti-working-class politics. That's why the people of this district have seriously listened to the alternative posed by the socialist candidates in past elections — that the root of society's problems, of war, racism, exploitation, is capitalism; that Blacks need an independent party, and the unions should form a labor party.

"We've said," Warren continued, "that it's not enough to elect a Black or a unionist to office if their party is a party of and defends the interests of the rich.

"Working people need independent political parties to oppose the bipartisan policies of the Democrats and Republicans, and around a program that defends our interests.

"But," Warren added, "my opponent in this congressional race, Charles Hayes, has forgotten his working-class roots. Yes, we want workers in office, but workers who have a correct program, a program that puts our interests first.

"The discussion of what way forward for Blacks and other workers is intensifying — here and around the country. Our campaign is a part of this important discussion."

Rita Lee, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, chaired the rally. She, Holly Harkness, and Mark Burroughs are SWP candidates for University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Lee introduced Nelson González.

"As a Latino steelworker running for U.S. Senate, my campaign is making one thing crystal clear: steelworkers and other working people cannot win the war at home against the employers if we don't oppose the bosses' war against workers and farmers in other countries.

The Chicago rally heartily welcomed Mel Mason and Andrea González. Both candidates described their experiences bringing the socialist campaign to voting rights activists in Montgomery, Alabama, striking Arizona copper miners, and steelworkers in Baltimore.

The inspiring rally closed with \$3,500 pledged to the campaign and two people asking to join the YSA.

While in Chicago, Mel Mason and Andrea González joined the discussions on

political action.

González began her tour at a restaurant near Sloan Valve Co.

Before work several of Ed Warren and Nelson González's Latino coworkers came to meet González. Their questions ranged from whether Harold Washington's election as mayor of Chicago was a step forward for working people to discussions about the crisis in the steel industry and the need to establish rank-and-file control of their union.

The next morning Andrea González attended the Saturday morning PUSH meeting where Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson and Harold Washington did last minute campaigning before the Illinois primary on March 20. González and campaign supporters spoke to participants outside. A number of Black women were glad to meet a woman who is running for vice-president. Others wouldn't take the campaign brochure, saying they are supporters of Jackson. But many other Jackson supporters took literature, spoke to González, and saw the campaign as part of the on-going discussion of independent political action.

González was also on a news program on Channel 26, the Spanish-language station. She was introduced as the first Puerto Rican to run for national office. She explained why the SWP candidates are

planning to visit Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Grenada, and hopefully Cuba. "We will be going to these countries to learn the truth first hand and to be able to better use our campaign to build solidarity with the workers and farmers."

González was also able to visit with the director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center to discuss the struggle for Puerto Rican rights.

Mel Mason traveled to northwest Indiana where the crisis in the steel industry has had a devastating impact on working

## N. Mex. socialist makes war key issue

BY BRENDA BRDAR

ALBUQUERQUE — The announcement of Socialist Workers candidate Paul Mailhot for U.S. Senate was front-page news in the March 18 *Albuquerque Journal*. A prominent article in the major news section headlined "Socialist Mailhot seeks Domenici Senate seat" reached thousands of New Mexicans all over the state.

The *Journal* reported "two of Mailhot's top priorities are improving conditions and wages for workers and getting the United States out of Central America." The article also enumerated Mailhot's positions on ending unemployment, defense of school desegregation and affirmative action, and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

In addition to this newspaper coverage, the ABC and CBS affiliates here covered Mailhot's announcement on the evening news. His campaign's emphasis on getting

people. He attended a hearing of the Congressional Steel Caucus on the "Crisis in Steel." At the hearing steel company officials, local mayors and officials of the USWA voiced support to a "Fairtrade and Steel Act Bill." The bill calls for stricter import laws as the solution to the industry's problems.

Mason, in an interview with the *Hammond Times*, daily in Hammond, Indiana, gave a different solution. "If U.S. Steel is going to close plants and throw 15,000 people out of work, if any steel company does that, it should be nationalized and placed under control of publicly elected boards. Under capitalism such crises are inevitable.

Back in Chicago, Mason met a very warm response from a Black literature class at Northeastern University. The teacher is a leader of the Chicago chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party.

Mason was able to explain why he's running against Walter Mondale, Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson, and the whole Democratic and Republican parties. Students asked a number of questions about Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

the United States out of Central America was featured following a story on a Republican Party gathering here.

Mailhot, 29, is a steelworker and a member of Boilermakers Local 338. His candidacy has also sparked a wide-ranging discussion among his coworkers.

His opponents are incumbent Peter Domenici, a die-hard Reagan supporter and adviser to the Central America Kissinger commission, and Judy Pratt, a liberal state representative who hopes to capture the Democratic Party nomination. Pratt's campaign is being supported by virtually the entire left in Albuquerque, with the exception of the Socialist Workers Party.

Mailhot campaigned at several Central America Week events and spoke to supporters at an open house March 24.

## Fund helps increase plant-gate campaigning

BY YVONNE HAYES

"Anxiety Strikes a Steel Town" read a *New York Times* headline on a story about the mood in Gadsden, Alabama. There the Justice Department has just ruled that Republic Steel must sell its Gadsden mill in order to conclude a merger with LTV Corp.

The questions facing workers in this city are the same as those confronting millions across the country who are taking the blows of the employers' offensive. And the answers to those questions lie in understanding that the source of the crisis we face is the capitalist system and the bosses' drive for profits.

A consistent feature of the Mason-González socialist presidential campaign is the effort to reach workers who are looking for solutions to the capitalist crisis, in the mines and mills and at the factories where they work. Mel Mason and Andrea González are meeting and talking with working people at plant gates across the country to discuss the perspective of workers and farmers taking political power and forming their own government.

The *Indianapolis Star*, a daily newspaper, took note of this in an article on Mel Mason's recent tour there. A column entitled "Candidate Seeks Blue-Collar Backing" noted that Mason was making a "series of plant-gate stops" while in town. The socialist presidential candidate met with auto workers on their lunch breaks at both a Chevrolet plant and a Chrysler foundry. He campaigned among members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers at another worksite and joined socialist congressional candidate Dave Ellis to campaign in the parking lot of an RCA plant.

Ellis, who works at RCA and is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, reported that socialist campaign literature was widely read at the plant that afternoon.

Recently in Baltimore, members of the International Association of Machinists on their way into work at the Koppers plant were met with a sign that said: "Come meet Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president. Here today."

The candidate's visit generated a lot of excitement on the job.

Campaigners petitioning to put socialist candidates on the ballot have also found a warm response at work places around the country. Workers at the Jeep plant in Toledo and coal miners near Pittsburgh are among those signing for a socialist alternative to the Democrats and Republicans in the elections.

By far the best response to the socialist campaign has come at those plant gates where the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have been distributed regularly over a period of time. At the Koppers factory in Baltimore, for example, weekly sales of the *Militant* have been going on for three years.

The socialist campaign kick-off fund is a key to meeting thousands of these workers. All indications are that we will collect over \$84,000 by March 31st. The challenge now is achieving 100 percent collection of the \$98,989 pledged.

Surpassing the \$84,000 goal will make it possible to increase the visibility of the socialist campaign and reach out more broadly to working people at industrial worksites around the country.

Amount pledged \$98,989	
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# 'For a public works program to build mass transit, schools'

BY BILL WARRICK

INDIANAPOLIS — This is an auto and electrical-industry town that hasn't seen much of the "recovery" yet. Thousands of General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and International Harvester workers are still on indefinite lay-off. AT&T is closing the Western Electric plant.

Statewide, unemployment is up again. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Indiana's jobless rate jumped from 8.9 percent in December to 12 percent in January. Last year at this time it was 14 percent.

Campaigning here, Socialist Workers presidential candidate Mel Mason explained his party's ideas for ending unemployment. "We need to scrap the entire \$305 billion war budget. The money should be redirected to a massive public works program in which the unemployed would build things working people need, such as mass transit, daycare centers, and schools."

Mason campaigned at several Indianapolis plant gates, including Chevy Bus and Truck, Chrysler Foundry, National Starch and Chemical, and RCA. Hundreds of campaign brochures were distributed. The response among Black workers and young workers was especially warm. "I'm glad you're running," one Black worker at National Starch told Mason as he shook his hand.

At the RCA Rockville Road plant, Mason was joined by Dave Ellis, recently-announced Socialist Workers candidate for Congress. Ellis works in the plant and is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1048.

Mason campaigned on RCA property. "After the Democrat running for mayor campaigned by the guard shack last fall, we won the same right for the SWP candidate," Ellis said. "We got an okay from industrial relations for Mason to do it, too."

Ellis introduced Mason to coworkers. While Mason shook hands, a campaign worker handed out brochures. "Having Mel Mason there and getting all that literature into the plant sparked a lot of discussion," Ellis said.

"Most of the comments were positive. One older woman group leader told me she really liked the idea of reducing the work week with no loss in pay, to cut unemployment. 'But the corporations sure wouldn't like it,' she said. That raised the issue of how the unions could win a shorter work week."

"A lot of the Black workers," Ellis explained, "were glad to see another Black candidate in the race. They wanted to compare Mason's ideas with Jesse Jackson's."

Mason and Ellis were the featured speakers at a campaign rally March 16. Mason blasted the acquittal of racist cop Luis Alvarez in Miami. "I went to the trial when I was in Miami," Mason said. "It was a weird trial — the kind where the pro-

secutor plainly wanted the defendant to go free. The verdict shows that a Black life means little in the United States."

Another rally speaker was Mike King, a 32-year-old Vietnam vet from Muncie, Indiana. "I joined the Marine Corps 15 years ago to help 'stop the spread of communism,' even though I didn't know what communism was. In Vietnam, a country the U.S. government had no right to invade, I learned about communism. The Vietnamese revolutionaries taught me about it."

King was discharged by the Marine Corps for his antiwar views. "They said I was 'unfit for military service.' In a way, they were right."

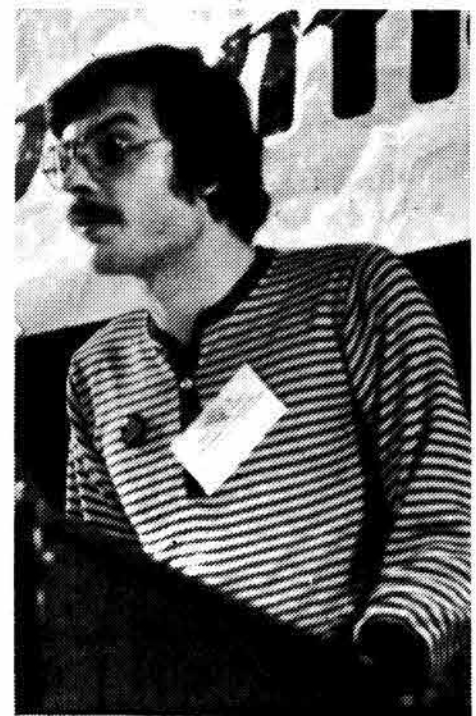
He related how the next big event that had an impact on his thinking was the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979. "I didn't know a lot about the Sandinistas, but I knew that

the U.S. government had suffered another defeat." With the increased threat of U.S. troops invading Nicaragua, King got active in the Central American solidarity movement. "After that it only seemed natural that I join the Young Socialist Alliance."

The rally audience responded to an appeal for funds by pledging \$2,000 to the work of the socialist campaign.

Mason's Indianapolis tour made the news. An article titled "Candidate seeks blue-collar backing" appeared in the March 16 Indianapolis *Star*. The same day an Indianapolis *News* column on Mason was page one in the local section. The Indianapolis *Recorder*, a widely-read Black weekly, did an extensive interview.

In addition, Mason's tour was covered by WRTV Channel 6 (ABC), WTTV Channel 4 (independent), and radio stations WIRE and WLTC.



Militant/Jo Hendrickson  
Dave Ellis, socialist candidate for Congress.

## S.F. socialist: 'INS should be dismantled'

BY SUSAN JAMES

SAN FRANCISCO — Marilee Taylor, a garment worker, opened her campaign for the California state assembly here by strongly denouncing the latest round-ups by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

On March 9, INS agents raided three electronics-assembly plants in the Silicon Valley, south of San Francisco. Forty-six Mexican workers were seized and 32 of them immediately deported. INS officials announced there would be at least two such raids per month.

"The INS should be dismantled," Taylor told supporters at a March 9 meeting at the

Socialist Workers campaign headquarters.

Taylor, who is running in San Francisco's 16th Assembly District, is an active member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 101. She works at Koret of California Sportswear, a subdivision of Levi Strauss.

Six of Taylor's coworkers attended the campaign meeting. They included three young women — a Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and a Chinese — and one long-time member of the ILGWU local executive board.

Taylor told how the ILGWU emerged out of the struggles of immigrant women workers. "Our union was built by the blood and sometimes the lives of foreign-born workers and remains this way today, with the majority of our membership being Chinese and Latina," Taylor said.

She described some of the harassment these garment workers constantly face from the INS. "Raids in the garment industry often take place right before payday," Taylor said, "exposing the collusion between the bosses and the INS."

Taylor told of the case of a Salvadoran coworker whose husband was recently arrested and threatened with deportation despite the fact that he had been granted

asylum. He had finally landed a job after being unemployed for many months. As a result of holding the job he missed an appointment with the INS. He was picked up at a restaurant and threatened with immediate deportation unless he could come up with \$3,000.

Taylor also denounced the INS for the recent deportation of a 14-year-old Mexican with residency status who, under the threat of physical abuse, was deported to Tijuana, Mexico.

"In a further attack on immigrant workers," Taylor explained, "as of January 1 all Latinos, Chinese, or anyone who looks foreign born, are being asked for their green card or proof of citizenship before they can receive the unemployment compensation to which they are entitled." Taylor called for the immediate repeal of this new California law.

At the meeting \$355 was raised in contributions and pledges for Taylor's campaign.

Taylor is also chairperson of the San Francisco Young Socialist Alliance. She visited Nicaragua two times since the July 1979 revolution and will be actively campaigning against U.S. aggression there and throughout Central America.



Marilee Taylor

## Louisville rally protests moves to gut school desegregation

BY CRAIG HONTS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A rousing, cheering, rally of 300 was held the evening of March 19 to protest the moves being made by the Jefferson County School Board to gut the court-ordered desegregation plan instituted in Louisville and Jefferson County in 1974.

Speaker after speaker attacked the new plan saying it will lead to the resegregation of schools in Jefferson County. Maurice Sweeney, local president of the NAACP, pointed out how the plan would dramatically lower the percentage of Blacks a school has to have in order to be in compliance with desegregation guidelines. In addition, the new plan was attacked for exempting most white students from busing for desegregation purposes and forcing students in the predominantly Black community in the West End to bear the entire burden of busing.

Sweeney pointed out how the termination of busing of white students to schools in the West End will lay the basis for cutting the programs and funding that those schools began to receive as a result of the original busing order.

Most at the rally felt that the main high school in the West End, Central High School, will be placed first in line for closing if the new plan is enacted.

The majority of Louisville Blacks are graduates of Central High. The rally showed how closely tied together the fight to desegregate the schools is with the effort to preserve and improve the schools located in the Black community.

Lyman T. Johnson, a former member of

the Jefferson County School Board, traced the history of Central High School starting from the time when he began teaching there. He said there was never enough money to keep the heat over 48° in the winter, but when busing was introduced, "for the first time Central began to receive its fair share of the funding."

It wasn't until after white students began to be bused to Central that the school board came up with the money to provide Central with its own track and football field. Johnson received a standing ovation after urging that "whatever you do, do not let the hard-won gains in civil rights be lost."

Another featured speaker was the Rev. C. Mackey Daniels, the only Black on the Jefferson County School Board. Rev. Daniels received a standing ovation when he told the crowd that, "if I must resign from the board of education in order to fight what I believe is wrong and evil... then I will resign from the board and proceed to sue the hell out of them."

The rally was filled with calls to fight the school board's new plan to the very end: "Desegregation has got to be dependent on cross-town busing," said Joseph McMillan, vice-president of minority affairs at the University of Louisville. "They have designed a one-way busing plan that is more deadly than is a segregated school system. We will fight this dastardly act with whatever is necessary."

The school board will vote on approving the new plan on March 26. Opponents of the plan will rally at Central High School the same day and then go to the site of the school board meeting in a car caravan.

### SOCIALIST WORKERS '84 CAMPAIGN

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"Mason for President; González for Vice-president." A reprint from the *Militant* (6 cents each).

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# Mo. farmers protest equipment seizure

BY JOHN STAGGS

SWEET SPRINGS, Mo. — Larry Loges stood on top of the John Deere combine to explain his family's plight to the 600 farmers gathered at the sale. The Loges brothers' machinery and livestock had been confiscated a year before by the Sedalia Mercantile Bank. The brothers filed a countersuit against the bank because they were not behind on their payments.

Because their land was already mortgaged, since 1979 they had used their equipment and livestock as collateral to get operating loans. The Loges' farm is listed as a corporate farm. The three brothers, Bob, Stanley, and Larry, incorporated their farm back in the 1970s hoping to cut their tax bill. But since 1978 they haven't had any taxable income because of the interest payments, low prices, and bad weather.

Now with the bank's seizure and sale of all their equipment Stanley Loges said, "it won't be long till our 2,500 acres goes up on the sale block too. They've taken away all of our tools and equipment."

The sale had been publicized by the Missouri American Agriculture Movement (AAM). Most of the farmers at the sale had heard the radio spots urging farmers to come and protest the sale.

Frances Hays and his son Gary from Stet, Missouri, drove 70 miles that morning to protest the sale. Hays expressed a common sentiment saying, "The government agencies take all our money, send it to Lebanon and Salvador to kill people, and then when we farmers come out and protest a sale they call us terrorists too."

Earlier, on January 28, over 100 AAM members and others had gathered in Hill City, Kansas, to protest the sale of Bernard and Ava Bates' farm equipment. The Bates, Black farmers from Nicodemus, Kansas, like the Loges brothers, have taken steps to reach out to others to help stop these sale proceedings. The TV media made a big point that union members were

in the crowd defending the Bates.

Bernard and Ava Bates are still fighting. Though part of their land and their equipment has been foreclosed on and sold, they continue to farm with help from their neighbors.

They have also told their story to other farmers and workers in meetings like a recent one on the Minnesota iron range.

"I'm not giving up," Bates said. "That's stupid. That's what they want you to do. You think the PCA [Production Credit Association] is giving up? We're not through yet."

After helping with the protest at the Loges' equipment sale, Carlos Welty, Missouri AAM spokesman, and other farmer activists went to St. Louis where they organized a "breakfast for the poor" in an area near the Black community. About 200 people came.



Militant/John Staggs

Sweet Springs, Missouri, was site of protest when bank seized Loges family farm equipment. "Government takes our money and sends it to kill people in Lebanon and El Salvador," said Stet, Missouri, farmer.

## New Bedford rapists are sentenced

Continued from front page

served as a de facto support committee for the rapists, working to raise bail, and trying to cloud the real issue involved in this case — the brutal attack and rape of the victim — by charging that the trial is a frame-up of the defendants because they are Portuguese immigrants.

This campaign on the part of the Committee for Justice has been aided by the big-business press and has succeeded in causing a great deal of confusion within the Portuguese communities of New Bedford and Fall River. This was evident by the remarks made by many of the participants in the evening rally in New Bedford. When asked why she came, one Portuguese woman explained, "We are here to unite. Just because those four were convicted, they shouldn't blame us all."

Another woman present that evening explained it this way, "We're just tired of all the prejudice."

The reactionary, antiwoman character of these actions was much more clearly evident at the demonstration held at Fall River the following afternoon. Police estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 people attended this demonstration, as public schools and many of the textile mills in the area closed early.

Virgilio and Jose Medeiros, the two acquitted defendants, were the honored guests of this demonstration.

Alda Melo of the Committee for Justice, in a speech to the crowd, praised "the American justice system" and added that "the acquittal of these two men proves that there was no cheering in that bar, which is what made this story become national headlines." Earlier, Virgilio Medeiros went even further, telling the press, "She [the victim] led them on, there was no rape in that bar, no, never."

Many in the crowd that afternoon expressed similar reactionary views. A Portuguese man in the crowd explained why he came, "These guys, in my personal opinion, they got a raw deal."

Another said that "she [the victim] is the one who deserves the prison sentence."

Many more echoed this sentiment. A young Portuguese woman remarked, "she should get punished too. If they raped her, she was the aggressor." Another woman explained, "They did nothing to her. Her rights are to be home with her two kids and to be a good mother. A Portuguese woman should be with her kids, and that is it."

The rape victim is of Portuguese descent, a fact that is rarely mentioned by the media.

The real political content of both of these demonstrations was aptly portrayed in the remarks of a Catholic priest attending the afternoon event when he told reporters, "the girl is to blame, she led them into sin."

These demonstrations came in the wake of a prolonged campaign of slanders against the victim on the part of the defense lawyers involved in the case and the big-business media, accusing her of being, among other things, "a drunk, a flirt, a welfare cheat, a whore, and a prostitute."

Since the initial convictions of Silva and Vieira, the victim has also been the subject of a number of physical threats. She has had to leave the Portuguese neighborhood in New Bedford where she lived with her two children for her own safety. Her children are now in another state.

One threat was recently communicated over a local radio talk show, when a caller named the victim on the air and said she was "dead meat." There have also been rumors in New Bedford of certain people trying to raise money to hire someone to have the victim killed.

In response to this rising tide of antiwoman hysteria, defenders of women's rights have not been silent. In a statement released to the press on March 23, the Bristol

County National Organization for Women (NOW) blasted "the circus atmosphere surrounding the rape trial" as well as the "sensationalized and often intrusive news coverage that will have a chilling effect of deterring other rape victims from pressing charges."

The statement also opposed "the extent to which the judge allowed the defense attorneys to invade the victim's privacy — it showed, once again, the double standard applied to women in our society. Victims of no other crime are subjected to such abuse. It is clear that we have a great deal of work ahead in revising laws and establishing standards of conduct surrounding rape trials."

At the press conference, Ramona Wilson, president of the Bristol County NOW chapter, told the press, "I really want to get across that rape is an act of violence. The victim 'won,' but she was also put on trial."

In a separate press conference held by the New Bedford Women's Center, Debra Robbins said that, while they viewed the convictions as a "positive sign," the fact remains that "this victim's credibility, her reputation, her very being, has been questioned, defiled, and degraded. This process can be best described as the victim's second rape. This exploitation only serves to further inhibit other rape victims from pressing charges."

The victim herself released a statement to the press rebutting the charges that anti-Portuguese sentiment was responsible for the convictions. She said, "the verdict should show everyone that this is not, or was not, a case of a vendetta against Portuguese people. That Portuguese people who the jury found to be guilty were convicted, and Portuguese people who the jury found to be innocent were acquitted."

Also, the day following the Fall River demonstration, supporters of Socialist Workers' presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González were campaigning in the Portuguese community of New Bedford, explaining the socialist alternative in the 1984 election; selling the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*; and talking to people about the rape trial.

While a lot of people were reluctant to discuss the trial, one young man the campaign supporters talked to said that the men in the case "were obviously guilty," and agreed that it was the woman who had been put on trial. Another older man also agreed with this and bought a copy of the *Militant* to find out what the socialists thought of the trial.

A middle-aged woman who the campaigners talked to a little later in the afternoon explained that "at first I was against the men, but now I think the charge of aggravated rape is too severe. Everyone in this trial lied." But she was interested enough in what the socialist campaign thought of this trial to buy a copy of the *Militant*.

## N.D. farmers blockade banks, loan offices in protest

BY ERLING SANNES

BISMARCK, N.D. — At 6 a.m., March 13, 75 North Dakota farmers rolled their huge tractors and large grain trucks up the main street of Jamestown and effectively blocked the main entrance to several banks and federal loan offices for two days in this south central North Dakota city.

Farmers, many who are broke and close to being flat on their back, used their tractors and trucks to encircle three local banks, Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), Agriculture and Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Production Credit Association offices to call attention to what many term the worst crisis facing North Dakota agriculture since the days of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

One of the farmers, Warren Rittenback, told the *Militant* he estimates more than 9,000 of North Dakota's 39,000 farmers will be forced into bankruptcy by this fall if something is not done soon.

The farmers maintained the blockade all day Tuesday and by Wednesday morning the number of protesters had grown to over 200 angry, disgruntled farmers.

The Jamestown tractorcade follows a similar successful action by 100 Minnesota farmers who blockaded the FmHA office at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, on February 22. Both demonstrations have grown out of the farmers' frustration with the worsening agriculture economy and a deepening panic as many operating loans needed for spring planting are denied or delayed by both federal and private lending institutions.

At the end of the two-day Jamestown blockade, Rittenback, local organizer of the tractorcade and spokesman for a newly formed organization, Farmers and Business to Save Agriculture, told the *Militant*, "the tractorcades at Thief River Falls and

Jamestown are just the beginning of a nationwide protest against the economic plight of farmers."

Rittenback said he has received telephone calls from farmers in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and as far away as Washington asking for advice on organizing similar tractorcades.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Rittenback stressed the need for grassroots unity among farmers. He said, "here in Jamestown we have unity. We are united in the belief that we need change," he said. "We've got to fight. We're hoping other farmers across the nation will help us," he added.

"We're going to go nationwide," Terry Bjerkse, a Goodrich, Minnesota, farmer who helped Rittenback organize the Jamestown blockade, told the *Militant*. "If we have to shut down every road and highway in the U.S., we're going to do it. We have got to get into the strike mode in order to be heard," Bjerkse said.

In a three-page statement of principles the North Dakota group demands increasing payments farmers receive for storing reserve grain, increasing loan rates and target prices for reserve grain, a reduction of power costs for irrigation projects, and utilization of surplus dairy supplies and other farm products to feed starving people in semi-colonial countries.

The statement issued by the farmers criticizes the use of tax dollars for building nuclear weapons. Instead, it calls for a 25 percent reduction in the U.S. defense budget to set up an "Agriculture Products Reserve," to assist in exporting food to hungry nations around the world. Several of the protesting farmers suggested using U.S. Air Force bombers to fly food to hungry people instead of using the bombers for war preparation.



# What's behind debate over federal deficit?

BY WILLIAM GOTTLIEB

The Democratic Party and its would-be presidential candidates are making the deficit in the federal budget one of the main issues in this year's election. Typical is Sen. Gary Hart's statement that the deficit is "this administration's Vietnam."

President Reagan too says he is appalled by the budget deficit. On March 15 it was announced that the Reagan administration had come to an agreement with the Republican congressional leadership to reduce the federal budget shortfall by \$150 million over a three-year period.

Reagan's new proposals include a somewhat slower rate of increase in military spending, increased taxes on workers, and further cuts in social spending. Military spending would increase "only" 7 or 8 percent after inflation next year rather than the 13 percent Reagan originally requested. As part of the deal with the White House, the Senate Finance Committee approved a \$2 increase in the tax on a gallon of liquor, a two-year extension of the 3 percent telephone excise tax, as well as cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs for the poor and elderly.

Why are all the big-business presidential candidates making so much noise about the deficit? Is big business really concerned about the budget? What exactly is the federal budget deficit anyway?

## Where deficit comes from

The federal government needs money for its expenses just like any person or organization in capitalist society. For example, when the Pentagon orders a batch of hydrogen bombs, the U.S. Treasury must have on hand sufficient cash to cover the check the Pentagon delivers to the bomb manufacturer. The same is true of any other commodity that the government purchases, from ICBMs to school lunches. In addition, the government needs cash to cover the paychecks of its employees, social security payments, and so forth.

How does the government obtain the money it needs?

The main source of the government's revenue is taxes. These include both direct taxes like the income tax and so-called indirect taxes like sales taxes.

If the federal government spends no more in a given year than it collects in taxes and other revenues the budget is said to be balanced. In the distant past (before the 1930s Depression) it was considered normal for the federal budget to be balanced except in wartime. However, since the end of World War II the government has increasingly tended to spend more than it receives in revenue.

Where does it get the extra money?

When the government spends more than it receives, the resulting shortfall is made up by borrowing. Most of this money is borrowed from wealthy individuals, banks, and other financial institutions. Naturally the government must pay interest on the money it borrows. The rate of interest is decided not by the government but by the conditions which prevail in the market for loans in general.

To be sure, the federal government pays a lower rate of interest than do corporations, not to speak of family farmers or workers. Because of its taxing power and its control over the issue of currency, it is virtually excluded that the federal government would ever formally default on its debts. Therefore lenders to the U.S. government are willing to settle for a lower rate of interest.

However these loans are not risk free. While the risk of formal default is extremely slight, the risk that the debt will be repaid in devalued currency is very great. Under conditions of increasing long-term instability of the capitalist system, the rate of interest that the government pays on loans is considerable and is showing a tendency to rise.

Loans to the government may run from three months to 30 years. These loans are

represented by contracts known as government bonds or securities. The federal government's obligations represented by the outstanding mass of government securities is known as the "national debt."

As long as the federal government continues to run deficits the national debt continues to grow. When a government bond comes due, the government simply issues another one in its place and uses the proceeds to pay off the expiring debt. In this way the national debt is continuously "rolled over," as the bankers say.

The national debt is a source of massive profits for a section of the capitalist class, especially since interest rates have shot up to dizzying heights. This debt is subdivided into numerous individual government securities that can be bought and sold on the market. Speculators can make or lose fortunes as the price of government securities rises and falls on the market, much like they can on the stock exchange. Indeed the stock exchange originated as a market which dealt chiefly in government securities.

## Fictitious capital

The profits made off the national debt represent, however, the worst sort of parasitism, even from the viewpoint of the capitalist system. Marx called government securities "fictitious capital."

Why did he use this phrase?

Let's assume the government borrows money and spends it on explosive shells. The shells are either used in warfare (like Lebanon today) or sit in military warehouses collecting dust. They are not used to produce anything. The shells are not a form of capital. They are destined to be "consumed" unproductively by the government. Therefore unlike the bonds issued by a profit-making private corporation, government bonds are not backed up by any actual capital. Instead the government bond simply entitles the owner to a share of the annual government revenue.

As the national debt grows, the amount of yearly government revenue that must be used simply to pay the interest on the debt increases. This amount also rises as the rate of interest increases. Today the combination of an astronomical national debt and historically high interest rates means that the service on the national debt is now the third-biggest item in the federal budget after military spending and social security. The Reagan administration estimates that in fiscal year 1985, 13 percent of the total budget will be used to pay interest to the holders of government securities. If interest rates should rise (like they are now doing) this percentage will be even greater.

## Debt explodes under Reagan

The crux of the Reagan economic program has been huge tax cuts for the rich and a massive military buildup. Social programs have been cut deeply. Most of the cuts in social programs have been in federally supported welfare programs. The rise in hunger in the country is one of the results of these cuts.

But welfare programs were already skimpy. Cutting them could hardly offset the massive tax cuts for the wealthy and the increase in the military buildup. And so far the cuts in social security have been too little to provide sufficient savings.

Under these conditions the huge budget deficits were easy to foresee. Reagan and some of his supporters known as "supply-side" economists tried to argue that government deficits would not be a problem. The "supply-siders" claimed that the tax cuts would lead to such a powerful economic boom that government revenues would actually rise in the face of lower (for the rich) tax rates. Even many officials within Reagan's own administration refuse to believe these arguments, however. For example Prof. Martin Feldstein, the head of Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, a man much admired on Wall Street, has



U.S. nuclear sub (above), GIs in Honduras. Rapid U.S. military buildup — backed by both Republicans and Democrats — is a chief cause of growing deficit.

openly expressed his alarm about Reagan's budget policies.

Why is Wall Street worried?

Wall Street is worried because there is no end of the budget deficits in sight. Even Reagan's totally unrealistic assumptions of an economic boom lasting through 1989, and a fall of interest rates at the same time, leaves a cumulative budget deficit of \$1 trillion between now and 1989.

If interest rates rise (virtually certain if the economic upswing continues to 1989) or a recession occurs before then, which is highly probable, the budget deficits would be much higher. Wall Street is especially worried that the huge budget gaps will worsen the next economic downturn and/or cause terrible inflation at the end of the current business cycle.

For this reason the ruling Wall Street financial oligarchy is putting massive pressure on its political servants in the Democratic and Republican parties to slash the federal deficit at the expense of working people.

## Democrats' solution to debt

The Democrats want to convince Wall Street that they can do a better job than the Republicans in solving the budget deficit problem at the expense of workers and working farmers.

Take the case of Walter Mondale. He proposes cutting Reagan's budget deficit in half at the expense of health care, Medicare, and farm price supports. Mondale also wants to eliminate the B-1 bomber and MX missile programs in favor of more efficient weapons systems. He also promises to reduce procurement waste and overcharges. In other words, a more economical military buildup.

How about Gary Hart, the candidate with "new ideas"?

One of his "new ideas" is to cut Medicare and Medicaid. According to the March 12 *Time* magazine Hart "does not advocate simply cutting back medical aid to the poor." In addition, "He would change the way Government-subsidized medical care is delivered, emphasizing preventive medicine and expanding coverage for treatment at home." In other words,

## 'IP' prints reactions to Grenada defeat

As part of its continuing coverage of the discussion over events in Grenada, the April 2 issue of *Intercontinental Press* contains a number of important features.

In an interview with *IP* staff writer Will Reissner, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, Hoang Bich Son, explains why the U.S. government will not be able to invade Nicaragua the way it did Grenada.

Ambassador Son says the U.S. invasion of Grenada "did not meet with strong opposition from the people and armed forces... because they were still confused, as a result of the actions of the forces of Bernard Coard.

"As stated recently by Fidel Castro, socialism had already committed suicide in Grenada... the anti-Bishop forces had already destroyed the revolutionary process there."

*IP* also prints an article by Philippe Pierre Charles from a special supplement to *Révolution Socialiste*, newspaper of the Socialist Revolution Group (GRS) of Mar-



the poor should not get sick in the first place, and if they do they should not be treated in hospitals.

Like Mondale, Hart would continue the military buildup only do it more efficiently. Hart has a reputation for being a specialist in this field. He thinks that more F-16 jet fighters should be built in place of the F-18 which he considers "oversophisticated" and uneconomical. Instead of Reagan's naval buildup centering on two huge nuclear carriers, Hart would carry out the naval buildup by purchasing a large number of smaller conventional carriers. The Colorado Democrat thinks that Reagan is not spending enough money on basic military supplies. All in all he wants to increase real military spending at a rate of about 5 percent a year.

## Jackson's plan

How about Jesse Jackson? Isn't he different? No.

Jackson is for retaining 80 percent of the bloated military budget. Much like Mondale and Hart, Jackson would eliminate "fraud, waste, and overruns." He would also cut health-care costs.

Jackson is for cutting business taxes, requiring only that the corporations use tax cuts and depreciation allowances to create new jobs and plants, not for acquisitions. In other words, in exchange for tax giveaways, corporations would promise not to use the extra money to buy up other corporations, but rather would use the funds to create additional jobs. This is the same rationale Reagan offered for his tax cuts. Experience has shown that these kinds of tax cuts have neither stopped monopolistic corporate mergers nor solved the problem of massive unemployment.

Jackson also urges that farm subsidies be reduced.

All the Democratic and Republican candidates, from Jackson to Reagan, are for continued massive military spending and tax giveaways to the rich. Naturally there is some difference among them in emphasis, language, and specifics. But Reagan, Hart, Mondale, and Jackson all agree that the budget deficits brought on by the decline of U.S. capitalism must be closed at the expense of workers and farmers.

inique and Guadeloupe. The GRS is the section of the Fourth International in those French-controlled Caribbean islands. Charles' article comments on the interview with Maurice Bishop's press secretary, Don Rojas, which *IP* ran in its Dec. 26, 1983, issue.

An article by Ernest Harsch looks at the various positions taken by left groups in the Caribbean toward the murder of Bishop and the role of the Coard faction. And sections of a new brochure put out by the Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983, Martyrs Foundation in Grenada are reprinted.

Other articles of interest in this issue are part two of a series by Michael Baumann on agriculture in Nicaragua; a background article on antiunion attacks in Britain, by Steve Roberts; and a report on the military buildup in New Zealand, by Andy Jarvis.

Single copies of *IP* are available for \$1.25. To subscribe, send \$12.50 for six months to *Intercontinental Press*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



# Kampuchea rebuts lies of Pol Pot terrorists

Continued from front page

forces that they had occupied the capital city of Battambang for several days, the journalists who visited there found that residents scoffed at this claim. There were no signs of recent battles, the journalists said, and security was relatively light. The vice-deputy of the provincial committee, Kong Srum, told them that Khmer Rouge forces had burned down a warehouse at the edge of the city January 31 and that similar isolated actions had occurred there February 27 and March 3.

The Pol Pot forces also claimed to have occupied the capital of Siem Reap province right near the famous 1000-year-old Angkor Wat temple. The Khmer Rouge radio alleged that the control tower and several buildings at the town's small airstrip were destroyed by rockets. Yet Australian tourists and journalists who landed there two days later on a visit to Angkor Wat reported that no destruction was visible.

The Khmer Rouge also allege that they inflicted heavy casualties on Vietnamese troops in Battambang, Siem Reap, Pursat, and Kompong Thom. "Our enemies say they don't attack the Kampuchean people, that they attack only the Vietnamese," the deputy foreign minister said. "But in reality they attack only civilians who are unarmed."

## No popular support

Pol Pot's band of thugs and murderers concoct such tall tales to cover up for their lack of any popular base inside Kampuchea. "The Khmer Rouge regime committed criminal acts against our people for more than three years," Korm said. The Kampuchean government estimates that some 3 million workers, peasants, and urban professionals died from outright mass murder, starvation, or lack of medical care between 1975 and 1979.

Not surprisingly, we found everywhere we visited here that the remnants of the Khmer Rouge are universally hated.

Washington and the Southeast Asian capitalist regimes are a major source of political and military aid to prop up the Khmer Rouge and its coalition partners — a group led by former Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and another led by Son Sann, a former top official in the U.S.-backed government of Lon Nol, which held power between 1970 and 1975. The class-collaborationist Peking bureaucracy plays a key role in this counterrevolutionary coalition, providing massive arms shipments to the rightist groups, especially the Khmer Rouge.

"The Khmer reactionary forces are only a small group," Deputy Foreign Minister Korm told us, "and they have no lasting base on our territory. That is why there are never any big attacks inside our territory, only small terrorist actions. We always pay attention to the great collusion with the United States, China, and Thailand, which foster the Khmer reactionary groups and oppose our national reconstruction."

"That is why I can conclude," he said,



Militant/Diane Wang  
Deputy Prime Minister Kong Korm

"that the only threat is from external powers. During his recent visit to Thailand, Chinese Foreign Minister We Xuequian incited the Khmer reactionary forces to further boost their attacks on our people."

## ASEAN and Thai policy

The governments that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have "always been in collusion with these external powers" in their aggression against the three Indochinese countries — Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea — Korm said. This is particularly true of the government of Thailand, which shares a long common border with Kampuchea and Laos.

"Today Thailand is a springboard used by the United States and China for the reactionary groups to launch their attacks against us," the deputy foreign minister said. The three Indochinese governments "have already made clear to the ASEAN partners that even if they persist in their confrontation with us, they cannot weaken and isolate us. After five years of confrontation by ASEAN, we have more friends in the world today and our countries are still on the road to development."

The U.S. rulers, together with their neo-colonial allies in Southeast Asia and the Peking bureaucracy, have pursued this course because of their hostility toward the extension of the socialist revolution in Indochina. They have provided the economic and military wherewithal for the Pol Pot remnants to set up shop inside the Thai border. The reactionaries use these sanctuaries as a base of military operations against Kampuchea in coordination with Thai troops.

The U.S. government and its allies have also taken the lead in the United Nations in refusing to seat the legitimate government of Kampuchea headed by Heng Samrin. Instead, the UN has recognized first the toppled Pol Pot regime, and since 1982 a so-called coalition government of the Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk, and Son Sann forces.

## Who is the aggressor?

Washington, Peking, the UN, and ASEAN have also launched an international smear campaign labeling the Vietnamese volunteer troops as "occupiers" of Kampuchea and demanding their immediate and unilateral withdrawal.

Responding to these slanders, Deputy Foreign Minister Korm told us, "During the more than three-year period under Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan, our people suffered a great deal from massacres and starvation. Our people asked for help from whoever would provide it. The United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea [led by Heng Samrin], which rescued our people, requested the Vietnamese to send forces to help us."

"So, the presence of Vietnamese forces in 1979," he said, "was like an extinguisher to help put out a fire. It was an act of assistance, not aggression."

Korm contrasted this to the real aggression against Kampuchea carried out beginning in May 1970 by the U.S. Army and troops of South Vietnam's puppet Thieu regime. "At that time, no Kampucheans had asked either the South Vietnamese or U.S. forces to enter our territory." U.S. bombers dropped half a million tons of bombs on the country, killing hundreds of thousands of Kampucheans.

"We called that an act of aggression," Korm said.

Likewise, he explained, the U.S. government over the past year has carried out aggression against Grenada and Lebanon, and is threatening to do so against Nicaragua and Cuba.

"Vietnamese assistance to us is a disinterested, selfless assistance," the foreign ministry official stressed. "Throughout this century the Vietnamese people have repeatedly helped our country."

"When both our countries were under the heel of French colonialism, Vietnamese forces assisted us in our freedom struggle. And after the withdrawal of French colonialism, the Vietnamese also withdrew from our country."

"Again during the war provoked by U.S. imperialism, the Vietnamese came to the assistance of our people. And again after the withdrawal of U.S. forces from our country, the Vietnamese also withdrew



Militant/Diane Wang  
Sign along roadside in Kampuchea celebrates five years of liberation from Pol Pot's regime. Success of January 7 anniversary celebrations and strengthening of Kampuchean armed forces show "consolidation and development of our country," deputy foreign minister said.

from our territory."

Since 1979, he explained, "the Vietnamese have withdrawn some of their forces twice already [in 1982 and 1983], and they will withdraw all their forces when Kampuchea's security is assured." In fact, he explained, the Vietnamese and Kampuchean governments have announced yearly partial withdrawals of Vietnamese volunteers, "according to the security situation of our country."

The pace and size of these withdrawals, Korm said, "depends on the Thai and Chinese governments, which foster the reactionary groups along our border." Unfortunately, in response to the two previous Vietnamese withdrawals, "China, Thailand, and other reactionaries have not relaxed their threats against us or stopped their support to the Khmer reactionary groups. Our position is that the Vietnamese forces cannot withdraw unilaterally."

The 1982 and 1983 withdrawals, and the success of the January 7 celebration of Kampuchea's fifth anniversary of liberation from Pol Pot, "proves clearly the consolidation and development of our country since 1979," the deputy foreign minister said, "as well as the reconstruction of our army, both quantitatively and qualitatively. So, I expect that the situation will allow us to proceed with another withdrawal of some Vietnamese volunteers later this year."

## Foreign ministers' conference

The People's Republic of Kampuchea, in cooperation with the governments of Vietnam and Laos, has made repeated proposals over the past five years to normalize relations with Bangkok, Peking, and other governments in the region and to halt the military buildup and conflicts along the Thai-Kampuchean border. These proposals were reaffirmed and some new initiatives taken at the conference of foreign ministers of the three Indochinese countries held in Vientiane, Laos, in January.

The Vientiane conference proposed non-aggression and noninterference treaties with Bangkok and Peking. It also renewed the call by the three Indochinese countries for talks with the ASEAN governments.

"We want the ASEAN and Indochinese countries to have a dialogue with each other," Deputy Foreign Minister Korm told us. One excuse used by the ASEAN leaders to refuse such talks is their claim that the Kampuchean government is illegitimate. "As the ASEAN countries don't yet recognize Kampuchea," Korm told us, "the People's Republic of Kampuchea volunteers not to be an obstacle to such a dialogue." The Vientiane conference offered to negotiate with ASEAN even if only the Vietnamese and Laotian governments were seated to represent the Indochinese countries.

The Kampuchean foreign ministry official told us that his government believes that the decisions on Southeast Asia at the Seventh Summit Conference of Non-aligned Nations held in New Delhi in

March 1983 provide a good starting point for any negotiations. The New Delhi conference did not recognize Pol Pot or the so-called coalition government. The Non-aligned Movement's resolution — voted for by the Indonesian, Malaysian, and Singapore governments, which also belong to ASEAN — called for an end to all outside interference and military intervention in Southeast Asia.

As the Indochinese countries see it, Korm said, "the summit conference of the Non-aligned movement asked not only our country to be neutralist, but all the countries in Southeast Asia." That would mean the removal of U.S. military presence from the Philippines and Thailand, an end to Peking's military threats against the Indochinese countries, a removal of the Pol Pot and other Khmer reactionary camps from the Thai border, and a withdrawal of New Zealand troops from Singapore.

Ever since July 1980, the Kampuchean government has proposed as a partial and initial step the establishment of a demilitarized zone along both sides of the Thai-Kampuchean border.

"If they ask us to withdraw Vietnamese forces, we also ask them to withdraw Khmer reactionary forces on their territory," Korm explained. Only troops of the Thai and Kampuchean governments would remain in the border areas. "Our proposal is reasonable," Korm said, "since we ask for nonmilitary areas on both sides, on our side and on the Thai side."

Nonetheless, the Thai government has rejected this proposal. Instead, it "has put forward a proposal that is not reasonable," the deputy foreign minister said. "They want to create a demilitarized zone only on Kampuchean territory. They would oblige us to carry out a unilateral withdrawal of Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops. This proposal is simply cover for their maneuver to help the reactionary forces infiltrate our territory."

"Yet the Thai government still does not admit its scheme of providing sanctuary and aid to the Khmer reactionary forces."

The Thai government claims it provides sanctuary only to Kampuchean civilian refugees, and that it does so for "humanitarian" reasons. Actually, many of these refugees were driven into Thailand at gunpoint in 1979 by the defeated Pol Pot forces, who used them as a human shield against the advancing Vietnamese and Kampuchean liberation forces. Others fled from the famine that stalked Kampuchea later that year and in 1980.

## The refugee problem

The Khmer rightists, the Thai regime, Washington, and Peking wave the banner of "humanitarianism" to smear the Kampuchean and Vietnamese governments, claiming that the refugees are fleeing foreign domination. Actually, the Khmer reactionaries and their international sponsors have used a combination of military force and United Nations food aid to hold

Continued on Page 15



# Independent working-class perspective

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

"We made some tremendous accomplishments in the '60s," Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, recently told *Ebony* magazine. "Today, however, our No. 1 problem is to eliminate economic inequality which is a far more complex goal. In the '60s we won the right for all Blacks to check into the hotel of their choice, but we haven't yet won the means of checking out."

As we approach the 16th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, many Black leaders are discussing the question: What exactly were the achievements of the civil rights movement led by King? Moreover, Blacks and other civil rights activists are asking where do we go from here. How do we win the "means of checking out"?

As Hooks points out, the massive civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s won important gains in the fight for Black equality. The apartheid-like system of Jim Crow in the South was smashed. Segregationist laws were knocked off the books, thereby eliminating so-called de jure segregation. Voting-rights legislation was adopted that could help enhance Black political representation.

But, even with Jim Crow dead and gone, Black people continued to face racial discrimination. Segregation in housing, education, and employment continued to exist in fact — if not by law.

This de facto segregation is rooted in the class system of capitalism, which is characterized by a tiny handful of employers reaping profits off the exploitation and oppression of working people.

## Ruling-class offensive

Today, this capitalist class is on an offensive against the wages, working conditions, democratic rights, and standard of living of working people — especially

Blacks.

Tens of thousands of Black workers in the steel, auto, and other industries have been thrown out of work. With an official unemployment rate in the Black community at the end of last year of 17.8 percent, there were nearly 2 million Blacks without jobs. The Urban League estimates the actual Black unemployment rate at 33 percent.

Those lucky enough to have work are relegated to the dirtiest and lowest-paying jobs. One out of every three Blacks lives below the federal-government determined poverty level. These low wages make the continued rise in prices especially hard on the standard of living of Black workers.

Because of these conditions, Black workers have been in the forefront of the few fightbacks against the U.S. capitalist class' offensive. That's why the bosses' government has intensified its cop terror against the Black community.

The recent police occupation of Miami's Black community is an example of this attempt to intimidate Blacks and prevent them from fighting back against their oppression. Following the acquittal of a Miami cop for the December 1982 murder of a Black youth in the city's Overtown section, 1,000 cops were mobilized to occupy the Black community and stifle any protest.

The attacks on Black civil rights go on in other ways too: continued attempts to undermine the Voting Rights Act; employer-government efforts to dismantle affirmative action programs having quotas; a ruling-class campaign to scuttle school desegregation plans that include busing; and a capitalist-class drive to deny Blacks political representation.

The response of the established Black leadership to the worsening conditions in the Black community has been to more forcefully call for support to the employers' political parties — the Democratic and Republican parties.

"Massive Black voter registration can make both parties more responsive to our needs," John Jacob, president of the National Urban League, said in his keynote address to the Urban League's annual conference last summer. "And," he continued, "coalitions of Blacks, Hispanics, and poor whites, who share our suffering, can move America toward fairness and justice."

"In 1984, black and brown votes will elect the president of the United States. There are over five million potential Black votes in the six most populous northern industrial states. There are nine million potential Black votes in the South."

"So," Jacob concluded, "we do have power — the power of the ballot. But it is up to us to use it. It's up to us to accept our responsibilities and get out the Black vote."

This position is held by other Black and civil rights organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity), and the NAACP. Their view is connected to the fact that the top leadership of the trade union movement pushes this same procapitalist perspective. Since the unions include the most organized and powerful layer of Black workers, the labor officialdom's refusal to break with the capitalist parties is a major reason why the bosses maintain a deathgrip on the Black nationality.

The AFL-CIO officialdom's policy of supporting capitalist politicians like Walter Mondale instead of mobilizing the great power of the unions to defend working people's interests is, in fact, the biggest obstacle to independent Black and working-class political action. It is a key reason why there is little if any motion in that direction today.

## The cry for power

Under the impact of the employers' blows, Blacks are showing an increasing



Martin Luther King speaking at Montgomery to Montgomery march. "We made some says NAACP's Benjamin Hooks. Black le:

anger and militancy. This mood is reflected in the ongoing discussion on how to fight for political power and use it to advance the interests of Blacks and other working people.

This discussion began in a big way with the Chicago mayoral campaign of Harold Washington in spring 1983.

Washington was elected after a massive voter-registration drive placed more than 100,000 additional Blacks on the rolls. Thousands of Blacks became involved in the Washington campaign.

Washington's radical-sounding speeches also won him significant votes from working-class whites and the majority of Latinos.

The election of Washington as mayor of Chicago reflected a desire by Blacks to end racist domination of city government.

# Black party charter maps course for break from capitalist tv

The charter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) is a historical conquest not only for Blacks, but for all working people. This program outlines a perspective of independent working-class political action that deserves serious study — by Black and Latino activists, women's rights fighters, and unionists who are discussing the 1984 presidential elections and political action. For this reason, the *Militant* is reprinting major excerpts from this important document.

The NBIPP charter begins by setting the proper framework for a discussion of the fight for Black liberation — the need for Blacks to wield political power:

"The National Black Independent Political Party aims to attain power to radically transform the present socio-economic order, that is, to achieve self-determination and social and political freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression, and capitalist exploitation."

"Both major parties (the Democratic and Republican parties) have betrayed us be-

cause their interests essentially conflict with ours. They have consistently used power and government to create policies for Black economic underdevelopment, political exploitation and cultural destruction. Their policies reveal contempt for the interests of Black people, and have existed solely for the maintenance of the existing political and socio-economic system."

Before outlining the specific proposals of NBIPP's platform, the charter takes up some general aspects of political, social, and economic life that must be looked at in developing a program:

"The National Black Independent Political Party believes that the present socio-economic system in the U.S. severely and adversely affects the lives of Black and poor people. The disproportionate and unequal distribution of wealth and income in this society puts an unreasonable and excessive amount of power in the hands of an elite few, who, through the giant multinational corporations, dominate the economic and political life of the United States."

"The society in which we live has systematically deprived the masses of our

people from access to fundamental goods and services and has denied us political and social equality, as well as the right to self-determination. The twin evils of racism and capitalism (gross economic exploitation for profit) combined to force Black people to eke out a miserable, degrading, unproductive, and second-class existence in the United States."

"We believe that putting an end to this situation is achievable but will require a fundamental, qualitative, and radical restructuring of the present socio-economic order. Otherwise it will be impossible for Black people to attain self-determination, and complete economic, social, and political freedom."

The NBIPP charter puts forward a series of demands regarding the fight for full equality for Blacks. In advancing these proposals NBIPP is also advancing a program that can eliminate all exploitation and oppression.

Let's look at just a few planks of the NBIPP platform. For example, on the subject of "Jobs and Income" the Black party says:

"Millions of unemployed able-bodied men and women desperately looking for work must be regarded as an intolerable situation. In the United States this deplorable condition is aggravated by chronic inflation."

## "THEREFORE WE DEMAND:

"● Massive employment programs specifically targeted at the Black community, to alleviate the disproportionate levels of unemployment among our people, and especially among Black youth."

"● A decent job under safe and sanitary conditions for all who are willing and able to work."

"● Equal pay for equal work for Black people."

"● An end to all racist and sexist hiring practices, and racial, sexual and age discrimination on the job."

"● Free and low-cost education and

training for job opportunities for all our people."

"● Special job training, job creation and employment programs for Black youth at equal pay levels afforded to other workers."

"● An end to plant closings and run-away shops."

"● Full unemployment compensation for all who are laid off and unemployed."

"● Increased funding and improved administration for social security and other income maintenance programs for those unable to work."

"● And end to 'right to work' labor laws."

Regarding cop terror against the Black community, the charter says the following:

"We believe that freedom from repression in all forms and freedom from racist terror for Black people to be a basic human right."

## "THEREFORE WE DEMAND:

"● That all acts of harassment and brutality by the police be stopped and that those who commit police crimes be brought to justice, prosecuted, and punished."

"● That the FBI and CIA be abolished, as they are incapable of being reformed to act justly."

"● That the Ku Klux Klan, Nazis, and other racist and anti-Black groups be outlawed, and their members be brought to justice, prosecuted, and punished for their crimes against Black and other people."

"● That all repressive legislation such as the death penalty be eliminated from the criminal statutes."

"● That prisons be abolished and alternatives to cruelly punitive, torturous, and degrading incarceration be developed and established."

"● That racism and gross under-representation of Black and Third World people on the courts, juries, prison staff, and other bodies in the criminal justice system be ended."

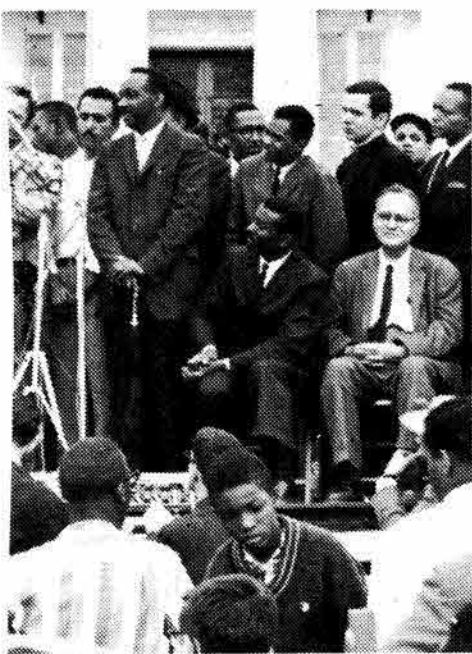
"● Ratification of the U.N. Convention



January 1983 Miami protest of cop murder of Black youth. National Black Independent Political Party's program offers perspective to fight racist cop terror.



# needed in fight for full Black equality



...ry, Alabama, rally at end of 1965 Selma  
emendous accomplishments in the '60s,"  
ers are discussing where to go from here.

Washington was elected by a genuine drive in the Black community to get "one of our own" in office. Workers also cast their votes for Washington because they felt he had a reform program that could bring some important changes.

The seriousness with which Blacks, including Washington supporters, took the mayoral campaign of Socialist Workers Party candidate Ed Warren reflected this openness to radical ideas in Chicago's Black community and among a layer of other workers.

## Jackson campaign

The Washington campaign and similar campaigns in Philadelphia and Boston reflect — in a distorted fashion — the drive by Blacks and other workers for more po-

## Two-party system

on Genocide aimed at preventing destruction of groups and at punishing those responsible."

One of the most important aspects of the NBIPP charter is the platform plank on the "Rights of Women." This portion of the NBIPP program marks a historic advance over previous Black political organizations:

"We believe in the total social, political, and economic equality of Black women.

"THEREFORE WE DEMAND:

• Affirmative action programs and an end to sex discrimination in the work place and other areas of society leading towards full economic, political, and social equality for women.

• Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

• Equal pay for equal or comparative work for women.

• Maternity leave with pay for all women.

• Free day-care for all who need it.

• No compulsory or uninformed sterilization of women.

• Free comprehensive health care programs to address the special reproductive and related health care needs of men and women.

• Free comprehensive health care programs to address the special reproductive and related health care needs of women.

• Continued funding of sex education in schools with emphasis on male/female relationships.

• Support programs for pregnant Black teenagers and preventive programs to discourage unwanted pregnancies and encourage development of a positive self-concept."

The entire charter is reprinted in an "Education for Socialists" bulletin entitled, *The National Black Independent Political Party*, and can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Cost of the pamphlet is \$1.25. Please include \$.75 for handling.

litical power. Jesse Jackson's bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination is aimed at tapping into this sentiment.

Among working-class Blacks there is overwhelming support for Jackson's campaign. They support Jackson not because they believe he can win, but because they mistakenly believe that through voting for Jackson in the primaries, Blacks can win more political representation.

A case in point is the recent Democratic primaries in the South. Blacks turned out in record numbers to vote for Jackson and other Democrats. A scant 20 years ago most Blacks in the South didn't have the right to vote. Today their vote allows a Black candidate, Jackson, to win the Democratic Party primary in South Carolina and the popular vote in Mississippi.

This new openness of the two-party system, however, only shows what changes the Democratic and Republican parties are willing to make to continue to accommodate Black ferment within the capitalist electoral framework.

Jackson, like Jacob of the Urban League, argues that by turning out to vote, Blacks can pressure the Democratic Party to open itself more to the Black community. Jackson says this vote should be cast for him.

Jacob and other Black liberals, such as Benjamin Hooks and Democratic mayors Coleman Young of Detroit and Birmingham's Richard Arrington, are backing former vice-president Walter Mondale. This is due partly to their fear that Jackson will prove unable to control the dynamic reflected in the support to his campaign. They fear that when Jackson fails to get the Democratic Party's nomination many Blacks and other workers who supported his campaign may not readily join the "Defeat Reagan at all costs" campaign of Mondale or Sen. Gary Hart.

Besides, Jackson's liberal colleagues argue, why support Jackson now when we are going to be backing someone else come November?

"I have not lost my racial pride," Arrington recently told audiences as he was campaigning for Mondale, "but I have to deal with the reality of Ronald Reagan bearing down on us."

## Two-party system

But will things be any better with Hart, Mondale, or Jackson in the White House?

(There are those who wouldn't include Jackson as a possible contender. But, just as the Democratic and Republican parties altered themselves in the South to accommodate Black protest after Jim Crow segregation was smashed, the employers would also back a Black presidential candidate if they thought it necessary to help maintain their rule. Jackson has made it clear on many occasions that he supports and would defend the capitalist system if elected. He simply wants to institute some reforms.)

The employer-government drive against workers' wages and working conditions is a bipartisan campaign. It's both the Democratic and Republican parties that have voted to fund the U.S. government's war against the Nicaraguan government and people. These parties continue U.S. backing for the military dictatorship in El Salvador.

The cops in Miami were unleashed by a liberal Democratic mayor who was elected with broad support in the Black community.

In fact, every time Blacks rise up to defend their interests, they face not only the racist employing class, but its government and the Democratic and Republican parties as well. Any effective fightback against the capitalist assault on Blacks and other workers can be waged only if working people organize a political struggle independent of the capitalist class and its two parties.

Yet, the established Black leadership — those supporting Jackson and those supporting other capitalist candidates — have tied the Black community to the bosses' parties. Instead of leading an independent struggle against the bosses, their government, and their parties, the current misleaders of the Black community collaborate with the employers. In practice this means *subordinating* the interests of

Blacks to the profit needs of the U.S. ruling class — one of which is the maintenance of racial oppression.

Working people are searching for a way to win more political power. Unfortunately, this sentiment is trapped in the two-party system.

But there is a small vanguard layer that has a different view. One of the clearest expressions of this layer is the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP).

While NBIPP has few adherents, its program is a historic conquest for Blacks and other working people. The NBIPP charter represents a 20-year-old continuity of Blacks striving to chart an independent course — from the Nation of Islam's call for Blacks to break with the Democratic and Republican parties and the launching of the Freedom Now Party in Michigan in 1964 to the formation of NBIPP in 1981. The charter codifies an independent working-class perspective and should be studied by all Black, Latino, trade union, and women's rights activists. (Excerpts from the NBIPP charter are reprinted on the opposite page.)

## NBIPP

The NBIPP charter explains the fight for Black liberation can only be successful if Blacks break out of the trap of the two-party system. The procapitalist framework of the established Black leadership is rejected by the NBIPP program.

Instead, the NBIPP charter outlines the need for an anticapitalist line of march for the fight for Black equality. Ultimately this means overturning the capitalist economic system. As the NBIPP charter explains, the party "aims to attain power to radically

## Ohio forum discusses Grenada revolution

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

CINCINNATI — Seventy-five supporters of the Grenada revolution celebrated its fifth anniversary here March 17. In attendance were members of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), the Rainbow Coalition (supporters of Jesse Jackson's Democratic Party presidential campaign), the Nation of Islam, and other unionists and activists.

The Free Grenada Committee organized the event, which featured the videotape "Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again." The video presented an interview of Don Rojas, press secretary to slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Dean Lovelace of the Dayton NBIPP also spoke about his 1982 tour of Grenada.

In the interview, Rojas analyzes the events that led up to the U.S. invasion in October 1983. He details the criminal role played by Bernard Coard and others in leading a coup against the Bishop-led revolutionary government. Rojas explains that this coup confused and disorganized the Grenadian people. If not for the coup, the vast majority of the Grenadian people would have been better prepared to defend their revolutionary government against the U.S. invasion.

Rojas and Dean Lovelace each em-

phasized the importance of the masses of workers and farmers becoming involved in political activity. In Grenada this was done through the unions, the women's and youth organizations, and community councils known as parish councils. These organizations played an important role in government decision-making.

The lively discussion following the program continued on this theme. Members of the Rainbow Coalition stressed the Jackson campaign's ability to generate political activity in the Black community. They saw this as the best road to Black political power in the United States.

Supporters of socialist presidential candidate Mel Mason supported the need of workers and Blacks running for office. But they argued that the Democratic and Republican parties are both controlled by big business and will only serve its interests.

Instead they pointed to the Grenada revolution as an example of workers and farmers organizing independently of their oppressors and actually taking political power to begin to reorganize society in their own interests.

This discussion continued late into the night. All agreed that the gathering represented an advance in solidarity work in the city.



Militant/Michael Tresidder  
*Maurice Bishop Speaks*, published by Pathfinder Press, on display in window of B. Dalton bookstore in New York City. Sales of this book are important contribution to ongoing discussion about lessons of Grenada revolution.



# Massive U.S. military buildup in Honduras

BY HARRY RING

Persistently, methodically — and to the extent possible, behind the backs of the American people — Washington is constructing a network of permanent military bases in Honduras.

The purpose: to prepare the way for direct, massive use of U.S. troops in Central America.

The target: revolutionary Nicaragua on Honduras' southern border, and the liberation fighters of El Salvador on the country's western border.

U.S. military operations in the area have already reached an unprecedented peak.

On March 24, the Pentagon disclosed that 350 U.S. paratroopers were parachuted into Honduras to conduct a joint exercise with airborne Honduras infantry troops.

A day earlier, it was announced that a massive maneuver in the area, "Granadero I," will begin April 1, not in June as earlier indicated. These maneuvers, involving some 3,000 troops will last a total of three months. Honduran forces will tie in with the exercises, and the governments of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama have been invited to participate.

In addition to "counterinsurgency" training and airborne assault maneuvers, the operation will include a battalion of army engineers who will build new airstrips in the country.

## Big Pine II

Granadero I comes on the heels of Big Pine II, which itself represented a major escalation in the Honduran military buildup.

Involving some 6,000 U.S. troops, Big Pine began last August and ran for six months. It is believed to be the longest single exercise ever conducted by joint U.S. forces. They rarely last more than three weeks.

According to the Pentagon, more such exercises have been planned through 1988. One official speculated they might run till the end of the century.

For the two-month interim between Big Pine and Granadero, 1,900 U.S. military personnel are on active duty in Honduras.

Some are maintaining heavy equipment "left behind" from the previous operation.

Forty Green Berets are providing combat training to Honduran troops.

(U.S. advisers trained 3,300 Honduran soldiers last year and plan to train up to 29,000 this year.)

Other U.S. personnel are operating radar equipment that tracks flights deep into neighboring Nicaragua and El Salvador.

A military intelligence battalion is participating directly in the Salvadoran civil war. Its planes fly over El Salvador, spotting guerrillas for the government forces there.

Existing air strips in Honduras are being upgraded and extended. New ones are being built. At some, big ammunition depots are under construction.

Creation of a joint U.S.-Honduran base is projected for Puerto Castillo, with an airfield tied in.

## 'Temporary' construction

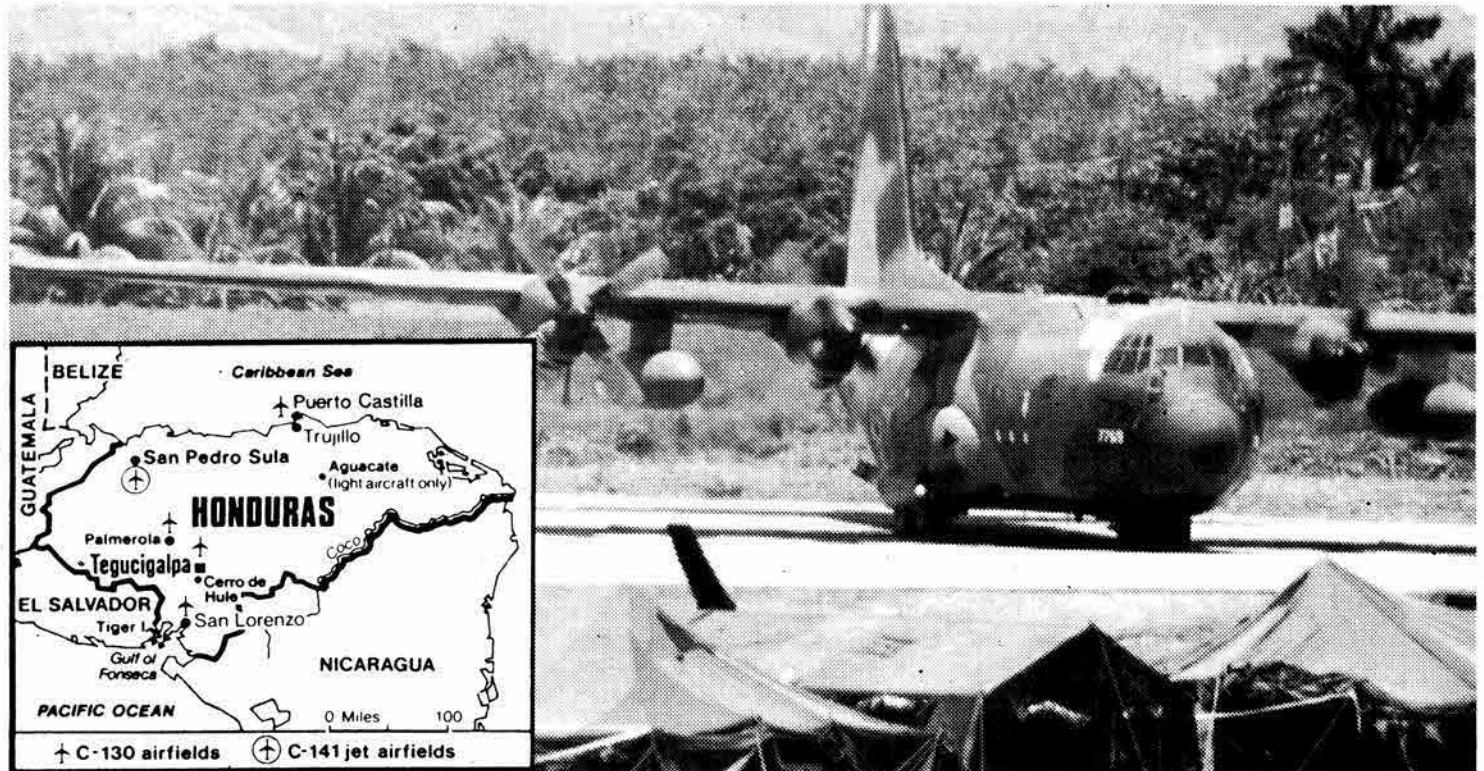
According to U.S. law, construction of permanent military bases abroad requires congressional approval. This law is being brazenly violated with the transparent fiction that the massive military construction is merely "temporary." The intent of this deception is not to kid Congress, but to avoid a possible debate, which could heighten public awareness of the plans for war in Central America.

The buildup in Honduras is so blatant that Sen. James Sasser felt compelled to complain. A Tennessee Democrat and member of the Senate committee on military appropriations, Sasser wrote in an Op-Ed piece in the February 29 *New York Times*:

"Operating under the guise of military exercises ... combat engineers constructed not only airfields but also radar stations and base camps on a scale unprecedented for this type of military maneuver.

"In a country the size of Tennessee, the administration directed that six airfields be constructed, or improved. Only two of the projects received specific approval by Congress."

Sasser added:



U.S. plane brings weapons into Honduras. Map in inset shows areas being converted into U.S. airfields for purpose of attacking Nicaraguan government and liberation fighters in El Salvador.

"United States military commanders say most of the facilities are needed to support the exercises. ... However, the number of airfields and other facilities goes far beyond what is necessary to conduct the exercises.

"A runway at Aguacate, for instance, recently was extended from 4,300 to 8,000 feet ... making it capable of handling jet attack aircraft. If it were designed to handle only C-130s, the aircraft normally used to supply exercises, a strip of little more than 3,000 feet would be sufficient."

## Seven airfields

In addition to the airstrip Sasser speaks of at Aguacate, another is being worked on at Palmerola Airfield, north of the capital city of Tegucigalpa. When completed, the \$13 million airstrip will handle any warplane in the U.S. arsenal.

Another \$6 million is being spent to build 10 bunkers there to store bombs, rockets and other ammunition for U.S. warplanes.

A total of seven airfields, spotted around the country, are either being upgraded or

are under construction.

The Pentagon plans to spend \$8 million improving the air base at La Ceiba. Another \$3 million is budgeted for an ammunition storage depot at San Lorenzo close by the Nicaraguan border.

Radar facilities have been installed at Tiger Island and Amapala in the Gulf of Fonseca, near the Nicaraguan coast.

These radar facilities and a third, outside Tegucigalpa, are operated by U.S. personnel.

## CIA missions

The expanded military facilities in Honduras are also proving invaluable to U.S. "civilian" employees — the CIA.

This past January 28 a *Washington Post* correspondent in Tegucigalpa reported:

"Unmarked helicopters carrying CIA employees routinely use airstrips recently constructed or improved by U.S. Army engineers in Honduras, and the flights apparently are for missions in support of Nicaraguan antigovernment guerrillas, military sources said this week. ... They said the helicopters frequently carry Americans in

civilian clothes bearing submachine guns or other arms."

The process of converting Honduras into a U.S. military base, making the country of 4 million essentially an occupied area, apparently has the unreserved support of Gen. Gustavo Alvarez, top military figure in the country, and Washington's main man there.

There have been hypocritical mouthings from Washington that under its tutelage, Honduras is moving from military rule to democracy under Pres. Roberto Suazo Cordova.

The Honduran people, apparently, see it differently. In a recent opinion poll, 63 percent thought the military has "more influence over what happens in the country" than the government, with but 26 percent holding to the view that the government was more influential than the military.

The millions of dollars Washington is pouring into the country bring no benefit to the workers and peasants there. Honduras remains one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Per capita income is about \$600 a year and an estimated 50 percent of the working population is unemployed.

# UAW women debate cops at rape panel

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

TOLEDO, Ohio — A program on rape sponsored by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12 women's committee and held at the union hall, turned into a lively debate between the women present and the guest speakers — three cops who showed a film about how to avoid getting raped.

The film, which featured a panel discussion of confessed rapists arguing about whether it was better for the rape victim to fight back or submit, carried a simple message: If women do not go out alone, keep their car doors locked, never speak to men they don't know, carefully choose their dates, and keep an eye on family members who might be potential rapists, they can avoid being raped.

The three Toledo police officers who have been touring the city with the film reiterated this message adding that the problem is women aren't afraid enough. They said we aren't aware enough about the possibility of rape to take the proper precautions.

An uncomfortable silence followed the presentation as the 15-20 women in attendance absorbed the message. Finally one woman asked "What about the rapists? What are you going to do about them?"

The cops responded that their hands had been tied by recent legislation limiting their ability to stop suspects.

One cop with 25 years on the force explained, "I used to be able to stop a guy walking down the street if he looked suspicious and shake him down. But now we're on shaky grounds if we do that."

Another woman responded quickly "I

don't think that the cops should be able to stop someone who's just walking down the street minding their own business and shake them down."

Another added "Yeah, I was going down the street once and a policeman pulled me over for no reason and started asking me a lot of questions about where I was going, who I was, etc."

The cop was quick to respond, "Well, you're a goodlooking woman, I might stop you too if I saw you walking down the street alone."

From then on the women, including four high school students, engaged in a lively and sometimes sharp debate with the cops over whether or not it is possible to "rape-proof" yourself by staying home, never going out alone, etc.

Not one woman spoke who had not herself been the victim of an assault, a rape, or attempted rape. Many had friends who'd been raped. A high school senior told how her best friend was babysitting when a best friend of the family came into the house and raped her. Her friend filed a police report and the police didn't do anything because the rapist said that she had "come on to him."

An older worker explained that since she lives by herself there was no way that she could avoid traveling alone. The cops' only suggestion was that she ask a neighbor to wait up to meet her when she gets home from work at 2 a.m.!

A couple of auto workers, including Elizabeth Lariscy, the Socialist Workers party candidate for U.S. Congress, explained that rape is rooted in the de-

graded position of women in this society. Lariscy explained that the independent counseling services that the cops had referred women to if they were raped were won because women fought back against the treatment they traditionally received from the cops when they reported a rape. She put the fight against rape in the context of a fight to change the position of women in society.

To this the cops had a unique response. They insisted that rape is not a crime against women because men get raped also! Pressed to justify this bizarre viewpoint they admitted that only one case of male rape had been reported in the city over the last year.

Woman after woman jumped into the debate explaining that lack of awareness is not the problem. Ever since most of us were little girls we have been quite aware of the potential of being raped.

Comments were shouted like, "We don't have to have you come here to tell us to be more afraid. ... We should have the right to walk out by ourselves wherever and whenever we want. ... If rape is not an antiwoman crime why isn't this room filled with men wanting to know how to avoid it. ... Why do you have to make it seem like it's our fault for being somewhere we shouldn't be."

Interest in the New Bedford rape case was high since participants in this meeting identified with the victim and were angered by the attempt to portray her as the criminal.

Following the meeting a few women bought copies of the *Militant* and one subscription was sold.





Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga

# Nora Astorga: enemy of CIA, heroine of Nicaraguan people

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Top officials of the Reagan administration are determined to prevent Nicaragua's deputy foreign minister, Nora Astorga, from becoming that country's next ambassador to the United States.

The Nicaraguan government has already named Astorga as its new ambassador, but

**An editorial on Washington's response to Astorga's appointment appears on page 18.**

Washington has yet to accept her credentials. The CIA, National Security Council, and Defense Intelligence Agency have all protested her appointment, as have other officials in the U.S. administration.

Why is Nora Astorga so hated by the top

cops in Washington and so loved by the Nicaraguan people?

She is a revolutionary politician, a leading spokeswoman for the Nicaraguan government, a fighter for women's rights, and a proven guerrilla fighter.

In 1978, the year before the Nicaraguan masses overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza, Astorga helped the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) execute Gen. Reynaldo Pérez Vega, second-in-command of Somoza's hated National Guard. The Guard — and Pérez in particular — were despised for carrying out torture, rape, and massacres against the Nicaraguan people.

To the CIA, which worked to try to keep Somoza in power, Pérez was an "asset," even a "colleague," according to media reports.

To the Nicaraguan people, he was known as "The Dog."

**'The worst sort of animal'**

"He was the worst sort of animal you could imagine," Astorga recalls. "He was a torturer — the worst kind. Any adjective I could use to describe him would be pale in comparison to the reality of his crimes."

Interviewed in the book *Sandino's Daughters*, by Margaret Randall, Astorga recounts how "The Dog" was brought to justice.

Now 35 years old, Astorga first began working with the FSLN in 1969, as a student. She became a lawyer and eventually got a job as head of personnel for one of Nicaragua's largest construction companies. "The job gave me very good cover," she explains. "I had contact with ministers of state and, to a certain extent, with members of the National Guard."

Astorga developed a business relationship with Pérez, who owned land near a construction site. She informed the FSLN. "We knew we could take advantage of the situation to get information from the guy. The comrades told me to keep the work relationship going but not to push it further

for the moment. The situation stayed like that for just over a year."

"Being pleasant to that man was one of the most difficult parts of the whole thing," Astorga recalls. "The guy was famous for being a womanizer. He was a classic cop, known for being able to have any woman, how, where and whenever he pleased. He'd use persuasion to get what he wanted. And if that didn't work he'd use force."

When Astorga got divorced from her husband, Pérez "began an all-out campaign to get me into bed," she says. She held him off, telling him, "Look, you know I'm interested but it's going to have to be when I want. I'm not the kind of woman you're used to. I'm an independent woman and I have the right to choose the terms."

Soon the FSLN developed a plan, involving Astorga, through which Pérez would be kidnapped and exchanged for liberation fighters in jail. The Sandinistas explained carefully to Astorga what the action would mean for her:

"I would bear the brunt of all kinds of misconceptions and suspicions about what I had done. My participation in this action, they said, could mean my giving up everything."

"I thought over the whole thing again and again," she says, including the impact on her two young daughters. "I believed that by doing my part I would be helping bring about a better world for them, and other children like them. It was hard for me to think about being separated from my girls, but I made the decision calmly. It was something I felt I had to do — wanted to do. The decision was a mature one, made without idealism."

The plan was for Astorga to get the general over to her house, where three FSLN comrades would be waiting.

March 8, International Women's Day, was the date of the action. Astorga phoned the general's office and left a message: "Just tell the General that something he's been very interested in for a long time can happen tonight."

Pérez called back to say he'd be right over.

**'No subtleties'**

"Once he got to my place he didn't use any of the subtleties some men do," Astorga recalls. "No small talk, no 'let's have a drink,' nothing. He came in and said, 'here I am, let's go.' ... We went right to the bedroom."

Astorga disarmed and undressed Pérez without him suspecting anything. When the armed FSLN militants burst in, he began putting up a fight, shouting for help. Astorga went outside to send the general's driver away on a mission to buy some rum.

"That was when 'The Dog' was executed," she explains. "I got the car and brought it around. The comrades came out with the weapons. They had killed him while I was getting the car. He put up too heavy a fight and they had to do it."

"Looking back, I think it was better that way. The guy was a torturer. I don't even know if he could be considered a human being."

**Went underground**

Astorga had already sent her daughters away to stay with relatives. She went immediately underground and into military training on the FSLN's Northern Front. She later fought on the Southern Front and was political leader of four squadrons. When she was six months pregnant, the FSLN asked her to return to the city, where she was put in charge of finances for the Southern Front and of general supplies.

After Somoza was overthrown, Astorga was named Special Attorney General, in charge of prosecuting some 7,500 National Guardsmen and functionaries of the Somoza regime. She later became deputy foreign minister.

"Nicaraguan women have taken part in the revolutionary struggle and that experience has had a profound effect on us," she says. "Women won't be apathetic again. ... We know that we are vital to our country's — and our own — development today."

## U.S. troop maneuvers

Continued from front page

tanker, two other international ships, and fishing boats thus far. The terrorist exiles have also escalated their forays into Nicaragua, striking economic and military targets and killing civilians.

Many of these attacks are launched from the Honduran border, often with cover from Honduran troops. What Washington hopes to provoke is a situation where Honduras will claim an attack by Sandinista troops, starting a war in which U.S. troops could be called upon to aid the Honduran government.

The permanent U.S. military maneuvers permit an unknown number of U.S. troops to be stationed in Honduras at any time, ready for such a war to break out.

The maneuvers are also openly aimed at pressuring the liberation forces in El Salvador. Washington moved the date for the exercises up from June to April under the guise of providing "security" for the Salvadoran elections. Already, U.S. troops based in Honduras are conducting spy flights over rebel-held territory in El Salvador. The 224th Military Intelligence Battalion carries out the surveillance missions from its barbed-wire compound in Palmarola, Honduras.

The upcoming maneuvers are not separate from the ongoing U.S. war against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran liberation fighters, but an integral part of that war. The maneuvers are in two parts: troop exercises in Honduras running from April 1 to June, and sea maneuvers in the Caribbean beginning on April 20.

The Honduran ground exercises have been named "Granadero I" — a provocative reference to Washington's invasion of Grenada last October. The sea maneuvers go by the name "Ocean Venture '84" — another reference to Grenada, since it was in the Ocean Venture '81 maneuvers that U.S. troops practiced a simulated invasion of Grenada played out in real life two years later.

During Granadero I, U.S. troops will build airfields in Honduras, train Honduran troops, and practice airborne attacks. Simultaneously, "no-notice" rapid deployment exercises will be conducted, during which troops based in the United States or elsewhere are rushed to Honduras for a dress rehearsal military attack.

One such "no-notice" operation took place during the three days that preceded the Salvadoran elections. Some 350 GIs from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, were flown to Honduras to join 130 Honduran troops in operation "Kilo Punch." According to the script for the action, the joint force was to secure a Honduran town from an "invasion" by Nicaraguan tanks.

Meanwhile, plans for Ocean Venture '84 include, according to the *New York Times*, "a practice reinforcement and a simulated evacuation of the American base at Guantánamo" in Cuba, and "live firing exercises on Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican island of Vieques."

The sea exercises in the Caribbean will involve the carrier *America*, warships, a Marine Amphibious Unit, 250 Strategic Air Command planes, and paratroopers of

the 82nd Airborne Division.

This show of force is aimed both at Cuba, and as a warning to the Soviet Union. On March 26, the Soviet helicopter carrier *Leningrad*, the guided missile destroyer *Udaloy*, a diesel submarine, and a supply ship arrived in Havana. The *Leningrad* is the largest Soviet ship ever to visit Cuban waters.

The mammoth U.S. buildup in Central America and the Caribbean puts the lie to the Reagan administration's claim that it — not the Salvadoran rebels or the Nicaraguan government — wants peace in Central America. It also exposes the Democratic critics of Reagan's Central America policy.

With round one of the Salvadoran elections completed, the Democrats are now beginning to say they are more likely to vote for Reagan's new military aid package to the Salvadoran dictatorship, since the people of that country are "freely electing" their own government.

## CIA-paid terrorists burn books, kill youth in Nicaraguan city

BY JANE HARRIS

SAN RAFAEL DEL NORTE, Nicaragua, March 24 — Several hundred CIA-trained counterrevolutionaries attacked this town in north central Nicaragua twice in the past week.

The *contras*, as the counterrevolutionaries are called, have been working on taking San Rafael del Norte since last August. While unsuccessful on this score, they have caused grief and destruction for the 10,000 people here. In the last week alone, 21 Sandinista combatants were killed and 16 civilians seriously wounded.

Benjamín Castilblanco, himself a member of a special Sandinista pursuit battalion, lost two brothers, one 15 and the other 20 years old. "Miguel died the day before yesterday, and Martín died yesterday," he said.

An elderly man and his wife, who asked that their names not be used, invited several journalists into their home to witness the damage left by the *contras*.

"Since our house is right next to the militia post, 80 to 100 *contras* came in here," the man said. "They took everything — our clothes, our two radios."

After robbing the couple, the *contras* told the husband, "You're such a fine man, why aren't you with us?" Before leaving, they defaced his living room walls with giant letters saying "FDN" — Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, one of the exile groups that receives funds and training from the U.S. government.

The man said he begged the *contras* not to set fire to the militia post, because, he pleaded, "My house will burn as well." While the fire was put out in time to save his house, it was extinguished too late to save the life of one militia member. The remnants of his burnt leg were still in the rubble when the *Militant* arrived.

The couple's next-door neighbor, Yolanda Ubada, a mother of six, invited us in to see the bullet holes through the walls of her home. Offering us a glass of orange juice, she apologized for not having any ice. "The *contras* knocked down the power lines," she said.

Ubada said she felt all right for the moment, "but the thing is, they could come back at any time."

During the fighting, the *contras* broke all the glass in the town school and destroyed its library. Maria Julia Rivera Ubada, the librarian, was working with volunteers to clean up the ashes after the *contras* burned 700 books.

"We had all the important works of Marx, Lenin, and Sandino here," she lamented, "as well as books on dialectical materialism, science, linguistics, and other subjects. Now we have nothing. This was the town's only library."

Other major targets destroyed by the *contras* were the Sandinista Army headquarters and a bridge leading into the town.

Some 43 *contras* were killed in and around this town in the past week, but residents say there are a lot more in the area.

### Sandino's Daughters

Testimonies of Nicaraguan Women in Struggle

By Margaret Randall

220 pp., \$6.95

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



# British mine workers expand strike

Continued from front page

turn around and use back roads to get to their destination, though not all make it.

"We've seen many, many arrests this week," another miner said. "The police are cracking heads, too," he added. Police violence has increased substantially over the past week. There have been dozens of arrests. Police have even been going through trains and public buses looking for pickets.

The right of the police to carry out this massive attack on civil liberties was challenged by two Kent miners who were stopped at the Kent side of the Dartford Tunnel in London. But the High Court refused to issue an injunction, thus upholding the police actions.

But by the end of the week, the pickets had made some important gains. In addition to North Wales, Staffordshire and Leicestershire were out. And on March 23, Lancashire mines announced they would be closing March 26.

An equally important gain occurred when representatives of 75,000 open-cast pits (strip mines) workers pledged to prevent coal being moved from their sites.

An impressive and solemn display of solidarity occurred on March 23 when more than 4,000 miners from all over Britain gathered in South Kirkby to pay their last respects to David Jones, the Yorkshire miner who died after picketing during the second week of the strike.

The strike is so solid in South Wales that when the government announced it would no longer rent buses to the pickets, the bus drivers went out on strike. At the Porth depot in the Rhondda area of South Wales, some 200 bus workers rallied against the strike-breaking decision. Within a day, the Welsh National Bus Co. reversed its decision. Now, "flying squadrons" of buses can fly again.

## Solidarity grows

The solidarity shown by the bus drivers is evident in other areas of Wales, as well. For example, pickets at the Aberthaw power plant near Cardiff are able to keep trucks with oil and essential chemicals from getting in. And pickets at the railroad crossings put up a "NUM picket" sign, which has prevented railroad workers from entering the power plant yard.

Important gains have also been registered in Yorkshire, the strike's center. Yorkshire is Britain's main coal field, with nearly 55,000 miners. The strike has overwhelming support there, and it took on a national character when the National Coal Board announced that it would close Yorkshire's Cortonwood colliery, giving only a few weeks' notice.

I met a group of Cortonwood miners at a solidarity rally at Sheffield's Memorial Hall. There, several hundred unionists, students, and others heard speeches by NUM General Secretary Peter Heathfield, Yorkshire miners Pres. Jack Taylor, and other labor leaders. Several hundred pounds (1 pound equals \$1.45) were also collected in an enthusiastic fund raiser.

Following the rally, I got a ride with three miners from Cortonwood out to their town. We first stopped at the Miners Wel-

fare Center. Most coal towns in Yorkshire have these centers, and they are very impressive. They have dance halls, meeting rooms, kitchens, and pubs. They are the social centers of the communities. And today they are the strike organizing centers.

## Strike organizing centers

The Cortonwood center was a beehive of activity. Miners were getting ready to be dispatched to picket out the evening shift down in nearby Nottinghamshire. Cars were being organized, maps were being distributed, and sheets of paper giving advice on what to do if arrested were being distributed. They were organized. They were just awaiting a call from the strike coordinating center in nearby Doncaster for their orders.

A poem written by a miner's wife hung on the wall: "Arthur gave us warnings/ You know that he was right/ So get yourselves together lads/ And come and join the fight./ Shut a pit . . . / Zip up Maggie's mouth."

The poem refers to NUM Pres. Arthur Scargill, who wrote on the front page of a special strike issue of the *Miner*, Journal of the National Union of Mineworkers, "I cannot emphasise enough that the Coal Board's ultimate intention is to wipe out half the South Notts coalfield, cut the Midlands area by 40 percent, close down half of the Scottish pits, cut the North Western Area's pits by half, close 60 percent of the collieries in the North East, wipe out half of North Derbyshire, 70 percent of the pits in South Wales and shut down 20 Yorkshire collieries. No-one can now say that he has not been warned."

The "Maggie," of course, refers to Margaret Thatcher, Britain's prime minister.

After the pickets were dispatched, we took a ride down to the pit entrance. The miners had built a shed with seats around it to keep trucks from removing the stockpile of coal that was stored at the mine. The pit entrance was called "The Alamo" by the miners because they say it is their last stand. It was surrounded by signs with poems and antigovernment slogans.

## Mine closures 'political'

Mike, one of the strikers, drove me down to the mine itself, staying clear of the guards. "Look at all this new equipment here," he said. "Does this look like a mine that should be closing? This mine still has several years of coal left in it."

Why, then, is the government shutting it down? He and other pickets explained that the mine closures are entirely political. Yorkshire, Wales, and Scotland — where the scheduled closures are the greatest — are the strongest areas of the union. If mines there can be shut, then the union will be considerably weakened. Then the coal and equipment can be sold to private firms.

"That is Thatcher's final aim," another miner told me. "She plans to sell our mines to private corporations after the government has destroyed our union."

## Against privatization

The British mines were nationalized in 1947, following a period when private corporations proved unable to get coal production back into gear after World War II. The demand itself was first raised in the 1926 general strike, which the mine workers led but ended in defeat.

The miners see nationalization as a gain of the labor movement that must be defended. That's why they fiercely resist the notion of government-owned mines being "privatized."

"It would be 'got any work today, governor,' and tipping your hat if the mines went back to private hands," a young miner explained to me. "Even though we don't have a big say in how the mines are run now, privatization would be much worse."

Since two successful strikes in 1972 and 1974, where the antiunion Edward Heath government was brought down, the aim of the government has been to weaken the union's strength. One tactic, as explained, has been to shut down the mines in the areas where the union is strongest. Other tactics include more imports of coal, increased use of nuclear power, and major shutdowns of industries that use coal, such as steel.



Militant/Bruce Kimball

Nottinghamshire area is center of coal miners confrontation with British government. More than 20,000 cops have been mobilized against striking miners.

This offensive against the mine workers comes in the context of a generalized assault against the wages and working conditions of labor in Britain. The employing class through its government had strong antiunion laws adopted by Parliament in 1980 and 1982. These laws, among other things, outlaw the closed shop and ban mass picketing by limiting each picket line to six. (The miners have completely ignored these laws.)

Because the mine workers union is the most powerful in the British labor movement, the government knows the NUM must be fundamentally weakened in order to qualitatively push back the entire union movement.

The stakes are high in this confrontation. That's why a central government strategy has been to divide the NUM by providing added benefits to miners who are more productive than others. In 1977, the government finally got through an "incentive plan" that provides bonuses based on productivity.

Geological conditions, combined with deliberate investment policies more favorable to certain areas, have led to some miners — notably those in Nottinghamshire — making up to twice as much money as miners in other areas such as Kent or South Wales.

A paycheck stub given to me by a young miner from Panallta in Wales showed take-home pay of about 96 pounds for a week — equivalent to less than \$150 in the U.S. A miner in the Notts area may make as much as 250 pounds — nearly \$400 in the U.S.

Through this incentive scheme, and by constantly declaring that Notts mines are not part of the mine closure program, the government has successfully divided miner against miner.

## Picket coordination is key

It is this division that makes this week such a crucial stage in the British coal strike. Last week, nearly every other colliery was shut down by flying pickets. Virtually the only miners working are the ones in Nottinghamshire, which has about 35,000 miners.

That is why the picketing coordination in Yorkshire — which is responsible for Nottinghamshire — is so important.

I had a chance to visit the picket coordinating center for the Doncaster "panel" — or district — of Yorkshire, as well. Strangely enough, it is in the back of a garage on a local road. Inside, though, it is the communication center for thousands of pickets. Staffed by a young miner who puts in 15 to 20 hours a day there, the center has to play a continuous game of outsmarting the police.

"We only use codes over the phone," he said. "That way the police — who have all the phones tapped — don't know what we're planning." Calls to the different Miners Welfare Centers are made hours before the different shifts in Notts so the pickets have time to avoid the police. "They have even been changing shift times," the

strike coordinator said. "But we keep up with them."

"It is especially important to tell the American people about the level of police violence here," he said. "By the end of this week, we've seen a major escalation by the police. Now if the lads yell 'scab' they are arrested. Pickets have been attacked and tied to fences."

"Today we heard they used water cannons on some of them. Police yesterday smashed a car's windshield in and dragged everyone out and arrested them. When the [local] union president went to bail them out, the police beat him up. This is virtually a police state," he said.

## Solidarity needed

The NUM strike is seriously hampered by the government's police mobilization. The government has been able to outnumber pickets by police throughout the Notts area, and this has kept the strikers from picketing out the miners who are still working. This has gotten so bad that when one South Notts mine decided to go out, the police banned their own pickets.

The stakes involved in bringing out all NUM members throughout Britain are well known to both sides. Once the Notts mines are out, the NUM can concentrate its massive forces and organization on other targets — such as power plants, steel mills, coal depositories, etc. And it can send more miners into urban centers to build solidarity with other working people.

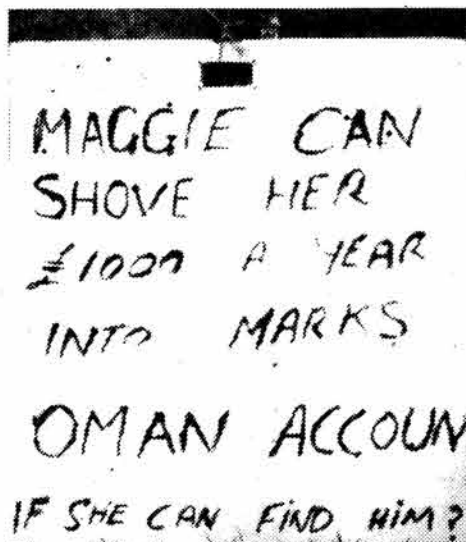
Already, some of the police tactics have backfired. The Thatcher government is spending millions of pounds a day on this national police force. But it says there isn't money for the collieries. This has begun to reverse public opinion. In Nottinghamshire, for example, the Newstead colliery said it would go out over disgust at the police force.

In London, the Kent miners who were stopped from going any further have opened an outreach office. They are touring the city now, speaking and fundraising among labor party branches.

At the initiative of the Trades Union Liaison Council of the Labor Party, a solidarity rally is planned in East London on April 14 featuring Arthur Scargill. Events like this can help win the support of the masses of Asian, African, and Caribbean workers who live in London.

International solidarity is also of crucial importance. For coal miners, Britain is not an island. What happens during this strike will affect all working people. Coal miners in the United States face a contract battle at the end of September. A victory by the British miners will be an important blow against the coal bosses in this country as well.

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



Militant/Bruce Kimball

"Maggie" refers to Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. In an attempt to divide union, government offered miners 21 years and older job "buyouts." Each miner who agreed would receive approximately \$1,500 for each year worked.



# Kampuchea rebuts lies of Pol Pot terrorists

Continued from Page 9

the refugees in Thailand, often against their will.

The Kampuchean government has proposed that at least the very young and very old be allowed to return to their homes in Kampuchea, but Thai officials "don't even want us to accept these people, to accept the children or the old people. They want to use them to maintain a base for the Khmer reactionary forces, and to use these refugees to attract international aid and supplies for the reactionary forces," Korm explained.

Since the UN recognizes the rightist coalition as the government of Kampuchea, the big majority of UN and other international food assistance goes to the border camps inside Thailand, while aid to the legitimate Kampuchean government has been choked off to barely a trickle. The food that reaches the Thai border is diverted first of all to feed the armed rightist forces, with only what is left over available for civilians.

The Kampuchean government has made proposals to solve the refugee question along lines that are truly humanitarian, rather than a cover for counterrevolutionary political aims. It has offered to cooperate with the Thai government in arranging the return of refugees who want to come back to Kampuchea or who wish to take up residence in other countries. It has proposed that all refugee camps be moved away from the border areas in Thailand, so that civilians are safe from military conflict. It has expressed its willingness to discuss relief aid with the UN, international agencies, and other governments, so long as the Kampuchean government has control over relief operations inside its borders and programs in Thailand are not abused to induce Kampucheans to leave their country or to supply the reactionary forces.

The Thai government has refused even to discuss these proposals by the People's Republic of Kampuchea, once again using the pretext that the PRK is not the legitimate government of the country. The Kampuchean government has responded that it does not insist on government-to-government talks.

"Even if Thailand doesn't want to meet us directly," Deputy Foreign Minister Korm said, "we have asked the Thai Red Cross to send a representative and the Kampuchean Red Cross to send a representative, so that they can meet with each other to solve the problem." But the Thai government has not accepted this proposal.

## 'World cannot be deceived'

The foreign ministry official told us that Kampucheans are confident that "the world cannot be deceived" by cynical propaganda about "humanitarianism" by U.S. imperialism and the Pol Pot forces.

"The three Indochinese peoples in particular will never forget the immoral acts during the U.S. war and the destruction caused by the Peking invasion," he said. "For our part, the policy of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has been truly humanitarian."

"After the liberation of our country from the genocidal scourge of Pol Pot," he said, "we began from a situation of internal social and economic havoc, the separation of

families, of scarcity and starvation, of widespread disease. We had to reconstruct our country from scratch.

"We have begun to solve all these problems. We have made it possible for people to return to their villages to live with their families. We have helped them rebuild houses, obtain provisions and clothing, to cure their health problems, to get the implements they need to work, and to raise their living conditions in other ways. Our people have the right to enjoy their lives in a normal way. And we follow the same policy toward the refugees who return to their homes.

"You can see for yourself from your visit here that no country has a more humanitarian policy toward the Kampuchean people than the People's Republic of Kampuchea."

The Kampuchean government has even extended clemency to rank-and-file fighters from the Khmer Rouge and other reactionary groups who renounce these organizations and return to a productive life in Kampuchea.

## Vietnamese colonization?

Finally, the deputy foreign minister responded to the "Vietnamization" slander that has been widely peddled over the past year. The Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk, Son Sann, the Thai government, Peking, and Washington have all charged that Vietnamese citizens are being sent in permanently to colonize Kampuchea.

"Sihanouk himself, who headed a regime under the protectorate of French colonialism, knows well the truth about this issue," Korm told us. "It was under the French colonial regime in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that a great number of Vietnamese were brought to work in our country on the French rubber plantations."

Many of these people of Vietnamese origin "were driven out during the Lon Nol re-



Militant/Diane Wang

Choeung Ek mass gravesite outside Phnom Penh, one of many left from regime of Pol Pot. Backed and financed by Washington, Bangkok, and Peking, Pol Pot forces continue terrorist attacks on Kampuchean people.

gime. Many others were massacred by Pol Pot or fled back to Vietnam to avoid persecution under that regime," Korm said. Since 1979, some have returned to Kampuchea. "These Vietnamese are people who have previous generations who lived in our country." Nonetheless, "the number of Vietnamese people who currently live in Kampuchea is still only one-tenth of the number" prior to 1970.

Now, Korm said, Washington, Bangkok, and Peking are demanding that the current government carry out the same kind of repressive policy toward these Kampuchean citizens of Vietnamese origin that was followed by previous regimes. "But we will not carry out a policy like that of Lon Nol or Pol Pot," he said. These people

have the same rights in Kampuchea as all other citizens, he said, and a policy of persecuting them or driving them from their homes "is against international law."

Korm expressed the gratitude of the Kampuchean government to all those in the United States who come "to visit our country and see the reality and the suffering that our people have undergone. There is not yet real stability in our country," he said, "and we have not yet overcome all the difficulties we face."

"Making clear the truth about Kampuchea to world public opinion is a great contribution to the revival of our country," he said, "and our people are grateful to those who help us with this revival under these circumstances."

# Interview with Puerto Rican activist

Continued from back page

back to living a normal life. But they kept following me everywhere. This went from the end of December until almost the end of March.

At the end of March, I decided just to take off. I took off into the island, stayed away for a while, and finally left the island altogether.

We finally ended up in Green Bay in December 1980. We were just trying to get away from the harassment. It had gone from ourselves to our neighbors, friends, relatives; quite a few people were affected by all of this.

They never made any charges against me, and they never started to bring out the subpoenas from the grand jury until after I left the area. They waited until I was gone to serve me with the subpoena.

In a way, I think that was their intention — to frame me that way and harass me to the point where I would have to leave, and then serve the subpoena. That way they could present me as a fugitive. When I came up here, I used a different identity, in order to stay away from their harassment.

Then, on Jan. 17, 1983, they arrested me. They said I was a fugitive. In court in Miami they questioned me for about two hours about Sabana Seca, insisting that I was there, that they had evidence and witnesses. They didn't let me speak with my lawyer beforehand.

Even if I had wanted to speak, I didn't have anything to say, since I wasn't involved. They never charged me. They found me in contempt for refusing to comply with the grand jury and I spent a total of nine months in jail.

When they first took me to jail I wasn't sure what was going to happen to me, because we had the experience of Angel Rodríguez Cristóbal [another Puerto Rican independence fighter], who was killed in jail in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1979. So I didn't know what they were planning.

A person can spend up to 18 months in jail for contempt. The grand jury is very abusive and the whole process is very unfair — the intentions behind the use of the grand jury are all political.

Q: Can you explain the current charges

against you?

A: On Sept. 23, 1983, the day of Grito de Lares — an important day in Puerto Rico — two FBI agents came to my cell. It was two days before I was to be released. They told me they had charges against me because I used a false social security card. A few days later they took me to court in Miami, called me a well-known terrorist, said that I was connected with the independence movement and the Sabana Seca incident.

Usually in a case like this the person will get a fine, or probation. I was only trying to escape the harassment and persecution. But with me, they set bail at \$2 million. It was later reduced. The judge found me guilty at the trial in January; I'll be sentenced in April.

Quite a few people came to my trial. We have a support committee up here which has gotten a lot of support from the community.

Q: Why do you think the government has chosen to harass you in this way?

A: The only clue I have is the different types of work that I have been involved in. I was quite active in the National Support Committee for Vieques [which protests the U.S. Navy's occupation of that island]. I also went to Cuba in 1976. And I was delivering the newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party around the island, on my own.

Q: What are your impressions of the current state of the movement in Puerto Rico?

A: The possibilities for unity within the Puerto Rican independence movement are increasing. The need for unity is growing — because the repression is increasing.

There is also a growing movement within Puerto Rico of young people opposed to the draft. And when the U.S. military maneuvers against the Nicaraguans were taking place in Honduras, the National Guard of Puerto Rico participated in these maneuvers. Some of the members of the Guard have since participated in protests against U.S. intervention in the area.

# 'Grand jury harassment aims to intimidate'

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

Last January 24, Pamela Fadern went to work at the city hospital in Austin, Texas, a little earlier than usual. Two FBI agents were waiting for her outside.

"Pam, we have something for you," one of the agents said. They handed her a subpoena ordering her to appear before a grand jury in New York in a few days.

The grand jury is supposedly investigating bombings attributed to the Puerto Rican Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). Its real purpose is to frame-up political activists, smear them as "terrorists," and intimidate all supporters of Puerto Rican independence.

In the last year, five supporters of Puerto Rican independence who were called before the jury and refused to testify were sentenced to three years in prison for

"criminal contempt." Four others charged with the same crime are awaiting sentencing.

Fadern was surprised to get a subpoena, she told *Perspectiva Mundial* in an interview. She explained that she was involved in the civil rights movement and in the fight against the war in Vietnam, and has supported numerous causes, including independence for Puerto Rico. While she goes on demonstrations and signs petitions on various issues, she has not been politically active on a daily basis for some time.

Her subpoena said she was wanted for questioning about bombings carried out in 1982. Fadern told *Perspectiva Mundial* that "my knowledge of those bombings is what everybody else knows; what has been written in the newspapers. . . . The government knows quite well that I have no information."

She said her attorney asked the government why she was subpoenaed. The government replied, "it's secret information." The reasons for her subpoena, according to the government, are contained in a sealed affidavit, which only the judge, prosecutor, and grand jury members may read.

Fadern refused to testify before the grand jury. The government has charged her with criminal contempt. She now faces a trial on May 21, where she could be sentenced to as many as 10 years if convicted.

Fadern emphasized that the grand jury harassment is aimed at intimidating all opponents of U.S. government policy, and especially at attacking supporters of the independence of Puerto Rico. She said more protests are needed against these victimizations by the grand juries. "It's important that they not be allowed to scare me or to scare other people."



**Try a Moldy Mac** — To curb littering of alleys in better neighborhoods, the St. Louis city



**Harry Ring**

fathers are weighing an ordinance to impose a fine of up to \$500 for scavenging for food in residential areas. An official assured this wouldn't hurt poor people since commercial districts have the best pickings.

**Exit James Bond** — Korean Air Lines concedes its passenger bookings dropped after one of its jets violated Soviet air space and was shot down. However, the company assures, there's been a screening, with a number of pilots demoted or dumped. And, either to allay public concern or to lull the Soviets, it's now Flight 017 not 007.

**Final offer** — Anbex, Inc. offers bottled potassium iodine. In the event of a major release of radioactivity it assertedly prevents the thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine. But the stuff's not moving. "It's very difficult to get the public to take it seriously," a spokesperson complained. Plus,

he noted, druggists won't stock it because it's not a product with a repeat sale.

**Like all bankers do** — Anthony Angelos, former head of the now defunct Des Plaines (Ill.) Bank, drew five years after copping a plea on 21 counts of fraud, including receiving stolen securities and bribing officials. "All I ever did," he avowed, "was to try to help people."

**Our rational society** — The state of Pennsylvania may tear up an almost completed \$13 million capitol building parking garage because contrary to state law, it assertedly contains foreign-made

steel.

**Test the guy selling it** — A New York outfit is peddling a \$3,000 palm-sized "voice stress analyzer." Science to the contrary, the claim is the gadget will detect lies by measuring voice tremors. The company's advertising person confides, "Our customers tend to be a little bit paranoid."

**The march of science** — What with the growing popularity of microwave ovens, Radio Shack is featuring a low-priced microwave-leak detector.

**State of siege** — Giant inflata-

ble snakes, poised in semicoiled positions, are stationed in tree limbs around the White House. The Park Service has installed them as part of its war against starlings which are seen as inimical to the executive mansion's carefully manicured lawns and gardens.

**Thought for the week** — "Suffice it to say that many of us still smoke, knowing fully the risks involved. I maintain that the risk of introducing certain types of irradiated food where justified by market need is well worth it." — Z. Blank, president, Omniron International, a food irradiation consulting firm.

## —CALENDAR—

### ARIZONA

#### Phoenix

**Palo Verde Rate Hikes and Radiation.** A panel of speakers from Valley organizations. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 17 E Southern Ave. (corner of Central). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 268-3369.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Who Are These Five Men and Why Are They Spraying Malathion on Us? What's at Stake in the County Board of Supervisors Race.** Speaker: Naomi Bracey, Socialist Workers candidate for Board of Supervisors, District 2. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

#### San Jose

**Socialism: a Future Worth Fighting For.** Socialist campaign rally for Mason, González, and Allen. Speakers: Kim Allen, SWP candidate for 10th Congressional District, member of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 562 at FMC; Siobhan Dugan, 1983 SWP candidate for school board, member of IAM Local 562; Kate Hobbs, just returned from cotton harvest in Nicaragua. Sun., April 1, 5 p.m., party to follow. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation requested. Ausp: SWP '84 Campaign. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Nicaragua Under Siege: Eyewitness Account.** Speaker: Maurice Williams, Socialist Workers candidate for 5th Congressional District, recently returned from Nicaragua work brigade; slide show. Sun., April 1, 5 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals SE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (404) 577-4065

### INDIANA

#### Indianapolis

**Grenada: Unraveling Reagan's Lies.** Video showing and presentation. *The Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again*, videotape interview with Don Rojas, press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Speaker: Roger Jones, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 1, 6 p.m. 4050 N College. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**Lessons of the Grenada Revolution.** *The Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again*, videotape of interview with Don Rojas, press secretary to Grenada's murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Speaker: David Welters, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Union Women Moving Forward: Report Back From National Coalition of Labor Union Women Convention.** Speakers to be announced. Sun., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

**Nicaragua: U.S. Trade Unionists Report on Cotton Harvest.** Speakers to be announced. Sun., April 8, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Election in El Salvador: Phony Democracy**

**and the U.S. Role.** Speakers: Jack Spense, author of "Getting Ready for Another Round — Covering the Elections in El Salvador," in latest *Columbia Journalism Review*, works with Central America Information Office; others. Sun., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Grenada: The Future Coming Toward Us.** Film showing and presentation by Michele Gibbs, taught in Grenada for three years and was deported by U.S. government. Fri., March 30, 7:30 p.m. Crummell Center, 74 Glendale, Highland Park. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Committee to Organize the Maurice Bishop and Martyrs of Oct. 19, 1983, Foundation. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

**Jobs Not War: Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers presidential candidate; Helen Meyers, SWP candidate for Senate; Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for Congress. Sat., March 31, 8 p.m. Northwest Activities Center. Ausp: 1984 SWP Campaign. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**Central America in Crisis: U.S. Moves Toward War.** Speakers: John Cutro, recent participant in Nicaragua work brigades and peace activist; Sarah Button, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 6, 8 p.m. 23 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

#### Manhattan

**Rally for Irish Political Prisoners.** Speakers: Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, member National Executive Committee of Stop the Show Trials Coalition; Margie O'Rourke, wife of prisoner Michael O'Rourke; Henry O'Brien, recent observer at a Belfast informer trial. Tues., April 3, 7:30 p.m. John Jay College, 59th St. and Tenth Ave., room 1311. Ausp: H-Block/Armagh Committee, Mid-Atlantic Radical Historians Organization.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**The Elections in El Salvador and Nicaragua.** A forum contrasting the U.S.-sponsored masquerade in El Salvador with popular democracy at work in Nicaragua. Speakers: Joe Lombardo, member Cincinnati Central America Task Force and Socialist Workers Party; Kathleen Denny, visited Nicaragua, member of Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Pad-dock Rd. (Bond Hill). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

#### Cleveland

**How Working People Can Fight for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom.** Campaign rally. Speaker: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 7. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$5; rally only, \$2. Ausp: Cleveland 1984 SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

**How Working People Can Fight for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom.** Hear Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 7, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tri-c Community College, Humanities room 114. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

**Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquín!** Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, socialist fighting

deportation; Jill Nations, president, Dallas County National Organization for Women; Fr. Justin Lucio, member, Migration and Refugee Services; Larry López, member, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2444; Bernie Nauta, Dallas chairman, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1313. (Organizations listed for identification only.) Translation to Spanish. Sun., April 8. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. Martin Luther King Center, Library Learning Center, 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (214) 826-4711 or 821-7469.

### VIRGINIA

#### Newport News

**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Andrea González, SWP candidate for vice-president; Eli Green, SWP candidate for Newport News City Council. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. YWCA, 2702 Orcutt Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: 1984 Virginia SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**U.S. Hands Off Grenada!** Videotape with New Jewel Movement leader Don Rojas. Speakers: Katalina Montero, Venceremos Brigade; Sue Mitchell and Harvey Tottin, Canadian eyewitnesses to U.S. invasion of Grenada. Sat., April 7. Reception, 7 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. Langston Hughes Community Center, 17th St. and Yesler. Ausp: Ad Hoc Committee in Solidarity With Grenada. For more information call (206) 725-3246.

**Eyewitness Reports From Nicaragua.** Seattle antiwar activists return from helping with cotton and coffee harvests. Speakers: Paula Gooding, participant in Maura Clark Brigade; Tom

## How can we defend abortion rights?

**Continued from back page**  
in number, but a powerful force."

The government, Labaj continued, has steadily moved against women's rights while the prochoice majority has not been visible or vocal enough.

"A drastic increase in the level of activism is needed," she said, to fend off these attacks on women's rights.

She also explained how the government has used divide-and-conquer tactics to weaken the women's movement and the defense of abortion rights. The government has moved first to restrict abortion rights for minority, poor, and young women. "The bodies of poor women and young women are being sacrificed along the way," she said.

Jones explained that NOW's chief strategy to defend women's rights, including abortion rights, is "to elect prochoice, pro-ERA, pro-women's rights candidates in the 1984 elections." If President Reagan is reelected, she said, the composition of the Supreme Court will change and abortion rights would be thrown out entirely.

She urged the audience to become actively involved in supporting NOW's 1984 election strategy.

"The defeat of the ERA," said Lupe Ellis, "put wind in the sails of all reactionary forces and encouraged them to press even harder against women's rights."

"We need to take a closer look at who these antiabortion forces are. You will find that these are the same racist, antiunion forces who are out to take back the gains won by working women and men, and gains won by Blacks and Latinos."

Ellis explained that "it is imperative that the women's movement make an effort to win support and allies from Blacks and labor unions. We can't be intimidated from approaching groups because they don't have an official stand on abortion rights yet."

Ellis criticized the perspective within the women's movement which focuses on the need to replace Reagan with someone from the Democratic Party.

"I ask women activists to concentrate on what both of the major parties have *not done* to win and defend women's rights," she said.

"Our program cannot be watered down. Our demands are not optional luxuries. They are life and death issues for millions of women and men."

"The only way we can win equality is by reaching out and mobilizing women in the millions as part of a fight that encompasses even bigger forces on a national and world scale."

"We need to look to the ranks of the working class here and the world over as our allies," Ellis concluded.

This forum was an important step in the process of discussing a strategy to defend abortion rights. It is a badly needed discussion. The Indiana State Legislature has approved a new bill requiring women minors to have parental consent in order to obtain a safe and legal abortion. Mayor William Hudnut has openly sided with the "right to life" forces by declaring last January 22 as "Sanctity Of Life Day," in Indianapolis. Antiabortion pickets are continuing at the clinics.



# 'We can win, but we need to change the union'

BY LEE ARTZ

BERKELEY, Calif. — Airco is a small machine shop in the industrial corridor along the San Francisco Bay here. Last summer the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Locals 1518 and 284 negotiated a giveback contract.

The contract gave up double time for overtime, froze wages for six months, set a 20-cent cap on the cost-of-living adjustment, and set a new, lower pay scale for all

## UNION TALK

newly hired workers. The new rate was set at 65 percent of the hourly wage for current employees, eventually reaching a maximum of 80 percent after three years.

The IAM Locals 1518 and 284 were forced to accept the two-tier wage structure at Airco because of the lack of a fighting strategy by the union leadership. Many workers who disliked the contract, saw no choice but to accept it. The vote was barely 50 percent for ratification, and it divided the locals' memberships sharply.

Most of the younger, production workers voted against it. Lunchtime meetings were held to fight against the contract. A petition was circulated asking the union to schedule a revote. Over half the employees signed it. The contract has stirred up a lot of anticorporate sentiment.

Once the contract was signed, management began to tighten up on work rules, attendance, and production. They also wanted to remove potential "troublemakers." Several of the unionists who spoke out have been intimi-

dated by the new atmosphere, some have quit. One union activist was laid off out of seniority.

I was fired for talking about the union and the U.S. war in Central America. With the support of the union, I won my job back with partial back pay.

In the last few months about 20 new, younger workers have been hired at the 65 percent wage rate. The largest departments have been working a mandatory 56-hour week. Given the lower premium pay for overtime, each worker is losing about \$60 per week. Each new hire is getting over \$200 a week less in wages due to the 65 percent rate. This has quickly bred resentment.

Once off probation, the new workers readily express their frustration and cynicism.

"I don't intend to work here for 25 years like my dad. I won't work for a company that long that doesn't show us any respect," said one.

"The union here is a joke," said one new mechanical technician. "I have to pay \$150 initiation fee to a union that gave away \$5 an hour out of my paycheck."

"The union may be a joke," added another, "but the company is the real problem. All they want is more profits. They don't care about us. They counted on the old-timers to accept that contract. Now we have to start all over at the bottom. But it won't be that way next time. Us guys won't owe them a thing and they'll owe us plenty."

Airco had hoped that the new workers would be thankful for their jobs and would be easily house trained. It may work out differently and could spell bigger problems for the company in the future. One foreman has complained about the new technicians not working hard enough. One technician replied, "If you want me to work at 100 percent, then pay me 100 percent!"

The election for chief steward of Local 1518 this month was the first opportunity unionists have had to express their attitude about the new situation. The former steward was defeated by a ratio of 4 to 1. Many viewed him as too friendly to the company. He had been part of the contract negotiating team. They especially disliked his sailing trips with the management.

The strike by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers against Union 76 last month was closely followed here. Union 76 has a refinery at Rodeo, just north of the East Bay. Many Airco workers live in the area, some have friends there. The strike was in part over the two-tier wage system.

After the oil workers won, there was a lot of discussion at Airco.

"It shows we can win," said one technician. "We could have won at Airco. They had deadlines to meet for production. We just needed to fight."

"Yeah," said another, "but we need to change the union."

That's it. Fight and change the union.

Local 1518 is already seeing some changes. It has championed the Arizona copper miners strike, participated in the August 27 march for jobs, peace, and freedom, and heard speakers on Central America. It is beginning to reflect the changing attitudes of the members; and the changing composition of the work force.

If some of the new workers at Airco give 100 percent for the fight to change the union, lots more changes will be coming.

Lee Artz is a mechanical technician and a member of IAM Local 1518.

## Is the labor movement a 'special interest' group?

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

In trying to drum up interest in the Democratic Party's traveling political road show, the political pundits have used up a lot of ink recently explaining why Walter Mondale is no longer a shoo-in to win the Democratic Party presidential contest.

One piece of the conventional "wisdom" is that the endorsement of Mondale by the AFL-CIO has hurt him in the primaries. The labor movement, according to these experts, is a "special interest." Everyone knows, they

## AS I SEE IT

say, that the American people don't like special interests. Most people don't like lobbyists, they don't like big business — and they don't like unions.

This is a lot of bunk. One need not be a supporter of Walter Mondale to see through the smoke screen.

The organized labor movement is not a "special interest." For most people that term conjures up the image of a small, narrow group whose concerns are opposed to the needs of most of the population — the powerful oil lobby for example, or bankers looking for tax loopholes.

The interests of the labor movement are the interests of working people — the vast majority of the population, both union members and the unorganized, who work for a living whether in industry or on the land.

When the labor movement moves forward all working people benefit. When the labor movement comes under

attack so do the interests of the majority of the population.

The labor movement includes millions of the most oppressed and exploited members of society — Blacks, Latinos, and growing numbers of women. Under their influence the labor movement rallied to the cause of civil rights and the Equal Rights Amendment.

The labor movement has often pointed out that where racist attacks and opposition to women's rights are on the rise, organized labor finds more resistance to union organizing and labor's rights.

The ties between the organized labor movement and social progress are not lost on working people — despite what procapitalist political opinion makers would have us believe. A glimpse of this was provided by a small article in the March 11 *Washington Post*.

Written by Barry Sussman, the *Post's* director of polling, it is entitled, "No, Americans Don't Hate Unions."

It is based on a January 1982 public opinion survey conducted by the *Post* and ABC News. "There is no evidence," Sussman observes, "that attitudes have changed since then."

Here are Sussman's conclusions based on the poll: "Americans do not dislike labor unions. They favor them. The majority of working men and women who have no current affiliation with a union would join one if they could."

"Most people reject the idea that unions are no longer needed, and the public feels, by 3 to 1, that wages and

working conditions would never have reached today's level without unions.

"In every measure in that survey," Sussman affirmed, "the public came down in favor of unions."

Sussman also noted something else. "By 57 to 33 percent, those interviewed agreed that 'labor union leaders are out of touch with the workers they represent.'"

This too is accurate. Top labor officials are out of touch because *their interests* are different from the workers they represent. Most are no longer workers at all. Their lifestyles and high salaries have little in common with the average worker. And their self-proclaimed role as "labor statesmen" charged with maintaining "labor peace" leads them to urge workers to solve our problems by voting for capitalist politicians like Walter Mondale.

In this way they do a big disservice to working people who need a political alternative that is in our interests — not those of the employers.

All of this reinforces the need for the union movement to form its own political party, a labor party.

This would not be a "special interest" either. Such a party would lead the fight for social progress for the vast majority — against war, for full employment, against discrimination, and for a government that would really be in the interests of the majority — a government of workers and farmers.

The only people who think this is the program of a special interest group are the real, dangerous special interests — the tiny handful of enormously wealthy families who control political power — and the media — in the United States.

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**ILLINOIS:** Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S

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

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. Baltimore-Washington District: 2913 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, Md. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

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## AFL-CIO fails farm workers

Twenty thousand farm workers in Texas are out of work as a result of a devastating freeze that struck the Rio Grande Valley last December. Thousands of acres of citrus trees were destroyed or so badly damaged that there will be few crops and little work for several years.

Farm workers, whose conditions even in the best of times are bad, now face evictions, electricity and heat cutoffs, loss of their homes and cars, increased illness due to lack of medical care, and inadequate food.

Yet, in the face of this disaster, government relief has been doled out with an eyedropper. The most that Democratic Gov. Mark White has done is to make a few verbal promises and urge churches in the state to take up collections. The Reagan administration in Washington has done even less.

This shameful performance is not unexpected from Democratic and Republican officials who serve the ruling rich, including the big citrus and vegetable growers.

But what is particularly scandalous is that the top AFL-CIO bureaucrats have scarcely lifted a finger to fight for public relief. Millions of union members throughout the country, if informed of the facts, would support a national campaign to win aid for the farm workers. However, the self-satisfied and overpaid mossbacks who sit on top of the labor movement do nothing to organize such an effort.

The current plight of Texas farm workers highlights what is a more general condition facing farm workers all over the country and the labor bureaucracy's default in doing anything about it.

Government reports say that there are about 2.5 million wage or salaried farm workers in the United States. However, the statisticians admit that there are hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers who do not appear on any records.

While the number of agricultural workers has steadily decreased in the past few decades, the proportion of hired farm labor has grown in relation to family farmers.

Farm workers harvest most fruits, nuts, and vegetables in the United States and, although not so concentrated, play a significant role in other sectors of agriculture. Most are casual or seasonal workers. Many are high school or college students who work during summer breaks.

Undocumented workers are especially victimized by the employers who take advantage of their situation to blackmail them into going along with the most abysmal conditions. Many are forced into virtual slavery for fear of deportation. The handful of cases that find their way into the news is only the tip of the iceberg.

The Workers Defense League, a New York-based civil liberties group, issued a report in 1981 estimating that 10,000 farm workers each year are held against their will unable to leave their employers' farm or ranch except under threat of injury or death.

Migrant workers — documented and undocumented

— are forced to live in barracks or shabby shacks that are often unsanitary. They often have no hot water and are ripped off at employer-run stores.

Overall, farm workers are virtually an institutionalized pariah layer of the working class. They are not covered by minimum wage laws, and wages are generally below the minimum level. Piecework is very common. Most farm workers have no unemployment or medical insurance and in many states are still not covered by workers' disability compensation.

According to the National Safety Council, farm labor is the second most dangerous occupation after mining. Pesticides make work particularly hazardous. And many growers still force workers to use the backbreaking short hoe.

Agriculture also remains one of the last strongholds in this country of child labor, and children are especially victimized by health and safety hazards and the lack of adequate education.

The National Labor Relations Act, which gives workers the right to collectively bargain with employers, does not apply to farm workers. Only in California, which adopted the California Agricultural Relations Act of 1975, after a hard-fought battle by farm workers, are collective bargaining rights recognized by law. The gains made by the United Farm Workers in California in forcing contracts with some of the big growers has resulted in higher wages and a few more benefits than workers have in other states.

Any labor leadership with an ounce of class-struggle blood would make the fight to improve the conditions of farm workers a top priority. It would:

- Launch a national campaign to get the federal government to provide immediate relief for the freeze-stricken workers in Texas.
- Demand that all workers compensation laws and social security and unemployment benefits be extended and enforced for farm workers. And that all laws barring involuntary servitude and child labor be enforced.
- Press for a shorter work week with no reduction in pay to spread the available work for farm workers laid off due to new machinery technology.
- Fight for full democratic rights of citizens for all undocumented workers.

California's farm workers showed what could be accomplished if a struggle is waged for union recognition. And they had precious little help from the AFL-CIO hierarchy. If the AFL-CIO leaders were to break from their don't upset-the-applecart relationship with the bosses and their futile reliance on the Democratic Party and launch a major drive to organize farm workers, it could succeed.

As *la causa*, the UFW's organizing drive of the 1960s, showed, it would become a social movement. And it would serve to spearhead a struggle by the entire labor movement to become a fighting instrument for all workers.

## Nelson Mandela: leader of African liberation fight

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

"I hate the practice of race discrimination, and in my hatred I am sustained by the fact that the overwhelming majority of mankind hate it equally. I hate the systematic inculcation of children with color prejudice, and I am sustained in that hatred by the fact that the overwhelming majority of mankind, here and abroad, are with me in that."

"I hate the racial arrogance which decrees that the good things of life shall be retained as the exclusive right of a minority of the population, and which reduces the majority of the population to a position of subservience and inferiority, and maintains them as voteless chattels to

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

work where they are told and behave as they are told by the ruling minority. I am sustained in that hatred by the fact that the overwhelming majority of mankind both in this country and abroad are with me."

Nelson Mandela, who said these words, was right. The overwhelming majority of working people loathe racial oppression, and have a particular hatred for the regime that rules his country — South Africa.

Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress (ANC), has been active in the fight against apartheid since his youth. He is currently imprisoned in South Africa's notorious Robben Island, where he has been jailed since 1962.

Mandela joined the ANC in 1944 — when he was 26 years old. Together with other young Africans he founded the ANC Youth League. Mandela and other Youth Leaguers, such as Oliver Tambo, who currently heads the ANC, were fired by a deep sense of African nationalism. Their militancy helped turn the ANC toward mounting direct action campaigns against apartheid.

In 1952, for example, the ANC joined with Indian and other organizations in launching a massive "Defiance Campaign." This civil disobedience effort was a protest of the discriminatory laws of the apartheid regime.

The leadership role played by Mandela in the Defiance Campaign was shown by the fact that he was elected president of the ANC in Transvaal Province. The South African government's response was to prohibit Mandela from attending gatherings and restrict him to Johannesburg.

The ANC leader was continually harassed and persecuted by the South African regime. Mandela's speech quoted earlier was given by him in his defense during a 1962 trial for his involvement in leading strikes.

A year before this trial, on Dec. 16, 1961, a series of sabotage actions against government installations marked the emergence of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), which was later to become the armed wing of the ANC.

In addition to the explosions, Umkhonto distributed a manifesto, which Mandela, as a founding member and Commander-in-Chief of Umkhonto, drafted.

"Umkhonto we Sizwe is a new, independent body, formed by Africans. It includes in its ranks South Africans of all races. . . . Umkhonto we Sizwe will carry on the struggle for freedom and democracy by new methods, which are necessary to complement the actions of the established national liberation organizations, and our members, jointly and individually, place themselves under the overall political guidance of that movement.

"It is, however, well known that the main national liberation organizations in this country have consistently followed a policy of nonviolence," continued the manifesto. "But the people's patience is not endless."

"The time comes in the life of any nation when there remain only two choices: submit or fight. That time has now come to South Africa. We shall not submit and we have no choice but to hit back by all means within our power in defense of our people, our future, and our freedom. . . ."

"We are striking out along a new road for the liberation of the people of this country. The government policy of force, repression, and violence will no longer be met with nonviolent resistance only!"

Mandela was yanked out of jail — where he was serving time on a previous charge — to stand as the first accused in a 1963-64 trial of 11 men for plotting the violent overthrow of the South African government. On June 11, 1964, eight of the accused were convicted, and Mandela, like the other seven, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

On April 4 this year many supporters of the African liberation movements in southern Africa will hold protests in several U.S. cities. These actions can serve as a vehicle for demonstrating against Washington and Pretoria's drive to smash the ANC and other liberation movements in southern Africa, and are a fitting way to honor Mandela and other fighters for African rights.

## Why U.S. wants to bar Astorga

"A woman with a terrorist background like hers is not suitable material for an ambassadorship."

Reagan administration official

"... she played the game of seduction and betrayal with deadly ease."

Time Magazine

"... a femme fatale."

New York Times

The U.S. rulers and their kept press are spewing out venomous attacks on Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga. Astorga has been appointed by Nicaragua to be its next ambassador to the United States. Many in Washington would like to reject her credentials.

Why?

Astorga is a revolutionist, a competent spokeswoman for her country, a women's liberation fighter, and a tested combatant in Nicaragua's struggle for freedom from U.S. imperialism.

In 1978, she earned the respect and admiration of the Nicaraguan masses when she helped execute one of the most hated figures in the Somoza dictatorship, torturer Gen. Reynaldo Pérez Vega, second-in-command of the National Guard. Known as "The Dog" to Nicaraguan working people, Pérez was a key "asset" for the CIA (see story on page 13).

Now the CIA and the rulers it serves are howling about the appointment of this Sandinista revolutionary, arrogantly presuming the right to tell the Nicaraguan people who can and cannot represent them in Washington.

Astorga is not the first Nicaraguan leader to meet with objection from U.S. rulers. Last November, Washington refused to grant a visa to Tomás Borge, minister of the interior, after he was invited to address various church, university, and labor groups in this country.

For most nations in the world, Washington routinely accepts changes in ambassadorships without comment. (The U.S. government, in fact, has just changed its ambassador to Managua — appointing Harry Bergold, who was immediately accepted by the Sandinista government.)

But when it's a question of Nicaraguans coming to the United States — and in this case, a woman from Nicaragua — the story is different. Astorga's name is being dragged through the mud in an attempt to discredit the example she has set for working people, and women in particular, and to besmirch the Sandinista revolution.

Earlier, in an attack on the Grenada revolution, the Carter administration refused to accept the credentials of Dessima Williams, who had been appointed by the government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to serve as Grenada's ambassador to Washington.

The imperialists have done the same thing to other female revolutionaries in history. Russian revolutionary Alexandra Kollontai was assailed around the world as "morally loose" when she was assigned by the Bolsheviks to become the first woman ambassador in history.

Like Astorga, Kollontai was "not suitable material" to associate with diplomats, kings and queens, and heads of state.

What is suitable material in the eyes of the U.S. imperialists are torturers like General Pérez and the terrorist gang of ex-National Guardsmen Washington is currently financing to try to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Another on the list of CIA "assets" is Col. Nicolás Carranza, head of El Salvador's Treasury Police and a notorious chief of the death squads there. Carranza has been on the CIA payroll for years.

Not to mention the "more dignified" heads of state and diplomats wine and dined by Washington over the years, from the shah of Iran, to British strike-breaker Margaret Thatcher, to Israeli officials responsible for mass murder of Palestinians.

These enemies of humanity have rated red-carpet treatment from their buddies in Washington, unlike fighters on the side of the working class, like Nora Astorga. If Washington decides to reject her credentials, it will be out of fear of the example she and the Nicaraguan people have set for U.S. workers and the oppressed of the world.



# Class inequality spawns race hatred, anti-Semitism

Getting rooked in Detroit, where I grew up, was to get "Jewed" out of your money.

Anti-Jewish prejudices definitely exist among Blacks and other working people, and must be fought. But to do so effectively, it's necessary to know the nature and source of this virulent disease.

The Black community isn't the source of anti-Semitism. The U.S. ruling class is on a drive to portray



## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

Blacks as anti-Semites to undermine support for the fight for Black civil rights. One aspect of this capitalist campaign — the racist attacks on the Black movement and Jesse Jackson for his anti-Jewish "Hymie-Hymietown" slur — was taken up in last week's column.

Where does anti-Semitism come from? The root of anti-Semitism is the same class system that foments racism — the capitalist system. The employers use both to exacerbate divisions within the working class, thereby weakening our resistance to their attacks.

Prejudice, however, isn't simply a matter of an individual's opinion, but flows from and is based on class inequality.

Racism, for example, is more than the expression of anti-Black prejudice. The bosses reap untold billions in profits from the national oppression of Blacks. They

squeeze this blood-money out of the Black community in many ways: high rents for ramshackle housing; low pay for dirty, back-breaking work; and "savings" made through cutbacks in funding of education and other social services.

When Blacks dare to fight back against this oppression, the cops, or other armed bodies of the capitalist government, rain terror on our community. The recent cop terror against the Miami Black community is an example of this fact.

Likewise, anti-Semitism isn't simply the expression of anti-Jewish prejudice, but has deep social, economic, and political roots in the capitalist system. Historically, in times of deep crisis, Jews have been singled out as a scapegoat by the ruling rich and denied all democratic rights, including the right to earn a livelihood. The horrors of Hitler's ovens show how far the capitalists' anti-Jewish violence can go.

The tiny handful of employers who rule the United States and most of the world keep themselves in power through relentless violence against working people. The capitalist class uses every bit of hatred and prejudice that they've inculcated among the toiling masses to drive wedges among oppressed and exploited people.

The bosses blame immigrant workers for the high level of unemployment. They claim that in their fight for affirmative action Blacks, Latinos, and women are discriminating against white male workers.

Similarly, the employers fan the flames of anti-Jewish prejudice to direct the anger of Blacks and other workers away from the actual source of our problems — the U.S. ruling class.

Instead, we're told that Jewish landlords are responsible for bad housing. Jewish shopkeepers are, supposedly, responsible for the poor quality of goods and services in

working-class communities. Jewish bankers are strangling the economy.

It's all capitalist propaganda aimed at convincing Blacks and other workers that we have something in common with non-Jewish bosses; that "we" must all unite against "them." But there's no common interest between workers who are Black, Latino, white, and Jewish, and our bosses, between those who profit from racist oppression and those who suffer it. Holding anti-Jewish prejudices is a trap that places us on the side of our enemy.

As the employers attempt to drive down the wages and standard of living of workers, they must also attack democratic rights. Racist and antiwoman violence and propaganda is on the rise. Attacks against affirmative action for women and oppressed minorities are increasing. Anti-Jewish violence is also increasing — especially attacks by ultrarightist and anti-Semitic outfits such as the Ku Klux Klan.

Here in New York City, for example, there have been attacks on synagogues and students at Jewish educational institutions.

The battle against anti-Semitism is intricately tied up with the fight against racism, sexism, and working-class exploitation. The Socialist Workers Party has had this view from its beginning. In a 1939 "Thesis on the Jewish Question" (see *The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party*, published by Pathfinder Press) the SWP explained that the same causes leading to the decay of capitalist democracy in Europe and the rise of fascism were at work in the United States.

"And," the document continues, "the same results are not merely possible, but absolutely inevitable unless the working class learns, and learns quickly, to defend its hard-earned rights and take the road to power."

## LETTERS

### Cruise missile protest

Three hundred people met at St. Vincent Church in Pontiac, Michigan, on February 12 to support 54 "prisoners for peace."

Between November 28 and December 5, the 54 protesters blocked the driveway at Williams International Corp. in Walled Lake, Michigan, to stop construction of cruise missile engine parts. They were among thousands of protesters who came together at the call of Covenant For Peace, a pacifist organization that called for a week of witness and resistance at Williams.

The 54 were arrested and kept in jail for weeks. They have been charged with "conspiracy" — they had met to plan their protest. This charge and others carry sentences of years in prison.

For a year now there have been weekly vigils at the gates of Williams. Some carry antinuke banners while others distribute leaflets to workers. The protests have an effect on workers — they talk about it constantly, and some have quit their jobs. The leaflets suggest ways workers can fight for peace without quitting their jobs — organizing discussion among coworkers, contributing to the protesters' defense fund, attending film showings, making telephone contact with organizers of the protest.

The support meeting backing up this effort at Williams was determined, enthusiastic, and angry. People vigorously applauded the 54 for their civil disobedience and courage.

Donations to support legal defense can be sent to the Williams Peacemakers Defense Fund, Mona Scott, 4577 Commonwealth, Detroit, Mich. 48208. Messages and support can be sent to Covenant For Peace, Box 1831, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.

Maurice Geary  
Detroit, Michigan

### Steel elections

As a laid-off steelworker, I have been following the special election for United Steelworkers of America (USWA) international president with a great deal of interest.

Both Lynn Williams, the union's acting president, and Frank McKee, its international treasurer, are encrusted bureaucrats who look

to the steel barons instead of steelworkers for direction.

But McKee's electioneering has an additional insidious and reactionary twist: the bulk of his campaign literature has attacked the incumbent Williams for being, of all things, a Canadian. Not for collaborating with the bosses and betraying the interests of workers, not for helping nail the USWA even more tightly to the cross of the Democratic Party — but for being Canadian. Williams has defended himself by calling for quotas on steel imports from Canada.

The logical extreme of this chauvinist garbage was evident in a recent article in the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*. According to the article, Frank Valenta, director of USWA District 28 based here in Cleveland and a rabid McKee supporter, thinks that the Canadian members of the union should actually split off and form their own union. Mr. Valenta asks, "How the heck would you feel if you introduced the Democratic presidential nominee, hopefully Mr. Mondale, at our fall convention ... and you urged all the delegates to vote for Mondale, but you couldn't vote, because you are not a citizen?"

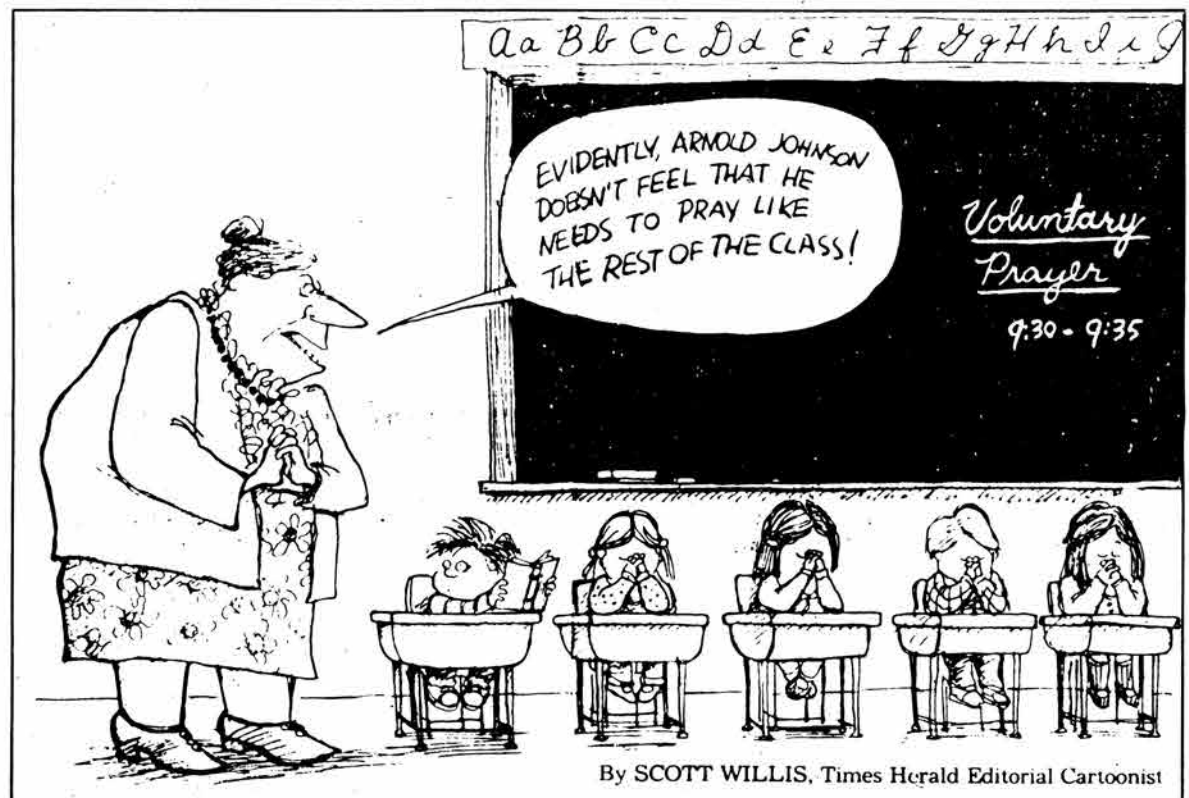
As Valenta so backwardly demonstrates, supporting anything of the bosses, from their candidates to their anti-imports campaigns, will only further corrupt and erode the ability of the union to defend itself and fight for the interests of workers.

Incidentally, Valenta ends his ramblings by noting that Canadian mills have not only hurt the Greater Cleveland area, but "they have devastated cities in Minnesota." But probably in a year or so, Valenta will be sounding the alarm on those dreaded Minnesota imports. That's the logic of chauvinism in the labor movement.

Bill Kalman  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Doddridge, W. Va.

Secondary roads have always been a hot political issue in West Virginia since the majority of the state's residents live in rural and semirural areas. Recently, things have been getting very hot in the Buffalo Calf community of Doddridge County, where up to 10 people picketed daily over poor



By SCOTT WILLIS, Times Herald Editorial Cartoonist

and hazardous road conditions.

Picket signs with slogans like "1950s roads with 1980s taxes" and "This road is taxation without representation," reflect the mood of these residents who have had few results from a petitioning effort and a visit to the state capitol. Some of the picketers were threatened with arrest by the state police.

The 55 residents of Buffalo Calf live on county Route 42, which is considered a primitive and unimproved road and goes a distance of six miles serving two counties. The state Department of Highways (DOH) and its county branch office have stated various legal, technical, and financial reasons for not maintaining the road. But whatever the reason, Route 42 is in such bad condition that residents have lost gas tanks and mufflers and some have slid off the road and hit trees. People now park their cars on the better parts of the road and walk up to two miles to their homes.

The road is no longer passable for emergency vehicles, rural mail delivery, or school buses. One member of the Doddridge County Citizens for Better Roads remarked on the Catch-22 situation they face, "We can't get school buses to come here because the road is not passable and the state won't maintain the road because it's not traveled by school buses."

Meanwhile, children walk a total of five miles in the mud each school day.

A few years ago, Gov. John D. Rockefeller IV, whose family already owns much of the state, attempted unsuccessfully to sponsor a road bond that would have indebted working people to the Chase Manhattan Bank until 2020. Rockefeller, who spent \$12 million of his own money for his 1980 reelection on a platform of road and bridge improvement, has his eye on the U.S. Senate seat up for grabs in November.

Chris Wolford  
Clarksburg, W. Virginia

### Protest U.S. troops

An emergency picket was called here on a two-day notice to protest the recent moves by the U.S. government to send 2,500 troops presently stationed in Panama to the border of Honduras and El Salvador. The picket was held March 13 in front of the Federal Building.

Nearly 500 people attended the noon-time rally called by the Central American Non-Intervention Coalition, Casa El Salvador, Casa El Salvador Farabundo Martí, and Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador.

Felix Kury, West Coast representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), de-

nounced Washington's move. "The FDR-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) has proposed different alternatives to solve the current crisis in our country," he said. "We maintain that the construction of peace requires the broad participation of the majority of social and political forces, and that it can be achieved through political negotiations."

"That is why the FMLN-FDR has proposed the creation of a Provisional Government of Broad Participation. We believe this proposal constitutes a true alternative towards peace. But if the United States should decide to intervene militarily before the [March 25] elections in El Salvador, during the elections, or after the elections, our popular forces will be prepared to resist this aggression. Our proposal is presented from a position of strength and not weakness."

Other speakers at the rally included Gus Newport, mayor of Berkeley, and Holly Near. Veronica Cruz  
San Francisco, California

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.



## Socialist candidate hits growers as farm workers, farmers suffer in Texas valley

BY W.M. REID

HOUSTON — Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, spent March 6 through March 15 touring southeast Texas. The first four days she joined the three-person campaign team in the Rio Grande Valley, there since February 20.

José Alvarado, SWP candidate for Texas 18th Congressional District; Elsa Blum, San Antonio SWP leader; and Patricia Sánchez, Houston organizer of the Young Socialist Alliance, were completing a three-week trip to the valley to gather information on the living conditions of the farm workers and their families following the freeze last December. In addition, the team sought to contact past supporters and discuss the socialist alternative with many more working people.

Speaking at a Houston campaign rally March 10, González reported, "The freeze has caused a disaster in the valley. The already impoverished conditions of the farm workers and their families are even more desperate. The scant, lightly built housing is not designed to protect anyone against a freeze. This has increased medical problems and crowding.

"With no work, no unemployment compensation, and pitifully little available financial aid," González continued, "there is no money to supplement a diet of cornmeal dishes and potatoes. And now that the citrus crop is destroyed, thousands are forced to migrate north much earlier this spring, interrupting their children's education.

"This government, run by the Democratic and Republican politicians, denies these farm workers and their families the help they need even to sustain them in this crisis.

"And these politicians have increased the debt burden on small growers with interest on loans so badly needed to produce bumper crops. But there is no opposition among these capitalist politicians to fun-

neling money — millions of dollars — to the super-rich landlords and ranchers to compensate them for lost crops. This small minority, the big growers in the valley, will also get a windfall in profits from increased prices on the reduced supply of fruits and vegetables, at the expense of the majority.

"A government run in the interest of the majority in this country, working people and working farmers," González added, "would very rapidly take steps to benefit the majority in the valley, the farm workers, small farmers, and other workers and their families."

Alvarado described the response to this disaster among the farm workers and the small farmers. "Many of the small farmers, dependent on the land for their livelihood, have already removed the dead outer parts of the fruit trees. They are now taking the healthy cores and nourishing them for the production of smaller crops," he stated.

"The most inspiring thing we saw was that in spite of these added hardships, the spirit of struggle has not been broken. The militant traditions remain that gave rise to La Raza Unida Party. (An independent Chicano political party, LRUP was born in the struggles of the mid-70s and held office in Zavala County for several years.)

Beverly Andalora, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, also spoke at the rally. She brought news of the enthusiastic response by her coworkers to the *Militant*, when it carried a full reprint of General Motors' secret strategy for auto negotiations.

"Socialist auto workers took part in many lively discussions as that issue circulated up and down the assembly line in the plant. But management wasn't so happy," she explained. The Industrial Relations rep called me into the office to explain that selling the paper on company property was illegal."

Janet Brammer, recently returned from Nicaragua, shared her two-week experi-



Militant/José Alvarado  
Andrea González (left), socialist candidate for vice-president, visited grapefruit grove with María Silva (right), leader of El Comité de Campesinos, and Pattie Sánchez, member of campaign team. González toured Rio Grande Valley and saw first-hand impact of December freeze on lives of farm workers and small farmers.

ence helping to harvest the cotton crop there, along with several hundred other North Americans. The harvesting continued in spite of two attacks by the U.S.-financed and armed counterrevolutionaries just a few miles from the fields.

Hitaji Aziz, cochair of the Committee for Prison Reform and Defense of Human Rights, reminded many supporters of the politicizing effect of the capitalist system.

Her poetry traced her political evolution from Black nationalism to the "threshold of socialism."

While in Houston, González met with Casa El Salvador — Farabundo Martí, the

local organization of Central Americans building support in the U.S. for the victory of the struggle in El Salvador.

The vice-presidential candidate also joined supporters at a campaign table in the Moody Park flea market in the Black and Latino community, where a militant protest against police brutality erupted several years ago. She met workers at the Englewood railway, and March 14, at 12:01 a.m., González was among the handful of activists protesting the legal murder of James David Autry, the second Texas death row prisoner to be murdered by lethal injection.

## A Puerto Rican activist fights FBI persecution

Alberto de Jesús Berríos is one of many victims of the U.S. government's witch-hunt against supporters of independence for Puerto Rico. An activist in the independence struggle in Puerto Rico, he left the island in 1980 with his wife because of FBI persecution. He began working as a cabinet maker in Green Bay, Wisconsin, but on Jan. 17, 1983, he was arrested and dragged before a grand jury. The grand jury was supposedly investigating an attack on a U.S. Navy bus in December 1979 in Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico.

Despite the fact that de Jesús had

nothing to do with the incident — and was accused of no crime — he was forced to appear before the grand jury. When he refused to testify, he was jailed for nine months, first in New York City, and later in Miami. Two days before his term was up, de Jesús was hit with a new harassment charge of misuse of his social security number. He has been convicted on this charge and is now awaiting sentencing.

A defense committee for de Jesús has been established. For more information, contact Rev. Daniel Gilsdorf, De Jesús Support Association, 526 Louisiana Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis. 54235. Telephone: (414) 743-2062.

De Jesús' story is typical of many supporters of Puerto Rican independence who have been hounded and jailed by the U.S. government through the grand jury witch-hunt system. In February of this year, *Militant* correspondent Kathy Owen obtained the following interview with de Jesús in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Question:** What were the events which led up to your decision to leave Puerto Rico in 1980?

**Answer:** Things started to get rough there after the Dec. 3, 1979, attack on a U.S. Navy bus in Sabana Seca. Right after that, President Carter ordered an investigation, and the FBI moved in about 60 special agents to Puerto Rico, in addition to the ones already there.

One day when I was working in my uncle's house, a neighbor came and told me that two FBI agents were visiting my neighbors, asking about me and saying bad

things about me. After they told me that, I started watching for cars and people I hadn't seen before in the *barrio*. Soon after, they began following me everywhere I went.

I had been delivering the newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party around the community for about three years, and one thing I didn't want to do was take the agents to people receiving the paper. I had to work it out so I could deliver the papers without people being harassed.

The FBI kept following me everywhere, using surveillance on the place where I

lived, asking neighbors about me, saying that I was engaged in terrorist attacks.

Finally, a press conference was held at the bar association to denounce what was going on. One of the journalists called the FBI office and they denied that they were after me.

But at the same time a list concerning the Sabana Seca incident finally came out from the FBI office with the names of 25 persons and groups on it. The first name on the list was mine.

We denounced that, and I tried to go

Continued on Page 15



Alberto de Jesús Berríos

## How can we defend abortion rights?

BY DAVID CAHALANE

INDIANAPOLIS — Supporters of abortion rights attended a Militant Forum February 25 to hear four speakers discuss strategies to defend abortion rights.

Several abortion clinics in Indianapolis have become targets of a well-organized picketing and harassment campaign by so-called right-to-life groups. Their aim is to close down every abortion clinic in town. Patients are subjected to abusive language and physical intimidation in an attempt to turn them away.

Speakers at the forum represented a cross-section of individuals and groups trying to organize an effective defense of a woman's right to choose an abortion.

Diāne Serkovich spoke representing the Clinic for Women, which is a target of the picketers and has taken legal action to protect the right of women to use their facilities.

Melinda Jones, executive board member of Indianapolis National Organization for Women (NOW); Lupe Ellis, member of the Socialist Workers Party and International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 847; and Susan Labaj, an attorney, also spoke.

Serkovich described the ordeal women patients are subjected to by the picketers. Such an experience, she explained, endangers the health of patients by increasing the risk of complications during and after having an abortion.

She appealed to the audience to become involved and actively support the right of all women to control their own bodies.

Labaj stressed the central importance of abortion rights in the overall fight for women's equality. "The right to abortion is the bottom line issue for women's rights," she said. "Anti-abortion picketers are small

Continued on Page 16