

## U.S.-backed terrorists attack Nicaragua ports

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

CORINTO, Nicaragua — U.S.-financed terrorists have turned the harbor here, Nicaragua's largest port, into a battleground. The more than half a dozen international cargo vessels berthed here, either unloading or waiting to unload, have become the latest target in Washington's undeclared war against Nicaragua.

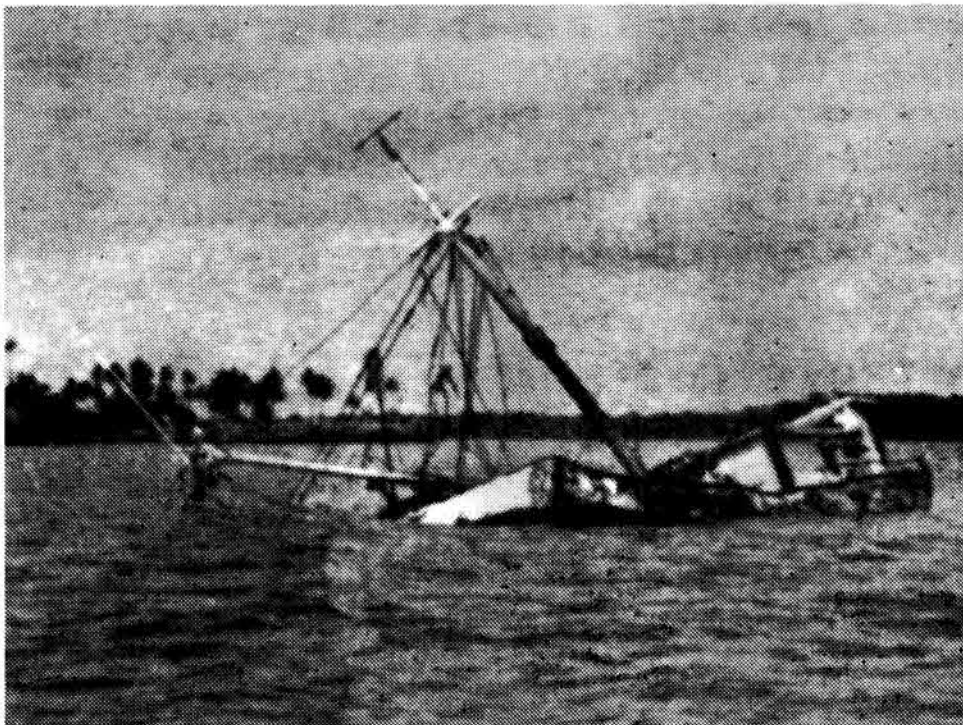
The Liberian freighter *Inderchaser*, exporting molasses, was struck by a CIA-planted mine while leaving the harbor March 28.

The Panamanian freighter *Homín*, docked and loading sugar, was machine gunned the same day by a "piraña" speedboat — one of the 60-mile-an-hour launches the CIA has provided the counter-revolutionary forces.

On March 30, the Japanese freighter *Terushio Maru* struck a mine one mile from the docks as it tried to enter the harbor to deliver a cargo of auto parts and construction materials. That same day, the *Homín* was attacked again, this time by "pirañas" and helicopters.

This brings to a total of six the international vessels that have been damaged by

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Nicaraguan fishing boat sunk by mines planted by CIA-backed terrorists. Counter-revolutionaries have stepped up attacks on Nicaraguan ports with mines, speedboats.

## Coal miner fights for W.Va. ballot spot

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — West Virginia Secretary of State A.J. Manchin launched a major slander campaign against the Socialist Workers Party March 27. Manchin announced to the media that he was requesting the prosecuting attorney to investigate whether the SWP candidates should be prosecuted for any false statements on the financial forms they filed with the state.

Manchin made this statement after the SWP announced its plans to place its presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Mel Mason and Andrea González, on the ballot here. The SWP also announced it will run Dave Ferguson for governor and Joan Radin for U.S. Senate.

At the time of filing their declaration to run, candidates are required to pay filing fees equal to 1 percent of the salary of that office. Fees for the four SWP candidates would come to more than \$5,300.

However, a 1980 court ruling struck down filing fees for candidates who cannot afford to pay them. The socialists submitted the appropriate financial forms as part of their request that the filing fees be waived. Manchin agreed to waive the fees, but used the occasion to slander the SWP. In particular, he singled out Radin, a coal miner, as someone he thought should have been forced to pay this fee.

Radin is a working coal miner and a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2271. Her opponent in the senatorial race is the state's current governor, Democrat John D. Rockefeller, IV.

Ferguson, a 28-year-old National Committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance, will be challenging Republican Arch Moore and Democrat Warren McGraw. Ferguson is a laid-off member of the UMWA and currently a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

This public smear campaign from the state government offices represents a continuation of the harassment the SWP campaign faced during the 1982 senatorial race when supporters of the socialist campaign were threatened with criminal pro-

secution for signing SWP petitions and then voting in the primaries. A grand jury was convened in Jackson County to hear evidence against petition signers. It refused to indict anyone.

To answer Manchin's latest charges, the socialists called an emergency news conference for March 29. Radin explained how these filing fees are like a poll tax against working people's right to run for office. Seven hundred dollars for the senatorial race means nothing to a millionaire coal boss like John D. Rockefeller, IV, but it is a lot of money to a coal miner.

"I, like thousands of other people in West Virginia, was laid off from work when the economic crisis hit this state,"

explained Radin. "I, like millions of other people in this country, am the victim of and feel the effects of an economic system that puts profits before human needs."

"To say that because I am a coal miner, I'm well off and financially stable flies in the face of reality. I, like many of my sister and brother coal miners, am trying to make ends meet after months and months of unemployment forced on us by the coal companies. Before being called back to work a few months ago, I was unemployed much of the time for over a year."

"Manchin's distortion of the actual financial situation of myself and, in fact, that of many other coal miners fits in with the

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## Socialist campaigners set 'Militant'-'PM' drive

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket will mobilize to kick off an intensive eight-week effort of selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and campaigning for Mel Mason and Andrea González for president and vice-president.

The aim is to sell between 35-40,000 *Militants* and *PMs* during the eight weeks. The final cumulative total will be based on sales goals accepted by branches of the SWP and by other distributors of the *Militant* and *PM*. This total and a scoreboard will be printed in an upcoming issue of the *Militant*.

The Young Socialist Alliance, which together with its newspaper the *Young Socialist* is actively supporting the Mason and González campaign, has also decided to participate in the *Militant* and *PM* sales effort. We urge all readers of the *Militant* to get involved in this campaign.

The drive comes at a time when working people in the United States are discussing out fundamental questions within the framework of the 1984 elections.

The big dailies support the capitalist system, so their news coverage is slanted to portray workers' interests as identical to the bosses'. Their editorial policy opposes workers' struggles in the United States and

other countries in favor of ruling-class maneuvers to make big-business more profitable. They are the newspapers of the Democratic and Republican party candidates.

In this election period the newspapers of other labor and radical organizations say that working people must "dump Reagan at any cost." This strategy is based on seeing Reagan the individual as the problem, not the ruling-class offensive that Democratic and Republican politicians have spearheaded since long before Reagan was elected.

The *Militant* and *PM* offer a radically different, proworker source of news and analysis which is welcomed by workers thinking out how to fight back against war, union-busting, and attacks on our hard-won democratic rights.

When the United States invaded Grenada last October, *Militant* readers through special efforts sold 12,000 copies of the issue protesting the invasion and explaining the gains and lessons of the Grenada revolution.

The special steps taken by our readers to reach copper miners, steelworkers, and auto workers brought unionists in those industries not only articles on the copper strike, the election in the Steelworkers union and the GM secret document outlining plans to attack the auto-workers union,

## Prove cops, right wing murdered Cuban

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

A prominent Puerto Rican senator, a right-wing exiled Cuban businessman, and a former police official conspired to kill Carlos Muñiz Varela, shot to death in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on April 28, 1979.

Muñiz was a founder of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of young Cubans residing in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and other countries, committed to lifting the U.S. blockade of Cuba and encouraging ties between the Cuban revolution and the Cuban community abroad. Muñiz ran a travel service to Cuba, and participated in the first of the Brigade's tours to the island in 1977. This earned him the hatred of Cuban counterrevolutionary terrorist organizations as well as their U.S. chiefs.

According to reports leaked to the Puerto Rican press last week, a current FBI investigation of widespread police corruption on Puerto Rico has uncovered links between high police officials and Cuban counterrevolutionary terrorist organizations. The reports indicate that cops testifying in closed meetings have accused a well-known member of the Puerto Rican Senate of raising funds from people in the Cuban communities of Miami and New Jersey during 1978-79. With the money collected, a right-wing Cuban businessman hired a high police official to organize the assassination of Muñiz with the aid of other cops.

Other intended victims of the police-terrorist connection, a San Juan newspaper also revealed, have been Juan Mari Bras, general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and another party leader, Pedro Baigés Chapel. Death squad activity is not new in Puerto Rico; Mari Bras' son, Santiago, was killed in 1976. And in 1978, two proindependence fighters were executed by cops in what has become known as the Cerro Maravilla scandal.

The Antonio Maceo Brigade, as well as prominent Puerto Rican organizations, have demanded that all the facts of Muñiz's assassination be revealed, and that those responsible be arrested and tried.

but other articles on workers' and farmers' struggles of interest to them.

The *Militant* and *PM*'s consistent stand in favor of working peoples' interests explains why the papers support the socialist candidates in this election. And the interest in the campaign and the newspapers' ideas point to the timeliness of organizing an aggressive effort to reach out to new readers.

*Militant* and *PM* supporters will be organizing to sell the papers at election campaign meetings and candidates' debates; at plant gates and in working-class communities; on high school and college campuses; and wherever workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, women and young people are discussing what kind of a government we need to protect ourselves from the bosses' offensive.

A special focus of the drive will be the use of the socialist press as part of the massive petition drives that the Socialist Workers Party must undertake to get its candidates on the ballot. Over the petitioning period we will meet thousands of people who are hearing about the socialist alternative for the first time. Many of these people will also want to read the campaign newspapers. A lot of questions are on their minds as they sort through the claims of the candidates. For example, is there any alter-

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY LEE MARTINDALE

The working class in this "English-speaking country" speaks not only English, but French, Chinese, Arabic, Tagalog, and many other languages. A large minority of U.S. workers speak Spanish. Spanish-speaking workers are found in every basic industry and every big industrial union.

Our class includes the organized and unorganized, better-paid workers and workers in sub-minimum-wage sweatshops. Through plant-gate sales, socialist workers are learning more about the diversity of U.S. working class cultures, experiences, and conditions, exchanging information about the bosses' attacks in different industries, and discussing out the tremendous potential power of the working class when it unites.

In Los Angeles, socialist workers sell regularly at the gates of plants organized by the garment, oil, auto, machinists, and rail unions. Members and active supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance work in many of these industries as well. They find *Per-*

*spectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language socialist magazine, an indispensable tool in reaching out to and meeting Spanish-speaking workers, many of whom are leading participants in labor struggles in Los Angeles.

They have been selling at Manny's, for example, a garment shop of 350 workers organized into the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) four years ago. Members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), and the United Transportation Union (UTU) are among the workers who sell at the gate. Socialists working at Manny's sell the *Militant* and *PM* to their coworkers. Sales range from a few to 10 copies a week.

One of the *PM* readers at Manny's is a Nicaraguan, a supporter of the Sandinista revolution, who was a central leader of the organizing drive and is now a respected activist in the union. He supports the fight of Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist, against the U.S. government's attempts to deport him from this country for his socialist views. He

attended and helped bring others to a rally for Marroquín held in Los Angeles.

Workers at Manny's have experience with union solidarity. ILGWU members at southern California Davis Pleating and Button Co., most of whom speak Spanish, have been waging a militant strike since last August against the company's demand for a 40 percent pay cut. When the strikers called for a solidarity rally on March 1, 65 workers at Manny's took part in lunch-break meetings to discuss the importance of showing support for the Davis Pleating strikers. Twenty-five Manny's workers attended the rally.

Other unionists have walked the picket line with the Davis Pleating strikers, too. One of them is a socialist oil worker from Texaco who went to express his solidarity, to learn about the issues in the strike, and to sell *PM*. He told the strikers about Texaco's attempt to bust his union, OCAW Local 1-128, Texaco unit. The company was demanding that the workers

give up seniority for job bidding, agree to a longer workweek, a no-strike pledge and the end of union dues check-off. Texaco wanted a two-tier wage system that would pay new hires half the current wage rate and undermine solidarity between them and other workers.

The Davis Pleating workers expressed their support and offered to help. When the Texaco workers were forced out on strike in February, they appealed to the Davis Pleating strikers, who agreed to come and walk the picket lines to show their solidarity.

The Texaco workers have received valuable solidarity from other unions as well, including other OCAW locals, the ILGWU, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU). The ILWU hiring hall has agreed to dispatch striking Texaco workers to jobs on the docks.

For several years Los Angeles socialists have organized a regular plant-gate sale at the ILWU hiring hall. One of the workers who sells

the *Militant* and *PM* is Naomi Bracey, a city bus driver and member of the UTU who is the Socialist Workers candidate for Board of Supervisors. She has issued a statement calling for solidarity with the Texaco strikers.

Campaign supporters plan to distribute this statement along with campaign material about the Mason-González presidential ticket at all the plant gates where they sell, including at Lockheed, organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and at GM-Van Nuys, organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW).

Through plant-gate sales, as well as through work in their own unions, socialist workers like these are participating with other union fighters building bridges of solidarity among workers fighting back against the bosses' offensive. These bridges of solidarity not only strengthen each struggle, but enrich the discussion on what strategy working people need to turn back the tide of union-busting. *Militant* and *PM* supporters are proud to be part of this process.

## Roybal bill: a new attack on immigrant workers

BY HARRY RING

Seven years ago, the Carter administration sought congressional approval for a crackdown on undocumented workers.

Fortunately, there was vigorous opposition in the Chicano and Latino communities. The Carter plan was opposed by such organizations as the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), GI Forum, and others.

Carter then referred his plan to a bipartisan study commission — to report back after the 1980 elections.

They did that, and the result was the now-pending Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill.

Simpson-Mazzoli would beef up the Border Patrol to curb the entry of undocumented immigrants. Felony penalties would be imposed on those aiding or "harboring," undocumented workers. Employers who "knowingly" hire workers without papers would be subject to modest fines. All U.S. workers would have to carry ID cards to prove their eligibility to hold a job. "Amnesty" would be granted undocumented residents here for several years if they meet some stiff requirements. The measure would also make it easier for growers to import "guest" workers at harvest time.

Initially, there was significant opposition to Simpson-Mazzoli. (A notable, scandalous exception was the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO).

Last October, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill moved to bury Simpson-

Mazzoli in committee, at least until the end of that session. He said he was acting in response to demands by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

But then, on the heels of O'Neill's action, Rep. Robert García (D.-N.Y.) announced that the Congressional Hispanic Caucus would draft its own version of an immigration "reform" bill.

(Simpson-Mazzoli has passed the Senate and is again pending before the House.)

Now it's been announced that a substitute for Simpson-Mazzoli has been introduced by Rep. Edward Roybal (D.-Calif.).

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is divided on the Roybal bill. According to a March 19 announcement by MALDEF, the measure is sponsored, not by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, but by the Hispanic Caucus of the Democratic National Committee.

Three of the nine voting members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus voted not to cosponsor the Roybal bill.

Twenty-four of Roybal's cosponsors are non-Hispanics.

One of those refusing to cosponsor is E. (Kika) de la Garza, a Texas Democrat from the Rio Grande Valley.

"My area," de la Garza said, "is basically opposed to any revision of the immigration laws. In our district, the same family lives on both sides of the river."

Unfortunately, the Roybal bill does seem to have some support, including, according to the MALDEF press release, MALDEF itself and LULAC.

And some Latino unionists opposed to Simpson-Mazzoli are reported supporting

the Roybal bill as a "lesser evil."

The Roybal measure purports to eliminate some of the worst features of Simpson-Mazzoli. We have not yet received the full text, but according to MALDEF, the bill eliminates the Simpson-Mazzoli proviso to impose penalties on employers hiring the undocumented. It would eliminate the worker ID requirement and would move up the amnesty date to Jan. 1, 1982.

It also omits the clause making it easier for ranchers to import temporary "guest" workers.

Usually lacking the protection of a union, "guest" workers have certainly suffered abuse at the hands of growers and labor contractors. But that's an argument to unionize them, not keep them out.

Opposition to expanding the importation of such workers is justified in a grossly reactionary way by Joaquin Avila, president and general counsel of MALDEF.

The MALDEF release quotes Avila as attacking the guest worker provision in Simpson-Mazzoli because it "blatantly contradicts Simpson-Mazzoli's stated goal of reducing undocumented immigration."

Avila is further quoted as declaring that many of the guest workers "will end up staying here illegally."

Hardly the kind of language, or political reasoning, you would expect from the head of an organization whose concerns include defense of the undocumented.

Also, the Roybal bill calls for stricter enforcement of federal wage, hour, health, and safety laws — not to ensure that the undocumented gain the protection of such sta-

tutes, but for the very opposite reason — to discourage employers from hiring the undocumented!

A particularly shocking feature of the Roybal bill is a clause calling for added congressional funding to expand the border patrol — the reactionary, racist, and justly hated *la migra*.

MALDEF states: "To stop unauthorized entries, the Roybal bill makes clear — as does Simpson-Mazzoli — the need to increase funding for the border patrol."

With its declared intention of curbing immigration, the Roybal bill is bad enough as it is. But it can be flatly predicted that if it is not buried in the House, it will get worse as it goes along. A series of amendments will be tacked on by its various "sponsors" until it becomes indistinguishable from Simpson-Mazzoli.

The problem confronting working people in this country is in no way that there are "too many" undocumented workers. The real problem is the deepening crisis of capitalism.

During 1981-83, this country went through the deepest economic crisis since the '30s. It was caused by an irrational capitalist system, not the undocumented.

Now, we're told, there's a recovery because big-business profits are up. But the jobless rate still stands at nearly 8 percent. Are the undocumented responsible?

Certainly, large numbers of workers, denied visas, fleeing desperate economic conditions and harsh political repression, are trying to make their way into this country from Mexico, Central America, and

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THE GRENADA REVOLUTION 1979-83



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# 'U.S. close to sending troops to Salvador'

BY OLLIE BIVINS

LOS ANGELES — Three thousand people marched through downtown here March 24 to protest U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

The march was the culmination of Central America Week here. A town meeting of 3,000, two picket lines, a labor forum, a candlelight vigil at MacArthur Park, and several masses were held between March 18 and 24 in memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero and to protest the fraudulent elections in El Salvador.

The march was sponsored by the November 12 Coalition — an organization of Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, and Guatemalan solidarity groups and other antiwar organizations. Endorsers of the action included the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Southern California American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); International Association of Machinists (IAM) Lodge 1111; First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles; Migual Machucha, organizational director of Western Region International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and Medical Aid for El Salvador.

Leading the spirited march was a contingent of protesters bearing placards with the names of those killed or "disappeared" by the U.S.-backed Salvadoran regime. A number of marchers sported union jackets or buttons, and members of IAM Lodge 1111 marched as a contingent.

A two-hour rally at La Placita on Olvera Street followed. Speakers included Jim Cushing-Murray, vice-president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1222 and a leader of the Greyhound workers strike; Larry Frank, a representative of the Jobs With Peace Campaign; and Victor Ríos of Casa El Salvador. The rally was chaired by Ramona Ripston, executive regional director of the Southern California ACLU.

Cushing-Murray recently returned from a two-week trip to Nicaragua where he participated in the agricultural harvest brigades along with hundreds of other North Americans. He told the crowd that before his trip he was not interested in events in Central America. But this changed, he said, because in Nicaragua he

"saw a sense of the revolution by the people and the fight to make progress."

"This," he said, "is different from the United States where unions are in retreat. . . . The United States will never be successful in Central America because the people have a spirit of revolution."

Earlier in the week 3,000 people packed an open town meeting at Fairfax High School to hear well-known personalities discuss "Central America: What the Devil Is Going On?"

The event was sponsored by the newly formed Committee of Concern for Central America, an organization based primarily in the entertainment industry. Speakers included Argentine author Jacobo Timerman, actress Diane Ladd, and former U.S. Sen. George McGovern.

"The U.S. government is very close to sending U.S. troops to El Salvador," McGovern told the crowd. Several speakers referred to the Vietnam War and the need to build a public movement of protest in the streets.



Militant/Lynne Allen

Sign on right: "They can kill me, but not the voice of justice" — Monsignor Oscar Romero. Jim Cushing-Murray of Amalgamated Transit Union told Los Angeles march, "U.S. will never be successful in Central America because people have a spirit of revolution."

## Jury selection in trial of Kathy Boudin

BY BARBARA MUTNICK

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Jury selection in the trial here of Kathy Boudin is expected to go on for two more weeks before the evidentiary stage of the trial can get under way.

Boudin is charged with three counts of felony murder and several counts of theft stemming from the attempted robbery of a Brink's armored truck in 1981 in Nyack, New York. Two policemen and an armored-car guard were killed. Defendants in an earlier trial stemming from the same incident received maximum sentences — 75 years to life.

Boudin was arrested several miles from the attempted robbery and killings. She was unarmed, and not one eyewitness reports having seen her at the scene of the alleged crimes. Yet she has been held without bail for more than two and a half years, has been forced to endure miserable conditions and harassment in prison, and has been both the object and the victim of an

elaborate and intimidating system of security measures.

The latter include concrete barriers erected around the Westchester County courthouse; police dogs strategically placed, but now not in view of the public; airport-style metal-detector tests, and a sealed elevator, complete with an armed guard to the eighth-floor courtroom where Boudin's trial is being held.

During the March 27 session in court, Boudin could not so much as turn her head to the back of the courtroom without a young female guard, who was seated directly behind her forcing her to face forward.

This treatment of Boudin is intended to cast her in the mold of a barbaric criminal even before a jury has so much as heard the charges against her. The Brink's hold-up trial is being used to slash away at Boudin's constitutional rights as a defendant and prisoner.

Even more menacing is the likelihood that the practices used against Boudin and the other Brink's defendants will be extended to others facing charges, particularly political activists.

The process of jury selection has been going on since February 14. But Leonard Weinglass, Boudin's attorney, remarked after the March 27 session in court that really it has been a "27-month search for 12 people." He was referring to the fact that Boudin's trial has been moved twice because the atmosphere whipped up by the government prejudiced so many potential jurors.

Weinglass and Jay Schulman, a member of the defense team concentrating on jury research, explained that of 41 prospective jurors who have been qualified by the White Plains court, 16 have relatives who are police. Five of the 16 have cops in their

immediate families. Judge David Ritter has refused to exclude these jurors despite efforts by Boudin's attorneys to eliminate them.

One of the jurors who had been qualified earlier had been a stockholder in Pittston Co., a parent company of Brink's, at the time of the robbery. Another, also already qualified, is employed by a bank that is held by the Irving Trust Co., a holding company of Nanuet National Trust, the bank against which the attempted robbery was committed.

In contrast, Weinglass said one juror who had expressed agreement with some of Dr. Benjamin Spock's and Rev. Daniel Berrigan's views (two figures the defense may call to the stand as witnesses) was disqualified.

Once the pool of "qualified" jurors is chosen, the defense and prosecution will each be allowed to exclude 20 jurors from the final panel by means of pre-emptory challenges, that is, giving no reason.

Boudin's 20 pre-emptory challenges, however, must be shared with Samuel Brown, who is on trial with her. The fact that the two are being tried together is another outrageous aspect of this trial. Brown turned informer against the other Brink's defendants to the tune of 12 interviews with the FBI, producing 60 pages of "information."

Boudin's lawyers had asked that her case be severed from Brown's because they hoped to call Brown as a witness, but Judge Ritter refused to allow the severance.

On March 27, Ritter ordered a psychological evaluation of Brown on the request of his court-appointed attorney, Robert Isseks. Isseks said that his client has been in a state of deep depression and has been unable to participate in his own defense. "It's because of the brutal beatings that Mr. Brown is in the state he's in, where he can't help himself or help his lawyer."

Brown's car crashed when he was apprehended by the police following the attempted robbery. X-rays taken at the time showed no fractures, but after beatings by guards in Rockland County Jail, X-rays showed that Brown's neck was broken. Isseks complained that his client had been falling asleep in court because "he was afraid to sleep in prison for fear of getting his neck broken again."

Judge Ritter agreed to move Brown to an inpatient psychiatric unit at Westchester County jail while he is being examined, but he refused to discontinue the trial during Brown's examination.

## Meeting honors Wilfred Burchett

BY SANDI SHERMAN

NEW YORK — On March 31, some 150 people attended a meeting in New York City to pay tribute to Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett.

Burchett, who died Sept. 7, 1983, wrote extensively on the liberation struggles in Indochina and was one of the first journalists to report from Hiroshima after the U.S. government dropped the atomic bomb there on Aug. 6, 1945.

The meeting, chaired by journalist Abe Weisburd and Bill Ryan, editor of the *Guardian* newspaper, received messages from a number of individuals including Raúl Roa Kouri, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations; Harrison Salisbury, a former editor of the *New York Times*; author Corliss Lamont; folksinger Pete Seeger; and journalist T.D. Allman.

Madame Nguyen Ngoc Dung, former deputy ambassador to the United Nations from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and current head of the Women's Division of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, spoke on Burchett's contribution to the Vietnamese liberation struggle. Dung explained she was one of the first members of the National Liberation Front to work with Burchett.

Antiwar activist and author David Dellinger, who wrote the introduction to Burchett's book, *Vietnam Will Win*, spoke and noted that "the U.S. has never given up being at war with Vietnam and that creates a tremendous responsibility for all of us."

Other speakers included Vessa Burchett, who flew in from Bulgaria to attend the meeting for her husband; James Aronson, founding editor of the *Guardian*, who spoke and read a message from *Guardian* cofounder Cedric Belfrage; Archie Singham, professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College; and author Sylvia Crane.

Participants in the meeting presented

Vessa Burchett with a scroll in tribute to her husband.

Delegations representing the Vietnamese, Laotian, and Bulgarian missions to the United Nations were introduced. Burchett was living in Bulgaria at the time of his death. Rudolph Yussikov, of the Permanent Mission of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, spoke and read a message from Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council.

A short Vietnamese film showing Burchett in a liberated area of Vietnam in 1964 was shown.

## New attack on immigrant workers

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many other countries exploited and oppressed by U.S. imperialism.

Neither the Simpson-Mazzoli nor the Roybal bill will end this flow of immigration. They will simply make those who do get through even more vulnerable to superexploitation.

And it will make all Latino workers more vulnerable to scapegoating and discrimination. (The scapegoating only begins with the undocumented. It never ends there.)

And that in turn strengthens the hand of the employers who work overtime at their game of divide-and-rule.

The only practical response to Simpson-Mazzoli is all-out opposition and total solidarity with the undocumented.

What's needed is a guarantee that all workers, with or without papers, enjoy full citizens' rights — economically, socially, and politically.

Most important, this must become the stand of organized labor. This is especially so today, when the entire union movement

is under such heavy attack from employers and government. Only a united labor movement can effectively fight back against the drive to cripple the unions and drive down working conditions.

And unity and solidarity won't be built by being party to the scapegoating of undocumented workers.

To its discredit, the top officialdom of the AFL-CIO is playing directly into the hands of the employers on this issue.

According to a legislative representative of the AFL-CIO, that organization's officials give "conceptual support" to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill. That is, while disagreeing with particular provisions, like enlarging the guest worker program, they do support strengthening the INS, instituting employer sanctions, and requiring ID cards for workers.

The union ranks should recognize this can only undermine the fight against the employers and repudiate this reactionary leadership position.

Both the Simpson-Mazzoli and Roybal bills should be opposed.

## 'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The 'Militant' special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York, 10014.



# Minneapolis forum discusses '84 elections

## Socialist Workers call for independent Black, labor party

BY MAGGIE PERRIER

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — On March 6 Ellie García, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, participated in a panel discussion called "Forum on the Left." The forum was sponsored by the Citizens Party.

The panel discussion, attended by 85 people, also included representatives from several liberal and left groups.

García, a garment worker and member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 155, began by condemning the U.S. government's latest acts of war against the Lebanese people. She explained that there has been no withdrawal of marines but merely a redeployment of troops to the battleships off Lebanon's coast.

"My campaign calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all imperialist troops from Lebanon and the warships offshore; a halt to U.S. military aid to the Israeli government; the right of Palestinians to establish an independent Palestine in their homeland."

She rejected the notion that U.S. workers have any stake in Washington's wars against workers and farmers abroad and advocated the formation of an independent, union-based labor party that could act as a political vehicle in the interests of all working people.

García encouraged the audience to support the SWP presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González.

The Communist Party USA, represented by Helve Savola, announced it has nominated Gus Hall and Angela Davis as its presidential and vice-presidential candidates in 1984. However, Savola explained, organizing to defeat Reagan was the main task of socialists today. Savola said this could be done only by a direct challenge on the basic issues and praised the Jesse Jackson campaign because "he's been putting the candidates of the two parties on alert."

John Gulliver of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) spent most of his time explaining why his organization is involved in the Democratic Party. He argued that the Democratic Party is the party of the masses. He admitted that this orientation has its "disadvantages." One such disadvantage he cited was that part of the Democratic Party's constituency is "reactionary." He said this makes it "a constant battle not to lose your identity, which is why the DSA was formed."

## W. Va. socialist campaign

Continued from front page

arguments used by the coal companies that miners are over paid and greedy. It takes place in the context of attacks being waged against the UMWA by the bosses as the contract discussions draw near."

Radin insisted that the SWP campaign will not be intimidated nor deterred. "We will wage a stepped up political fight for our right to be on the ballot and will bring the socialist message to tens of thousands of West Virginians throughout this state between now and November."

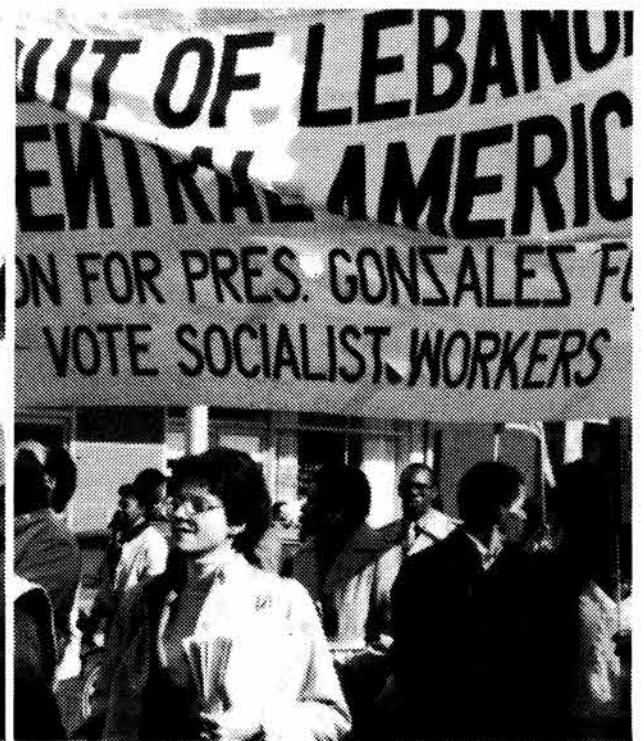
The party will be bringing its socialist solutions to thousands of West Virginia workers in a massive statewide petitioning effort to gather well over the 7,500 signatures necessary for ballot status. If successful, this will mark the first time the SWP presidential ticket has ever appeared on the ballot in this state.

Campaign supporters who began the three week petition drive have found workers here to be open to socialist ideas. One thousand signatures were collected on the first day of the drive. Many of those signing the petitions are miners or relatives of miners who have stopped to talk with campaign supporters. Most of what these people talk about is their own experiences with the industry. Conversations range from layoffs to Black Lung, but they all have one central theme, hard times for workers. "I don't know if a miner could actually win, but it would sure be great to get some real representation for once," was a comment made by one man who signed a petition.



Militant/Luis Castro

Left, Mel Mason (in suit), SWP presidential candidate, talking with members of Laborers International Union in Liberty City, Miami. Right, Andrea González, SWP vice-presidential candidate at Atlanta Martin Luther King Day march. Mason and González are only candidates offering clear alternative to bosses' parties.



Militant/Jon Bixby

Gulliver described the DSA as a "think tank" and said its membership was composed mostly of elected officials and academics.

The representative from the Farmer Labor Association (FLA), which claims to be independent, but acts as a caucus within the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party, said that a labor party would be nice but "workers are not educated enough to be aware of the problem."

The Communist Party speaker said it

was impossible to build a labor party by the November elections, so workers should just concentrate on electing the best peace candidate.

García was the only speaker who offered a clear and concrete alternative to voting for Democrats and Republicans. She explained that while there was no organized motion in the working class for the formation of an independent labor party, many workers were drawing valuable les-

sons from their experiences in fighting the bosses' takeback demands. She pointed to the struggles of Arizona copper miners, auto and steel workers, and other industrial workers.

García also explained that workers and farmers here have an inspiring example south of the border — revolutionary Nicaragua. There, she said, "the workers and farmers have taken governmental power and are running the country in their own interests."

## S.F. socialist supports Irish struggle

BY CARRIE SLOAN

SAN FRANCISCO — "Oh good, a socialist. Someone I can finally vote for," a young woman from Irish Northern Aid told Marilee Taylor, Socialist Workers candidate for California's 16th State Assembly District. Taylor was campaigning as contingents gathered March 18 for San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Taylor is a garment worker and activist in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 101. Campaign supporters from Kar Kar, a local electronic assembly plant, introduced her to John Moran, the business agent of their union, International Association of Machinists Local 1327. Moran, who lives in Hunter's Point, part of the 16th District, said he agreed with much of what Taylor had to say and would like to talk more about it.

A young man from the Na Fianna Eireann contingent at first refused to take one of the statements Taylor's campaign supporters were distributing, saying he wasn't registered to vote. When Taylor explained, "My campaign is about uniting to struggle against U.S. foreign policy in Central America and what Britain is doing in Ireland," he took a flyer and wished her good luck.

Taylor's statement called for releasing Irish freedom fighter Bill Quinn, who was refused bail three days earlier after being

jailed in the San Francisco Hall of Justice for two and a half years while Britain tries to extradite him. His supporters arrived at the parade in a double decker bus with a banner proclaiming "Peace In, Brits Out, Free Bill Quinn."

This was the first year that Central America solidarity activists were invited to participate as a contingent in the parade, marching with the Irish Northern Aid and H Block/Armagh committees.

Amid banners calling for "Free Ireland Now," "Support Women Prisoners of War in Armagh Prison," "Stop Honduran Troops Invasion in El Salvador," and "England Out of Ireland, U.S. Out of Central America — Mel Mason for President," the lively contingent chanted "No troops, no war, from Ireland to El Salvador!" Thousands of people crowded the sidewalks to watch the parade, and many cheered and raised clenched fists as the contingent of Salvadorans and those supporting the Irish freedom struggle marched by.

## Protests force end to racist frame-up of Geter

BY BEVERLY ANDALORA

DALLAS — The racist frame-up of Lenell Geter has finally come to an end.

The 26 year old Black engineer was convicted in August 1982 of robbing a Kentucky Fried Chicken in Balch Springs, Texas. He was sentenced by an all-white jury to life in prison, despite the fact that nine coworkers testified that Geter was at work during the robbery.

There were other obvious contradictions as well, which raised serious questions about the handling of the case by cops and the courts. (By Any Means Necessary column on page 15 discusses the cop frame-up and lessons of the case.)

After a great deal of national publicity last fall, Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade was pressured into releasing Geter from prison and granting him a new trial.

Last week another suspect was "found" in a Houston jail. Four of the five eyewitnesses who testified at Geter's trial picked Curtis Eugene Mason as the robber in a new police photo lineup. Since the only evidence against Geter was the eyewitness testimony, all charges against him were dropped.

Mason will now be charged with the hold-up. Many consider him a scapegoat in a case that had gotten politically embarrassing.

Geter's coworkers at the E-Systems, Inc. electronics war plant in Greenville, Texas, were relieved and excited about the final outcome. They had raised over \$10,000 for Geter's defense and supported him throughout his ordeal.

Wade, who refused to request the charges against Geter be dropped earlier in

the face of facts that proved Geter innocent, now maintains he did nothing wrong and owes no apology to Geter.

"I feel like I've done everything I can for him," he said. "Who else has done anything for him? ... He'd still be down there in the penitentiary if it hadn't been for me."

The U.S. Department of Justice is conducting an investigation to "determine whether there was a violation of federal civil rights laws."

Geter himself is considering a lawsuit for violation of civil rights. He hopes that it might help prevent further such violations.

As one coworker stated, "Lenell should never have been in jail. I feel that if they can do this to Lenell, they can do this to anybody. And you don't even have to be Black. You just have to suit their needs at the time."



# Utah miner runs for governor, hits new layoffs by coal bosses

BY GEORGES SAYAD

SALT LAKE CITY — March 23 the Socialist Workers 1984 campaign committee announced the candidacy of Cecelia Moriarity for governor of Utah. Moriarity works for Emery Mines Corp. in Emery County and is a member of United Mine Workers Local 2176. She is a founding member of the Utah Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Moriarity announced her campaign at a well-attended press conference on the state capitol steps. Both major dailies in the area, the Salt Lake Tribune and the Deseret News, as well as the Sun Advocate in Price, Utah, carried coverage of her announcement. Two TV stations and one radio station also attended the conference.

At campaign rallies March 23 in Salt Lake City and March 24 in Price, Moriarity explained that working people in Utah are facing a continuing crisis affecting their lives.

Unemployment remains at depression levels for the state's industrial workers. Thousands of steelworkers are laid-off at Kennecott Copper, the world's single largest copper mining operation, near Salt Lake City and at U.S. Steel's Geneva Works in Orem, Utah.

The Salt Lake Valley with its copper mine, smelters, and basic steel plants has one of the highest concentrations of members of the United Steelworkers of America.

In Price the coal industry has hundreds on layoff — pushing the unemployment rate to nearly 20 percent in Carbon and Emery counties where the coal mines are located.

The week of Moriarity's announcement, Emery Mines announced the shut-down of its Desbee Dove mine. Moriarity explained, "The mine was shut down by a fire caused by negligence on the part of the bosses. Now the company is using this as an excuse to streamline its operations and throw 100 miners out of work. The miners were not at fault, yet they have to pay."

Moriarity said that the crisis facing workers, from the war in Central America, to unemployment and loss of livestock and land for farmers, results directly from the economic and political system in this country. "The main thing in fighting back," she said, is "identifying the root of the problem — capitalism. Understanding that leads us to the source of the solutions."

"The capitalists, a tiny minority, own all the mines, factories, refineries and banks," she explained. "They are the ones who have control over how we're governed. They also maintain their power through the capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and the election process that is used to disenfranchise working people."

For example, Moriarity will not be eligible for ballot status because of a five-year residency requirement. This law effectively excludes tens of thousands of workers who came to the state from around the country in search of jobs.

Socialist Workers campaign supporters pledged to take the presidential and vice-presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, and the gubernatorial campaign of Cecelia Moriarity, to the coal miners in Price who will be facing a contract showdown this fall; to the copper miners at Kennecott where over 300 *Militants* have been sold in the last few months; and to garment, oil, steel, and rail workers throughout the Price and Salt Lake areas.

Some of these workers have already had the opportunity to talk to socialist campaigners as the Socialist Workers '84 campaign wrapped up its petitioning drive to get bal-

lot status for Mason and González.

The Utah ballot requirement for independent candidates consists of collecting 300 signatures. In one week of petitioning socialist campaigners collected over 745 signatures. This drive marked an important gain for the Utah socialist movement since it was the first time socialists had petitioned in Price.

Campaigners explained that the response in the streets had been the best ever. In Price, where close to 200 signatures were collected, campaigners reported that over 60 percent of those approached agreed to sign.



Cecelia Moriarity

## Socialist campaign fund goes over top



Striking hotel workers in Las Vegas. Mason and González sent message: "We stand in solidarity with you against hotel and casino operators. Your fight is example to all those facing givebacks, union-busting, and police harassment. We pledge to use our campaign to spread the word about your strike and build solidarity among working people."

BY YVONNE HAYES

The \$84,000 fund to launch the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González is over the top: \$85,495 has been donated by campaign supporters and, as the campaign wins even broader support, contributions will continue to come in.

Since the launching of the Mason-González campaign only three months ago,

thousands of working people have been introduced to socialist ideas for the first time. Many of them have begun to consider these ideas as they seek an explanation of the crisis we face and look for ways to fight back against the employers and their government.

A waitress in Las Vegas, Nevada, contacted the campaign this week to explain that she and her coworkers — stage hands,

musicians, bartenders, and culinary workers — would be going on strike against 50 hotel-casinos in the National Resort Association. (The strike began on April 2.) They are fighting for decent wages, benefits and hours. She wanted to know how Mason and González could help win support for their struggle.

This union activist explained that although there is not much organized working-class political activity in Las Vegas, there is a lot of interest in ideas like those of the socialist campaign. Many of her coworkers are Latinos, including a large number of Salvadorans and Nicaraguans, and efforts are being made to organize activity in solidarity with the Salvadoran people. She asked how she could help get out information on the Mason-González campaign and begin to win support for their program.

The recent national conference of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) was another example of the accomplishments of the socialist campaign in the first few months. The only people talking socialism at this conference, explaining the source of women's oppression, and pointing the way forward for women from a working-class point of view, were Mel Mason, Andrea González, and their campaign supporters.

Over 50 women heard the candidates explain the socialist strategy for the fight for women's rights at a reception hosted by the Mason-González campaign. Lively discussions took place among the unionists assembled at the reception, including a discussion — initiated by two members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union from the Milwaukee area — on how democracy works in Cuba and the prospects for workers and farmers gaining political power in the U.S.

The \$84,000 fund has made it possible for there to be a socialist campaign in the presidential election this year — a campaign to inspire working people with the potential for reshaping society and running it in our own interests. No other campaign is presenting this alternative. Instead, most people who identify themselves as socialists or progressives have mistakenly thrown their support to one of the capitalist campaigns of Mondale, Hart, or Jackson under the guise of dumping Reaganism.

The contributions of hundreds of socialist campaign supporters — workers in the big industrial centers, young people inspired by the vision of a socialist future, Blacks and Latinos fighting racist oppression, and women struggling for equality — have helped to put Mason and González on the road, taking the socialist program to workers and farmers around the country. The \$84,000 fund has helped ensure that the working class has a voice in the coming elections.

With \$13,409 in pledges outstanding, we want to continue the effort to raise funds for the socialist campaign. This money will help the campaign reach out more broadly — to more workers like the waitress in Las Vegas and the women who participated in the important discussions at the CLUW conference in Chicago. Collecting the entire \$98,904 pledged will make it possible to set our sights higher and win more support for the socialist program in '84.

## Socialist campaigners set 'Militant'-'PM' drive

Continued from front page

native to voting for the capitalist candidate with the least antilabor sounding positions?

That's why selling the *Militant* and *PM*, which take up these questions, is so important in this election year.

Ellen Haywood, a youth coordinator of the Mason-González campaign, participated in the petitioning efforts. She reports that after signing someone up, she would ask if they were interested in more literature on the campaign. If the answer was yes, she would show them the *Militant* or *PM*. Using this approach, she sometimes sold as many as 4-5 papers in an hour of petitioning. Campaign supporters are experimenting with other methods of introducing people to the socialist press while petitioning.

The election campaign and the sales drive will be strengthened by stepping up our sales of *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language newspaper of the socialist campaign. The section of the

working class that speaks and reads Spanish is also debating out whether or not the correct strategy in 1984 is to "dump Reagan at any cost." Spanish-speaking workers are thinking about the lessons of the Grenada revolution and those in Nicaragua and Cuba. The socialist campaign can reach out and actively involve these workers through sales of *PM*.

The sales campaign will provide an opportunity for socialists to expand their regular plant-gate sales and explore new places to sell in their cities and regions. While the union officialdom is endorsing Mondale as a "friend of labor," rank-and-file unionists are thinking through what political positions they'd like to see their unions take, and how this could help their concrete day-to-day struggles on and off the job. Plant-gate sales are an essential part of introducing these workers to the socialist campaign.

Through these sales, supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* have learned about and participated in the thinking-out process

workers are going through as their lives are deeply affected by layoffs, plant closings, and by the current recovery accompanied by vicious union-busting attacks. Some of these workers have been convinced of the *Militant* and *PM*'s working-class approach and look to these papers regularly for information and analysis of political events, and they play a valuable role in introducing socialist ideas to others.

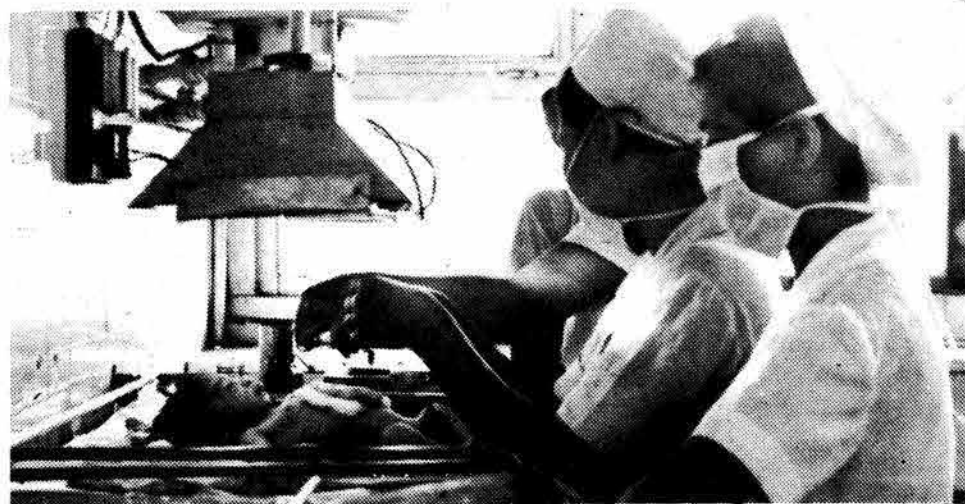
Through campaigning with the press around the presidential elections, more workers like these will be attracted to the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance. They will want to discuss more, and some will want to join the party or the youth group.

*Militant* readers can become involved in this effort by contacting the socialist campaign headquarters nearest you (see directory, page 13) or by writing the *Militant*'s circulation office at 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Help get out the socialist alternative in 1984!



# Effects of U.S. chemical war in Vietnam



Militant/Diane Wang

**Tying off umbilical cord of newborn at Tu Du Hospital. Tu Du is researching effects of Agent Orange and other chemicals sprayed by U.S. military. Rate of birth defects and miscarriages is much higher in villages heavily sprayed.**

**BY STEVE CLARK  
AND DIANE WANG**

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — The young woman was breathing with difficulty. She clutched a pillow under her arm. "This is Tran Thu Thuy," the doctor explained. "We operated for cancer of the uterus a while ago, but now it has spread to her lungs."

"She's only 26 years old," a nurse added.

Like most patients on the cancer ward here at Tu Du Maternity Hospital, Tran Thu Thuy is young. And like most others,

**Our correspondents Steve Clark and Diane Wang have just completed a several-week visit to Vietnam and Kampuchea. This is one of a number of articles by them that will appear in the next several weeks.**

she comes from an area of southern Vietnam that was heavily sprayed with Agent Orange and other chemical poisons by the U.S. government during the war.

In the next room, a 20-year-old woman was sleeping. Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, director of the hospital, told us that the young woman's uterus is covered with a massive, sponge-like growth called a hydatidiform mole. In the United States such hydatidiform moles are uncommon. In southern Vietnam, however, 80 times as many women develop these growths as in the United States. In fact, Vietnam has the highest incidence of this problem in the world, Dr. Phuong explained. Most victims come from areas targeted by the U.S. chemical warfare.

While in the United States only 3 percent of the hydatidiform moles develop into cancer, about 20-25 percent do in Vietnam. This is largely because Vietnam lacks the necessary anticancer drugs. "We have shortages of many things — modern equipment, anticancer drugs, antibiotics, digitalis," Dr. Phuong said. Washington, as part of its campaign to sabotage the Vietnamese revolution, has organized an economic embargo of this desperately poor



Militant/Diane Wang

**Examining chemical drum left from U.S. war against Vietnam. As much as 45 percent of southern Vietnam's forests were destroyed, and well-water and streams are still contaminated.**

country.

At the hospital we also visited Duc and Viet, Siamese twins born to a victim of chemical spraying. Dr. Phuong later showed us a specimen room, where formaldehyde-filled jars preserve many more Siamese twins stillborn at delivery, along with fetuses with no brains and missing organs.

## U.S. chemical war

Dr. Phuong has worked at Tu Du since 1969, and before that she served as an intern here for three years. She personally saw the rate of miscarriages, hydatidiform moles, birth defects, and cancers rise over the last 18 years as a consequence of the U.S. chemical warfare.

Dr. Phuong has also witnessed the positive changes in Tu Du hospital since the Vietnamese victory in 1975, however.

## 'After liberation, task is still great'

"The director here, Nguyen Van Lot, is one of the old 'Viet Cong' fighters," our guide told us when we arrived at the Ma Da Forest Plantation.

We were curious to meet such a man.

Nguyen Van Lot is not the "faceless communist" portrayed by the U.S. media during the 1960s and 1970s. His face is weather-worn, tough like leather. His clothes hang loose on a wiry body. His grey hair stands up a bit stiffly.

"I've lived most of my life in Ma Da Forest," the 61-year-old fighter told us. Though he was born in Saigon, he went to work in the forest as a young man.

In 1944, when he was 20 years old, Lot joined the Viet Minh, the united front for Vietnamese independence. Three years later he joined the liberation army to fight French efforts to maintain Vietnam as a colony following World War II.

Soon he fell ill to malaria, a common problem for the liberation army. Throughout the years that followed he suffered many relapses.

In 1954 Vietnam succeeded in defeating

"Before liberation," she said, "only indigent women came here to have babies, because the health care here was very bad. I admit that was the reality. The people who had money preferred to have their babies in the private maternities, so that they could receive more modern care."

"Since liberation, we have lacked many things, such as medicine and sometimes even doctors. But the way of taking care of patients is improved. Really, I am proud of this hospital and of its achievements," she told us.

Now the hospital serves 16 provinces. About 30 percent of its 16,000 deliveries last year were difficult cases. It has 650 beds and usually about 700 patients. With the shortage of beds, some babies have to share cribs. Yet despite these problems, infant and maternal mortality rates have gone down.

The hospital also carries out research work, especially into the effects of Agent Orange, its deadly ingredient dioxin, and other chemicals sprayed by the U.S. military.

In one study the doctors compared the rate of birth defects, fetal-uterine death, hydatidiform moles, and miscarriages in a village heavily sprayed with chemicals to the rate in a neighborhood of Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), which had not been sprayed. The people of the contaminated village had a much higher rate of every problem.

Then the doctors compared women at the hospital who had normal deliveries with those who suffered problems. Among the groups suffering miscarriages, hydatidiform moles, and babies with birth defects, the rate of exposure to the chemicals was much higher.

At an International Symposium on the Long-term Effects of Toxic Chemicals held in Ho Chi Minh City last year, scien-

tists from many countries examined the evidence and concluded that there is a relation between exposure to toxic chemicals and the rate of obstetric and gynecological abnormalities. "Because we do not currently have equipment sophisticated enough to detect dioxin levels in the blood and other tissues we cannot yet prove the direct role of dioxin itself," Dr. Phuong said.

The Vietnamese scientists are rigorous in their research. They are determined to make as scientifically documented a case as possible to unmask U.S. lies that minimize the consequences of chemical weapons.

## Lasting consequences

Actually, U.S. assistance and collaboration in researching these problems would help not only the Vietnamese, but also the many U.S. veterans who returned from Vietnam contaminated by Agent Orange, as well as U.S. farmers, farm workers, and chemical workers who have been poisoned by dioxin.

Dr. Phuong said that more than 2 million Vietnamese were contaminated by Agent Orange. Five to 10 percent of the cultivated land in southern Vietnam was sprayed. While the poison has seeped deep enough into the land that rice and crops with short roots are no longer dangerous, the trees, well water, and streams are still contaminated.

Some 40 to 45 percent of south Vietnam's forests were destroyed by chemical spraying during the U.S. war. This has had long-term consequences for both Vietnam's agriculture and industry. Droughts and floods were made worse, since treeless lands could not retain water or soil. Industry, such as mining, has suffered from the shortage of timber.

**Continued on Page 7**

the French and liberating the northern half of the country from imperialist domination. Lot joined others in the liberation forces who withdrew to the North.

But in 1960 he returned to the South as part of the National Liberation Front (NLF). By that time, Ma Da Forest was owned by the notorious family of South Vietnamese Premier Ngo Dinh Diem. They built a road through the forest, not just to get at the timber but, more importantly, to get at the NLF fighters. The U.S. army built five outposts along the road and sprayed the forest heavily with chemicals to try to flush out the revolutionaries. But the freedom fighters held on.

Finally, having won the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops in 1973, the Vietnamese liberation forces launched an offensive to liberate the entire country in March and April 1975. Nguyen Van Lot took part in the battle of Xuan Loc, about 45 miles north of Saigon. The U.S.-backed South Vietnamese regime declared its troops would make a big stand there to reverse the tide of revolutionary victories.

"But when we attacked, the puppet forces didn't want to fight," Lot recalled. "We just chased them to Bien Hoa and then south to Saigon. People stood alongside the road cheering and urging us on."

April 30, 1975 — the day the NLF entered Saigon, and Vietnam was finally free — is vivid in Lot's memory. "There had been so much suffering during the war," he said. "But that day the people were cheering, the enemy was running, and supporters were bringing food from their houses to feed the soldiers. I was very happy."

It was only after the victory that Lot was married, in 1976. But he didn't "retire" from the revolution. "After liberation, the task is still very great," he said. "Now the task is to rebuild the country and raise the living standards of the people. Many questions are raised by the people about their living conditions, and these questions must be answered and their demands met."

Lot has returned to Ma Da Forest to try to bring it back to life. He directs the plantation project, a state farm with 800 workers.

Sitting in the plantation's restaurant by

the river ferry, Nguyen Van Lot made an appeal. "Please work, do everything you can to stop another war," he said. "Another war could escalate into a war in which I would die, and you, and all of us." Seven months ago the plantation held a demonstration for world peace. "The U.S. imperialists must stop their aggressive wars against the world's people," he concluded.

The United States government couldn't win such a war against Vietnam. Nguyen Van Lot and the many like him show why.

— S.C. and D.W.



Militant/Diane Wang

**Nguyen Van Lot fought as part of Vietnamese liberation forces for three decades. Following liberation, Lot is coordinating effort to reforest areas destroyed by U.S. chemical warfare.**



# 'We need to win the majority to peace'

## ACTWU discusses Central America war

BY PETE SEIDMAN

MILWAUKEE — "The real threat to the working people of this country is not from freedom fighters in El Salvador or a victorious revolution in Nicaragua. The real threat is from an economic system we were taught was our benefactor but which in fact has become a beast out of control."

In these words, Noel Beasley, business manager of the Textile Division of the Chicago Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), summed up the major theme of a March 18 meeting here on "Labor, Runaway Shops, and U.S. Policy in Central America."

The meeting was attended by 50 people from at least 15 different Milwaukee-area trade union locals. It was sponsored by the Labor Outreach Committee of the Central America Solidarity Coalition here as well as ACTWU Local 64. The event was hosted by District 10 of the International Association of Machinists.

Charlie Dee, an executive board member of Local 212 of the American Federation of Teachers, chaired the meeting.

Dee explained that the issue of plant closings and runaway shops is a burning one in Wisconsin. Many major manufacturing firms in the state have moved plants to Central America and Mexico, including Rexnord, A.O. Smith, Square D, Cutler-Hammer, and Kimberly-Clark.

Beasley explained why places like El Salvador have become such "a haven for free enterprise."

Since the 1950s, he said, El Salvador has rapidly become the most industrialized country in Central America. U.S. corporations own 80 percent of the country's firms, which are concentrated heavily in food processing and textiles.

These operations are highly profitable. For example, "outside the capital city of San Salvador," Beasley reported, "is a 'free-trade zone' where some 3,000 workers earn an average of \$2.40 per day. This was, according to one study, only 40 percent of the income needed to support a typical family."

At the same time, "trade unions have been outlawed, labor leaders arrested, and the whole population subjected to bestial slaughter."

"There is no need to import social unrest to a country like that," Beasley explained — countering the Kissinger commission report's claim that the fundamental cause of El Salvador's troubles is Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet subversion.

"Also, government war spending has contributed to union-busting indirectly because military dollars are disproportionately spent in southern and southwestern states that are union-free havens," Beasley argued.

He explained that we need a policy of "saving jobs without war."

"We need to begin by demanding an end to U.S. aid to the junta in El Salvador."

"We need a policy that takes money from the \$1.6 trillion military budget for blowing up the planet and uses it to create jobs instead."

"We need to reestablish our old union slogan, 'an injury to one is an injury to all,' on an international level."

"Another slogan that must be resurrected is that 'no worker can be free while others are in chains.' No worker can compete with slavery."

Using such arguments, Beasley concluded, "we need to win a majority of people in our country to the side of peace."

Fernando Rodríguez, a representative of the Chicago office of the El Salvadoran Trade Unionists in Exile, provided an exciting account of the strikes recently carried out by Salvadoran working people. Before being forced to flee his country, Rodríguez was the first secretary of grievances for the Union of Food and Milk Production Industries in El Salvador.

Rodríguez's story underscored the common interests of North American and Salvadoran workers in fighting U.S.-backed exploitation that is an incentive to runaway shops to El Salvador.

El Salvador's unions have not let the U.S.-staged elections there sidetrack their struggles against brutal working conditions and low wages. "The striking unions have called on all their affiliates not to participate in the elections," reported Rodríguez. "They told the Salvadoran government that the elections are not the manner to resolve the crisis. The solution instead is to form a provisional government that will have the participation of all the sectors of society. This provisional government then could call for genuine elections," Rodríguez stated.

Bob Gifford, an unemployed member of the International Association of Machinists and editor of the AFL-CIO's *La Crosse Union Herald*, also spoke. He participated in a recent trade union delegation that spent a week in Nicaragua.

"Let me tell you," he began. "There aren't going to be any factories running from this country to Nicaragua! Since Somoza was overthrown, the Nicaraguans have organized 1,000 unions. Eighty percent of the workers there are in unions now, while our problem here is just holding on to what we've got."

Gifford read a call by Nicaraguan unions to an international union conference on peace to be held in Managua in April. He cited the concern of Nicaraguan leaders that "although there are numerous big peace demonstrations around the world, the trade unions have not yet been heard of as an international force for peace."

"This conference is an example of what we all should be doing now," Gifford urged. He criticized the actions of the AFL-CIO in Central America carried out in conjunction with the Central Intelligence Agency through the American Institute for Free Labor Development. These foreign policies, he said, are not only wrong, but make it impossible for labor to solve its problems at home.

We can't deal with runaway shops through plant-closing legislation alone, Gifford insisted, "the cancer is too great."

Among the new ways of defending and transforming the labor movement, Gifford said, is building the trade union conference in Nicaragua as well as working to get trade union audiences for Salvadoran unionists in the United States.

## Effects of chemical war in Vietnam

Continued from Page 6

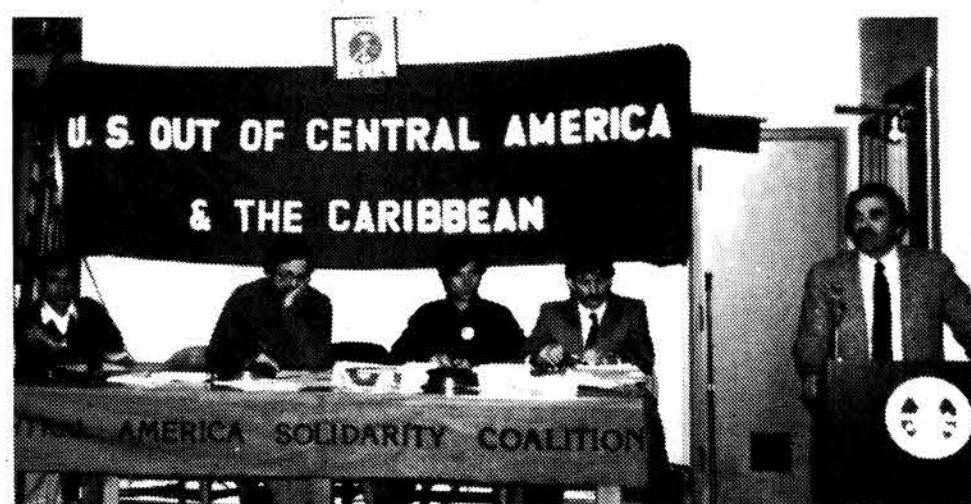
Ma Da Forest, close to the former U.S. military base at Bien Hoa, suffered the heaviest chemical spraying during the war. "When you step onto this land," a local guide told us, "you put your feet on the revolutionary century" in Vietnam. For decades Vietnamese freedom fighters found refuge in this forest, which stretches from northern to southern Vietnam and west to Kampuchea and Laos. Because it was so close to Bien Hoa and Saigon, the U.S. military tried to defoliate the forest in the 1960s in order to detect and destroy the revolutionaries.

Before the U.S. war, Ma Da was a lush forest with giant trees one or two yards in diameter. It was home for monkeys, deer, and other wildlife. Today a few of the old trees stand here or there as a reminder of the old glory. The rest of the land is covered only by wild grasses or saplings planted since the war.

Nguyen Van Lot, director of the reforestation project, led us through the grasses to a dried-up riverbed. An old, rusty chemical drum still had traces of its markings to show it was made in the United States.

The heavy spraying came in 1967 and 1968, Lot said. The forest was destroyed, and the resulting change in the climate now makes it very difficult to replant. The land, parched during the six-month dry season, is quickly eroded when the rains do come. During our visit it was all very dry, red dust settling on everything.

In some areas the project has planted quick-growing banana trees to fight erosion. The kind of tree that formerly dominated the forest doesn't seem to do well, so



Militant/Nancy Cole

Left to right: Fernando Rodríguez, El Salvadoran Trade Unionists in Exile; Bob Gifford, editor of *La Crosse Union Herald*; Daryl Holter, Wisconsin AFL-CIO staff representative; Charlie Dee, American Federation of Teachers Local 212. At podium, Noel Beasley, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

## Union leader explains why labor is concerned about El Salvador

BY DAVE PAPARELLO

ATLANTA — Over 100 people filled an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers auditorium March 23 to hear Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) leader David Dyson. Dyson, ACTWU's Union Label director, was part of a delegation of U.S. trade unionists that made a fact-finding tour of El Salvador in June 1983.

The delegation included national leaders of ACTWU, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, National Education Association, and the United Auto Workers. The delegation's report was adopted by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador and is available in print.

Dyson was introduced by Bruce Raynor, ACTWU international vice-president and southern regional director-textile division. In his introduction, Raynor offered some answers to the question "why is ACTWU concerned about Central America?"

Raynor cited the growing number of U.S. companies closing U.S. operations and moving to locations in Central America and the Caribbean. Manhattan Shirts Co., for example, moved from South Carolina to El Salvador where the current wage for sewing is 27 cents per hour.

"Another reason," Raynor added, "is that perhaps labor should have spoken out earlier against the war in Vietnam. The

situation is similar today."

In his talk, Dyson described a labor movement functioning under severe repression by the Salvadoran dictatorship and the right-wing death squads.

"We went down to find out what had happened to the labor movement in El Salvador. We found a labor movement barely alive and badly fragmented. Even the UPD (People's Democratic Union), the pro-reform federation linked with the Christian Democratic Party, fears the right, and their members carry guns under their *guayaberas* [shirts] for protection against the death squads."

He related an interview with a union leader named Santiago. They met at 1 a.m. in a textile union hall that had been bombed three times in the past. Santiago explained that the officers had to burn the membership list to keep it from the death squads. Each person memorized five names and used only public telephones to contact members for meetings.

In the late 1970s, when the labor movement began to win some victories, the government responded with antilabor decrees.

"Decree 296," said Dyson, "stated that government employees did not have the right to strike. Of course, we're familiar with that, too."

"Then there is Decree 507 that effectively established a state of siege. The media often overlook the part of this decree that states that confessions gained by torture are admissible in court."

"Later they issued Decree 44, which dissolved the electrical workers union called STECEL. Imagine, waking up one morning and reading in the papers that your union was just declared illegal!"

Dyson also detailed a visit by the delegation to Mariona Prison where many trade unionists, including the leadership of STECEL, are incarcerated.

The delegation met with 44 unionists at the prison. Dyson announced that a national network would be put together to work for the freeing of the trade unionists, such as the STECEL leaders.

"The only freedom we're [the U.S. government] fighting for in El Salvador is freedom for the oligarchy and the multinationals to exploit the Salvadoran people," said Dyson.

"When reporters asked me, 'why is labor interested in El Salvador,' I answered, 'because it's the right thing to do.' Many of the people we met with are dead now."

Dyson concluded with the appeal, "No more military aid to El Salvador, no more runaway shops, no more young men sent to die in old men's wars."

The program, organized by the Atlanta Labor Committee for Peace and Justice in Central America, also included the film *Americas in Transition* and live music.

The Atlanta Labor Committee, composed of union members and officials, received broad labor endorsement for the event, including United Auto Workers Regional Office; International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 32; Amalgamated Transit Union Local 732; Clarence Atkins, Communications Workers of America Local 3204; and others.

Dave Paparello works at the Arrow Shirt Co. He's a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365.



# Nicaraguan rightists oppose election laws

## 16 year olds, all military personnel given right to vote

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — An election code of 163 articles is now on the books here after three weeks of heated debate in the Council of State. The final article was approved March 15.

As a whole, the law bends the stick in favor of the smaller political parties, thus trying to ensure the political pluralism that exists here. For example:

- No signatures are required for ballot status (a change from the original draft law, which required 5,000 signatures).
- Each political party that runs a full slate of candidates will receive \$600,000 in government financing. In addition, all parties have the right to solicit additional campaign funds both in Nicaragua and abroad.
- Each party is guaranteed an equal share in 15 minutes of television time daily, and in 15 minutes daily on each of 16 state-owned radio stations. As well, during the course of the campaign each party may purchase up to 30 minutes of broadcast time on privately owned radio stations.
- To ensure the best representation of political parties in the new assembly, losing presidential candidates, should they receive enough votes to win a representative's seat, will automatically be seated as such.
- The residency requirement for candidates stipulated in the original draft has been dropped, thus allowing an opposition figure such as former junta member Arturo Cruz (who's currently living outside of Nicaragua) to participate should he choose to.
- All parties may have observers at each of some 5,000 polling booths.

### Right wing says elections 'too soon'

Still, those who cried the loudest for the elections are terribly unhappy. The elections, which they previously claimed were scheduled too far off in the future, are now being held "too soon."

By contrast, many of these right-wing forces, including the Managua daily *La Prensa*, have hailed the U.S.-orchestrated elections in El Salvador as a "triumph for democracy."

Some of the right-wing parties walked out of the Council of State midway through the discussion on the election law because of "a disagreement over the election of a presidential regime the Sandinista government is seeking to impose in the upcoming November elections, violating the judicial norms established in the original government program."

That's how *La Prensa* explained the departure of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), followed by the Council on Trade Union Unification's (CUS) delegate, and later on the Social Christian (PSC), Liberal Constitutionalist (PLC), and Conservative Democrat (PCD) representatives.

While claiming that holding presidential

and national assembly elections simultaneously is undemocratic, the right-wing's beef is much more deep-rooted.

### List preconditions

This was made clear by the right's "preconditions" spelled out for the umpteenth time on the eve of the election date announcement. In essence, they are as follows:

- A "national dialogue" and "general amnesty" for "all Nicaraguans" including those leading the armed counterrevolution.
- Complete separation between the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the government.
- Dismantling of the mass organizations, especially the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS).
- Repeal of decrees authorizing confiscation of absentee owners and owners caught participating in the economic sabotage.
- Immediate suspension of the State of Emergency.
- No vote for members of the army or militia.
- Minimum voting age of 18, not 16.

These demands gave rise to a suffrage movement to ensure the 16-year-old vote as well as a movement to demand international law be used to extradite and sentence counterrevolutionary leaders.

Sixteen-year-olds as well as army and militia members are now guaranteed voting rights under the new law.

A television spot explains that nothing could be more natural than the army voting: In Mexico, Cuba, Spain, USSR, Portugal, Sweden, France, the United States, Costa Rica, and now in Nicaragua, "the armed citizens have equal rights."

A big complaint of the right wing has been the fact that after the 1979 insurrection the Sandinista National Liberation Front took over ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza's two and only existing television stations. A new decree, issued February 10, made these stations the property of the Nicaraguan government.

### No legitimate complaints

The truth is the right wing is in a bind because they have no legitimate complaints.

Commander Dora María Téllez explained the situation this way to a group of students here March 19. The right wing "said the elections would be like honey, but now they are running away as if it were a purgative" and, she added, "they are going to have to drink it."

Reminding the students that these forces have nothing to offer but their miserable history of abandonment of popular struggles, she pointed out "that's why they're happy and applauding the electoral process in El Salvador, which is nothing more than a bayonet rammed in the backs of the Sal-



Militant/Michael Baumann

Young soldiers celebrating 4th anniversary of Nicaraguan revolution. Right wing is demanding that 16 and 17 year olds and those who are defending revolution arms in hand be denied the right to vote. Rightists also demand that counterrevolutionary leaders who terrorize workers and peasants be permitted to participate in elections.

vadoran people."

These forces "are searching for a way to discredit the revolution and the election process and are accusing us of making the elections a big trap," Téllez said. "The FSLN doesn't need to make a trap to win." The only trap the FSLN will need to make is one to ensure votes for the parties that won't get 30,000 votes, she said.

Thirty thousand votes is the minimum needed to gain a representative in the national assembly. Parties that don't manage to elect at least one representative may lose their legal standing.

Téllez joked that in the end the FSLN may wind up asking people to "please vote for such-and-such a party, just so the parties don't disappear and political pluralism is maintained."

A final complaint of the right wing is that the campaign will not last long enough. (It is scheduled to officially begin in May and end November 4.)

The March 2 editorial in the FSLN daily *Barricada* explains that "a prolonged campaign — rather than favoring pluralism and the ideological struggle — can be voluntarily or involuntarily turned into a maneuver distracting people's attention from central tasks."

On the other hand, "a campaign of reasonable length will contribute to the discussion and to widening of Nicaraguan democracy without affecting its stability, something that all political currents should agree on."

### Ideological struggle advancing

As *Barricada* predicted, the ideological struggle is advancing — between and within political parties and among the population as a whole.

Divisions such as those in the Independent Liberal, Liberal Constitutionalist, and Conservative parties, are surfacing more publicly. Minorities in those parties are considered to be too pro-FSLN. For example, *La Prensa* often refers to Conservative Party leader Rafael Córdova Rivas, who is a member of the three-person government junta, as a "watermelon" — green (the color of the Conservative Party) on the outside, red on the inside.

The Independent Liberal Party (PLI), one of the four parties that make up the Revolutionary Patriotic Front (FPR), has announced it will run separately, as opposed to the possibility of running in a bloc with other parties of the FPR.

(The other parties in the FPR are the FSLN, the Socialist Party, and the People's Social Christian Party. It has not yet been announced whether these three parties will run separately or as a joint slate. Nor has any party yet named its candidate for president or vice-president.)

At the recent convention, 70 percent of the PLI delegates reelected Virgilio Godoy as head of their party and, de facto, as their

presidential candidate. Godoy has served as the revolutionary government's minister of labor for four and a half years.

When he resigned his government post in mid-March in order to devote all his energies to his party, *La Prensa* ran giant headlines across its front page insinuating that he was rejecting working inside the revolutionary government.

The next day, *Barricada* ran statements of both Godoy and government coordinator Daniel Ortega, expressing mutual understanding about Godoy's resignation and the reasons for it.

### Right wing attacks Contadora group

The "Democratic Coordinating Committee," an umbrella organization made up of three right-wing political parties, two rightist union federations, and a number of big-business groups, has been busy campaigning outside Nicaragua but not doing that well there either.

For example, their president, millionaire businessman Ramiro Gurguán attacked the Contadora group "because they are only interested in the external situation and not the internal." (The Contadora group, comprising Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, is trying to negotiate a peace settlement in Central America.)

Speaking in Caracas, Venezuela, Gurguán then went on to attack Mexico's ambassador in Managua, whom he referred to as the "10th commander." (The top FSLN leadership consists of the Directorate of nine commanders.)

The Coordinating Committee is particularly worried because leaders of the Second International such as Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and former West German Chancellor Willi Brandt have spoken favorably of the elections here and urged full participation in them.

The Coordinating Committee's chief ally besides businessmen is the Catholic church hierarchy, which has already declared it will not be "impartial" about the elections. The seven members of the Bishop's Conference are expected to issue a statement concerning the elections shortly.

As if a democratic election code was nonexistent, Managua's Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo told reporters shortly after its approval, "for there to be a just and honest election, it's necessary to have a climate of complete freedom of expression, so that the parties can make their programs known."

Apparently, the archbishop felt freer to express himself in the capital of U.S.-occupied Honduras — Tegucigalpa — than he did in Managua. Not surprising, given that Tegucigalpa is a major center for so-called undercover actions to the tune of tens of millions of dollars against his own country, Nicaragua.

## 13 sentenced for attacks on peasants

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The revolutionary government here has taken firm measures to make clear it will not tolerate abuses of the peasant population by soldiers or civilians.

Thirteen people, including four members of the Sandinista Army, were sentenced March 11 for crimes including murder, rape, robbery, physical abuse, and death threats against residents of the agricultural village of Pantasma.

Sentences ranged as high as 14 years for a sergeant convicted of rape, and 24 years for a civilian convicted of murder.

Pantasma, located in the northern province of Jinotega, was the site of a counter-revolutionary attack October 18 in which 42 peasants were massacred and the town was thoroughly ransacked.

The crimes committed were carried out only a few days prior to the attack. Several of the acts of physical abuse were carried out by individuals who had themselves lost relatives to counterrevolutionary attacks.

Nevertheless, said Commander Juan José Ubeda, who read out the sentences,

these crimes are "outside the concept of the revolution."

While stating that "these are isolated incidents," Ubeda said that citizens should have confidence that the revolutionary authorities will take severe action concerning "all crimes committed against the people."

A more general problem, a militia leader who had just returned from the mountains told the *Militant*, is the lack of understanding some urban militia recruits have of life in the countryside.

"Some peasants," he said, "can be on the knife edge between the revolution and the counterrevolution. What might seem like a little thing, like a militia member taking a pig and 'forgetting' to pay for it, can sometimes make the difference in pushing a peasant over to the side of the counterrevolution."

Coverage of the sentencing was featured on the front page of the Sandinista Front daily *Barricada* as well as on national television preceding and following the event.

Referring to the three-hour public meeting where the sentences were both read and explained, Commander Ubeda said, "this is an act of revolutionary justice."



# New terrorist attack on Nicaraguan ports

Continued from front page

explosions or shelling in Nicaraguan ports since early March. In one of the most serious incidents, five crew members of a Soviet oil tanker were injured when their vessel hit a mine March 20.

All three of Nicaragua's major ports have been repeatedly mined in what the government has denounced as the "beginning of a military blockade."

"The United States is trying to paralyze the country," Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the revolutionary government, charged March 31. At a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council held April 2 to hear Nicaragua's charges, France, Mexico, China, Zimbabwe, Syria, India, and Guyana joined in the protest.

Economically, the attack on Nicaragua's foreign trade comes just as the country is preparing to export its most important agricultural products — cotton, coffee, and sugar.

Militarily, it comes as more than 1,000 U.S. troops begin a new series of military "maneuvers" in Honduras. The maneuvers began April 1, and the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry estimates that the new arrivals bring to a total of more than 4,000 the number of U.S. forces in Honduras.

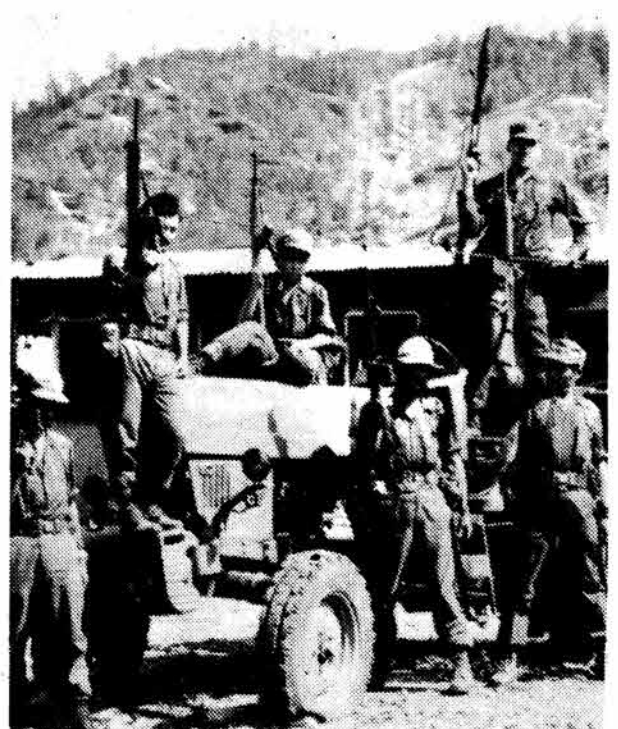
This includes, says Vice-foreign Minister Víctor Tinoco, 700 left over from the last maneuvers, 600 operating two radar stations, the 1,000 just sent in, and an "unknown number sent to the border with El Salvador."

Despite the recent shake-up in the Honduran army's high command, the maneuvers are going ahead as planned. Whatever the internal rifts in the military, the apparent new strong man, Air Force chief Gen. Walter López, is described as just as "pro-U.S." as dismissed Gen. Gustavo Álvarez.



Militant/Michael Baumann

**Funeral for Sandinista killed by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. U.S. has escalated attacks on Nicaragua with each set of "war games" with Honduras. Right, counterrevolutionaries on Honduran border.**



These latest U.S. troop movements, says Humberto Ortega, Commander in Chief of the Sandinista Armed Forces, mean that the United States "now has in place [everything needed for] an intervention that could break out at any moment. Their ships are off our coasts. Their forces are in Honduras. Their paratroopers are ready to attack."

In the past, each stage of the U.S.-Honduran "war games" has been the prelude to a significant increase in *contra* (counter-revolutionary) activity. That's because the

"games" provide a convenient cover for the shipment of large quantities of arms and equipment to the U.S.-organized *contra* forces.

A second factor confirming the likelihood of greatly increased attacks is the recent escalation of U.S. spy flights. More than 70 U.S. aircraft were spotted carrying out reconnaissance flights over northern Nicaragua in the last weeks of March. The aim of such flights is to pinpoint the location of Sandinista forces so as to facilitate the entry of *contra* squads.

There are indications that the first stages of a major military operation may have already begun.

Since the first week of March, *contras* based in Honduras have been carrying out stepped up incursions deep into Nicaraguan territory. Fighting is taking place on a daily basis along much of the northern border. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, small towns have been hit, civilians have been massacred, cooperatives burned to the ground.

Outside the larger cities, travel and commerce have been hit hard by the increase in terror attacks. In the bustling northern border city of Ocotal, for example, life continues more or less as normal.

Yet during a recent visit there this reporter and a photographer from *U.S. News and World Report* could not find a single driver willing to make a trip into the mountains to the south — even for a sum equivalent to two months pay.

One *contra* squad was as close as the outskirts of the town. They had murdered an unarmed civilian that morning. And it was rumored that some of the back roads had been planted with land mines.

The mining of Nicaragua's harbors is a new element in the United States' rapidly expanding war. The obvious aim is to persuade ship owners to cancel contracts that require entering the country's ports.

To prevent this, Nicaraguan fishermen have volunteered to risk their lives and livelihoods to assure the safe passage of commercial vessels. Each ship, as it enters a Nicaraguan port, is now preceded by two small fishing boats, dragging a net weighted with chains between them. If there is a mine in the channel, they will strike it first.

Three of the 18 fishing boats that have been converted into homemade "mine sweepers" have so far been sunk on these missions. But 27 mines have been deactivated. And Nicaragua's ports remain open.

## INS attacks Salvadoran sanctuary program

BY ELSA BLUM

SAN ANTONIO — A nun and a religious social worker could be sentenced to 15-year jail sentences and hit with fines totaling \$14,000. They were indicted by a federal grand jury in Brownsville, Texas, on March 15 for conspiracy and illegal transportation of two Salvadoran refugees.

The February 19 predawn arrest of Sister Dianne Muhlenkamp and layworker Stacey Merkt by border patrol agents on a rural road in Texas' Rio Grande Valley made front-page headlines here.

Also arrested, but not indicted pending further investigation, was Jack Fischer, a *Dallas Times-Herald* reporter. He was on assignment covering the informal network of religious people, churches, and organizations known as the Sanctuary Movement, which aids Salvadorans fleeing from their war-torn homeland.

In 1982 there were 15 churches of various denominations around the U.S. publicly defying the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to provide sanctuary. Today there are approximately 110 such churches in 60 cities.

This case may be "the political trial of 1984," said Jack Elder, director of Casa Oscar Romero, a refugee center in San Benito, where the arrested Salvadorans had been staying.

Casa Oscar Romero, named for the Salvadoran archbishop slain by a government death squad, is a small, single-story white building that provides a refuge for 25-30 Salvadorans.

This sanctuary provides an alternative to what lies in store for refugees apprehended by *la migra* — the INS — and sent to the Los Fresnos detention camp known as "El Corralón."

When this concentration camp opened two years ago it could hold 175 people. It now holds 700 in overcrowded conditions.

Recent visitors described the orange jumpsuits detainees must wear, the triple doors, and the dollar-a-day pay for those who decide that kitchen, yard, or janitorial work is at least a way to pass time.

There is no radio, and TV is only in English. The INS confiscates pens and pencils and the refugees must go to the office to write their letters there.

In "good weather" the young men must

stay outside all day — it's too much trouble to let them in and out — and there are no bathrooms for their use while outside.

Activists in the Border Association for Refugees from Central America (BARCA) provide paper and envelopes, cash checks, and help handle mail and telephone calls for detainees, who sometimes stay at Los Fresnos as long as eight months while the INS reviews their cases or before they can raise the \$2,500-\$5,000 bond.

Lawyers with Proyecto Libertad have filed suit against the INS for routinely refusing to advise Central American refugees of their rights to a hearing and to apply for political asylum.

The camp averages 60-75 deportations a week. Salvadoran security forces and right-wing death squads view the returning young men with suspicion, and many, perhaps most, face torture and death upon their return to El Salvador.

INS Deputy Director Dave Turner agreed to allow Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Andrea González and four supporters to tour the camp.

Permission was rescinded when the INS

placed the center under quarantine due to a measles outbreak.

Health department officials and BARCA members confirmed that several cases of measles had been discovered. To the local solidarity activists it came as no surprise.

Los Fresnos camp doctors reluctantly provide medical care, in some cases allowing weeks to go by before examining detainees.

Elder welcomes the growing interest in and support for Casa Oscar Romero, but explains that compared to the magnitude of the problem "what we're doing is insignificant in terms of actually assisting refugees."

"Whether or not the house is here, the refugees will come so long as violence in El Salvador, which the Reagan administration supports, continues."

The legal fight developing between the INS and the Sanctuary Movement promises to focus more public attention on the inhumane treatment Salvadoran refugees face at the hands of *la migra*, and also on U.S. complicity in the fate awaiting those who are deported.

## 300 at Seattle Central America teach-in

BY DEAN PEOPLES AND FRANCINE BARR

SEATTLE — Several events in solidarity with struggles in Central America were recently held in Seattle.

On March 22 some 30 people attended a slide show and presentation by José Colato, hosted by the Seattle Committee of Teachers in Solidarity with ANDES, the Salvadoran teachers union.

Colato, a former member of the faculty of the National University of El Salvador and a member of ANDES, explained how ANDES has been conducting a literacy campaign in El Salvador inside the "zones of control," and in the refugee camps in countries outside El Salvador. He pointed out that both in Cuba and Nicaragua, literacy campaigns were undertaken immediately after the victory, but the Salvadoran teachers were organizing their literacy campaign even *before* the triumph.

On March 24 a Central America Teach-In was held, which was attended by about 300 people. One of the speakers was Rev.

E. Randel Osburn, vice-president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who recently visited Nicaragua.

Rev. Osburn said he is occasionally asked by the media why he is involved in the solidarity movement. He said that behind this question was an attitude that Blacks should not be getting involved in foreign policy questions. But, he said, Black people have every right to express their opinions on foreign policy. He said one good reason is because Blacks are always sent to the front lines to fight Washington's wars, where they die in higher numbers to their proportion in society. He said "old white men in Washington are voting for wars" that we have to fight, unlike in Nicaragua where "the people are making the decisions."

Rev. Osburn said he feared that many U.S. soldiers would die if the United States carries out an invasion of Nicaragua. He said, "Nicaragua is prepared at every level to fight an invasion — it would not be another Grenada."

Osburn recalled a conversation he had with a Black woman while visiting the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. She told him they would welcome Blacks who come in friendship to visit Nicaragua, as he did, but that those who crossed their borders in uniforms, carrying guns, would be killed.

Also on March 24, Manuel Arana, international affairs representative from Nicaragua, spoke to about 100 people at a reception at the Bush Hotel. Arana detailed how the U.S. military presence in Honduras is aiding the Salvadoran regime in its battle against the popular forces: monitoring rebel troop movements at night with infrared sensors, mapping the entire country in detail with reconnaissance flights, and organizing a military strike force involving Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran troops.

March 25, the same day that so-called democratic elections were being conducted in El Salvador, about 500 people marched in a procession in memory of slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero.



# U.S. steps up intervention in North Africa

## Sends warplanes to Sudan, warns Libya of 'serious consequences'

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In a further escalation of U.S. intervention in North Africa, Washington has rushed new military aid to the Sudanese government of Pres. Gaafar al-Nimeiry.

It has done so to bolster Nimeiry's proimperialist regime against domestic opposition forces — including a resurgence of rebel actions in the south — as well as to threaten the government of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi in neighboring Libya.

The pretext for this move was the March 16 bombing of several buildings in Omdurman (part of the Khartoum metropolitan area) by an unidentified aircraft, in which five people were killed. Nimeiry quickly blamed Qaddafi for the raid, as did the Reagan administration in Washington. The Libyan government has denied the charge.

Two U.S. AWACS surveillance planes were dispatched to Egypt, supposedly to strengthen the Sudan's air defenses, but in fact as a provocation against Libya. Washington sent a note to Libya warning of "serious consequences" if anything happened to the two planes.

Throughout the week after the bombing, giant U.S. C-141 transport planes flew into a military airfield north of Khartoum with radar equipment, missiles, and Egyptian troops. The Egyptian regime, another close ally of Washington's in the region, has provided considerable military assistance to Nimeiry over the past few years.

This stepped-up imperialist involvement in the Sudan fits in with a broader pattern of U.S. threats, provocations, and direct acts of aggression against Libya in recent years. Washington hates the Qaddafi government, which has defied U.S. dictates in the region and provided backing to anti-imperialist fighters in numerous countries, including Chad, the Western Sahara, and the Sudan itself.

The March 16 bombing in Omdurman has all the earmarks of a set-up designed to justify this U.S. aggression. The official account of the bombing leaves many questions unanswered.

How was it possible for a plane to fly from the Kufra airbase in Libya to Omdurman and back — a distance of more than 1,600 miles — without being challenged by Sudanese air defenses?

Was the plane really a Soviet-made Tupolev bomber (Libya is the only country in the region known to have them), as the Sudanese and U.S. authorities claim? Some eyewitnesses insist it was not.

And why was the home of Sadiq al-Mahdi, an imprisoned opponent of Nimeiry's, a target of the bombing? This fact was omitted from the official account.

According to a report from Khartoum in the March 24 London *Economist*, "Not a few Sudanese find the official version of the attack hard to swallow. Mr Nimeiry often cries wolf and blames Colonel Qaddafi when things go wrong. So several conspiracy theories are circulating in Khartoum. Was it not a Tupolev at all but a Sudanese aircraft flown by dissident air

force men? Was it the prelude to a planned coup? The leader of one of the southern Sudanese opposition movements promptly accused Mr Nimeiry of ordering the bombing of Omdurman in order to whip up local, and Egyptian, support."

Whatever the case, the bombing came at a convenient time for Nimeiry. Just two weeks earlier, Gen. Omar Mohammed el-Tayeb, his first vice-president, was in Washington to request new U.S. arms. He met with Vice-pres. George Bush, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of State George Shultz, and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

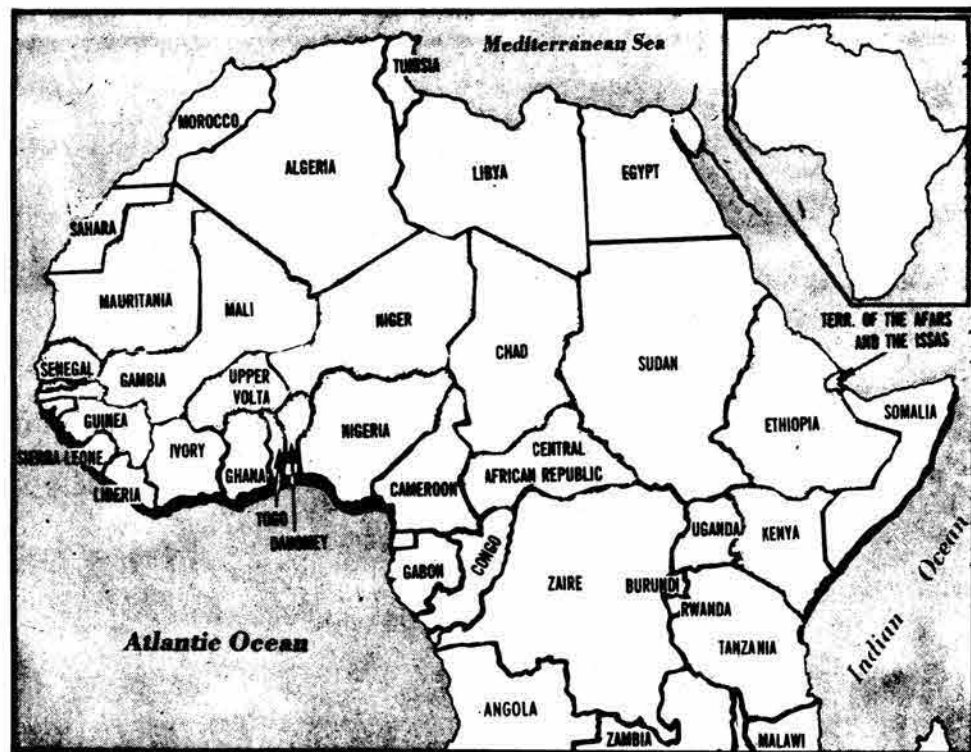
Following Tayeb's visit, Vernon Walters, a retired general who serves as a top aide to Shultz, flew to Khartoum to discuss the details of further U.S. military assistance.

Even before Washington's latest move to shore up Nimeiry, the Sudanese regime was slated to receive \$166.5 million in U.S. military aid this year and \$190.7 million the next. Part of a squadron of F-5 jet fighters has already been delivered.

The Sudan plays a strategic role in Washington's interventionist plans in North Africa and the Middle East. Besides taking a provocative stance toward Libya, the Nimeiry regime played a key role in backing the CIA-financed army of Hissène Habré in Chad and has made threats against neighboring Ethiopia. Several massive U.S. military exercises have been conducted in the Sudan, and the country is considered a possible staging area for Washington's Rapid Deployment Force.

Given this role, the U.S. imperialists have been especially concerned about the growing political and social unrest within the Sudan.

Since 1983, there has been a sharp rise in guerrilla actions in the impoverished south, which is populated by various Nilotic and other peoples, who are largely Christians or adherents of tribal beliefs. Southerners have long suffered discrimination and have repeatedly resisted efforts by



the government in the Muslim, Arabic-speaking north to impose its domination over the south.

Several thousand fighters are now active in the south, many of them former government soldiers from garrisons in three southern towns that mutinied in May 1983. They have shot down military aircraft, attacked oil installations, and shelled towns. Thousands have been killed on both sides in the fighting.

There are two main rebel groups. The Anyanya II traces its roots back to the secessionist Anyanya movement that waged a civil war against the northern regime from 1955 to 1972. But the larger group today is the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which portrays its fight against the Nimeiry regime as a "national struggle" involving all Sudanese.

The Libyan government has made no secret of its support for the rebels. In a

March 2 speech, Qaddafi explained that Libya was "allied with the popular revolution in the southern Sudan." The Ethiopian government is also reported to be backing the guerrillas.

General Tayeb has accused the outlawed Communist Party, which is based in the north, of coordinating its activities with the SPLM, claiming "the conspiracy is aimed at both southern and northern Sudan."

This reflects the regime's concern that organized opposition could also spread to the more populous Arabic-speaking north. Outbursts of popular discontent have sporadically broken out in Khartoum and elsewhere. In 1982, for example, austerity measures imposed by the International Monetary Fund led to food riots in the capital.

Nimeiry's effort to use the specter of Libyan "aggression" to rally support for his regime has not been particularly successful. Following the March 16 bombing, the government appealed for mass solidarity demonstrations in Khartoum. Only 500 people turned out.

From Intercontinental Press

## Minn. forum on Grenada anniversary

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

ST. PAUL, Minn. — On March 17 over 50 people attended a meeting to discuss the lessons of the Grenada revolution and its overthrow. The videotape "Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again," an interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, was shown.

The meeting, held at the Martin Luther King Center in St. Paul's Black community, was cosponsored by the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) and the Socialist Workers Party.

Jay Ressler, who spoke for the SWP, opened the meeting by explaining some of the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution and its appeal to Blacks and other

workers in the United States.

Janice Payne Dorlaie spoke for NBIPP. She called on those at the meeting to "think about the events in Grenada in relation to all the other things happening in the world. Our understanding of the events in Grenada is crucial to our conduct as it relates to liberation struggles around the world and even to our ability to build support networks and liberation struggles in this country."

"Reagan," she continued, "said he wouldn't tolerate Grenada in this hemisphere. I had no reason to doubt him. The only question was where he would get his opening. Coard gave him an opening."

A serious discussion followed the presentations and the videotape. One participant asked, "What about the Grenadians who welcomed the U.S. troops?"

"They were confused," Dorlaie responded. "But they're not now. All the institutions set up by the New Jewel Movement are being dismantled. People are being bossed around and shoved around. The people who welcomed the U.S. troops were not procapitalist as the U.S. government made them out. They were confused and traumatized by their leader being murdered."

"We can't separate these people from other Grenadians. Otherwise there would be no way that today the revolutionary forces within Grenada would be able to begin organizing from the ground up. The revolution is not dead."

Among the many questions discussed were the role of Cuba and the Soviet Union; how the U.S. government uses the supposed threat of Soviet and Cuban presence to justify war against El Salvador and Nicaragua; how supporters of the revolution in Grenada can get out the truth; how to organize among youth facing the draft; and how to foster a movement within the ranks of the military to oppose the U.S. government's war in Central America.

## 'Learn from Grenada's tragic reality'

The following statement was released recently by the Executive Secretariat of the Havana-based Organization of the Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAAL). This organization publishes the magazine *Tricontinental* as part of its solidarity activity.

Following the shameful and inadmissible events that destroyed the leadership of the revolutionary process in Grenada, which reached an extreme with the assassination of its unquestionable leader, Maurice Bishop, and the later unjustifiable advantage that was taken of these events by the United States as it used them to unleash its bloody military intervention on the island, the Grenadian people, who were in no way responsible for these events, are today suffering the reality of imperialist military occupation of their homeland.

Our organization of tricontinental solidarity, which some months ago joined the

immense wave of international protest generated by the imperialist aggression, today considers it to be the responsibility of every progressive, democratic, peace, and justice-loving person in the world to step up their condemnation of the military occupation of Grenada by the United States. U.S. troops — despite pretenses to the contrary — exercise the real power on that island. We also call on people to increase their denunciations of the repressive regimen that these imperialist forces, cloaked in rhetoric of "freedom," have imposed on the Grenadian population.

The Organization of the Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America stresses the gravity of these events, and exhorts the world's progressive and revolutionary movements to learn from the tragic reality of Grenada's experiences. These forces should not see it as an unsalvageable defeat, and should close ranks and strengthen the struggle against the greatest enemy of humanity: yankee imperialism.

## Blacks, others discuss lessons of Grenada

Continued from back page

the subsequent U.S. invasion.

A significant number of people at the New York City Grenada solidarity meetings either bought or already had copies of this book. The book came up in some of the discussions as well. At the Hunter meeting, for example, one activist from the Committee for a Free Grenada (CFG) explained that she thought the introduction to *Maurice Bishop Speaks* objectively aided the U.S. ruling class' aims in Grenada. The introduction, she said, is full of lies and distortions about the role of Coard in the overthrow of the PRG.

This introduction is written by Steve Clark, who is the editor of *Intercontinental Press* and a frequent contributor to the *Militant*. Clark argues that the PRG was overthrown in a counterrevolutionary coup led by Coard, and that this opened the way for the U.S. invasion.

A broader layer than simply supporters of the *Militant's* views agree with this political analysis. This was shown in the Hunter conference when other participants disagreed with the CFG activist about the truthfulness of Clark's position. It's also shown by the fact that groups such as NBUF are distributing *Maurice Bishop Speaks* themselves.

That NBUF and other groups see *Maurice Bishop Speaks* as an important tool in the Grenada solidarity work opens up possibilities for organizing special events centered around this book. Receptions, rallies, and other events to launch the book can win the endorsement and participation of wider layers of Blacks and other activists.



# Interview with leader of striking British coal miners union

In early March British coal miners initiated a strike against the government's plans to close dozens of mines. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) estimates 20,000 jobs will be lost in the next year alone.

Since the strike began in Yorkshire, the union's most militant area, it has been extended to 85 percent of the mines. The government, which owns the mines, has mobilized more than 20,000 cops to protect the mines and those minority of miners still working.

Despite this government union-busting, the strike is expanding and winning support in the labor movement. The dockworkers' union, rail unions, and the Transport and General Workers' Union — the largest union in Britain — have all backed the strike. This includes a pledge not to transport any coal, particularly coal from abroad.

As well, the Trades Union Congress — Britain's equivalent of the AFL-CIO — has come out in support of the miners and against the government's massive use of police force.

The stakes in this strike are high. A defeat for the miners, Britain's most powerful union, will have repercussions throughout Europe and the United States. It will embolden the antiunion drive of the employers. On the other hand, a miners' victory will give encouragement to all those standing up for their rights and defending their wages and working conditions.

That's why British miners deserve the support of U.S. workers in this historic confrontation. And, it's why the *Militant* sent a correspondent to Britain's coalfields.

Bruce Kimball, a working miner from southern Illinois and a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2295, just completed a one-week stay in Britain. He was able to talk to scores of striking miners and their supporters.

The following interview with Peter Heathfield, newly elected general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, was given to Kimball on March 23 in Sheffield, England.

**Question.** As I travel around, I see police all over, especially in the Midlands. As I understand it, this has been the biggest mobilization of police since the 1926 general strike. Clearly the government considers this strike to be a very major threat. What are the stakes in this strike as far as the National Union of Mineworkers is concerned?

**Answer.** Most British miners now recognize that the fight being conducted by the trade union is for the survival of the British mining industry. The coal mining industry has traditionally played an important role within the British labor movement and, of course, it has made an important contribution to the economic "success" of the British economy.

It is one of the few basic industries remaining since Mrs. Thatcher came to power. She intends to effectively reduce the influence of British coal within the British economy and to reduce the influence of the British mine workers within the British trade union movement.

**Q.** What influence do the miners have in the British union movement?

**A.** Traditionally the miners have played an important role in the labor movement. Historically, one factor has been the numerical size of the mine-workers union. In the early post-World War II period, there were three-quarters of a million coal miners in Britain, all unionized. By now we are down to 200,000 mine workers.

We have played an important role histor-

ically. In trade union terms we have been involved in major strikes throughout this century and indeed even before the turn of the century. There were substantial miners' strikes in 1911 and 1921, and of course the important 1926 general strike was led by British miners. The general strike began when a Conservative-style government reduced wages of mine workers.

But more important for the present generation of miners were the strikes of 1972 and 1974, when we took on the Conservative government and won.

So we have played an important role in the development of working-class thinking and working-class activity here in Britain.

**Q.** Could you explain some of the ideals and goals that the National Union of Mineworkers is fighting for?

**A.** Britain is, in our view, still very much a class-ridden society. We have always maintained that the politics of British governments have done very little to reduce the divisions among classes.

I think that there is now a recognition that the present government in Britain is pursuing class policies, and it's important for all trade unionists, particularly the industrial trade unionists, to recognize that the problems facing the British people right now are of a class origin.

In the past, politicians from both sides of the House of Commons have told us that the class war is over, that the welfare state helped to remove that division. There is ample evidence at this moment in time that the welfare state as envisaged by such important figures as Nye Bevan<sup>1</sup> is being destroyed.

We are returning to a full class situation, and working people are the victim of those policies. The sort of laws passed in recent years by the present government are indicative of the government's intention to reduce the influence of trade unions in British affairs.

In 1981 and 1982 antiunion legislation was passed that in many ways turned the clock back 100 years. Restrictions were placed on activities of trade unionists. Secondary picketing is illegal. Trade unionists can be imprisoned. Union funds and properties can be confiscated.

The Conservative Party recognizes that trade unions have an important influence in the affairs of state. They recognize that in order to succeed in establishing a subservient work force, they have got to undermine and destroy trade unions that protect

1. Aneurin Bevan (1897-1960) was a coal miner who became a Labor Party member of Parliament and a leader of the party's left wing. As minister of health in the Labor Party government elected in 1945, Bevan was responsible for the establishment of the National Health Service and for government housing programs.



**Peter Heathfield (left), general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, with Militant correspondent and coal miner, Bruce Kimball. Heathfield concludes: "Our ability to resolve working people's problems depends on solidarity we develop with working people throughout the world."**

working people's interests.

**Q.** In light of these government attacks and efforts to reduce the importance of the unions, it is interesting that in this current strike some big differences have emerged within the miners union, which have probably been around for a long time. The Nottinghamshire miners, for example, do not want to go out at this point. Could you comment on how deep the differences are and the union's approach to the fact that there is this unevenness?

**A.** In many ways the present divisions within the NUM are a repeat of the problems our predecessors had in the 1920s. The Nottinghamshire coalfields are the newest in Britain and are highly successful. Perhaps the miners there see their future in a more selfish way than miners in other coalfields.

In the 1920s, for example, the Nottinghamshire miners broke away from the miners federation of Great Britain. They were earning considerably more than miners in other coalfields and did not want to be part of the whole.

That attitude, in my view, is unfortunately reemerging in the present struggles.

Many Nottinghamshire miners see a relatively secure future for themselves, and they do not share the concern of miners in other coalfields, where jobs and whole mining communities are being threatened by the acts of one of your countrymen, Ian MacGregor.<sup>2</sup>

**Q.** What do you feel are some of the best tactics or strategies for overcoming the differences within the period of the current strike?

**A.** If we could turn the clock back 10 years, I am quite sure that as a trade union we could have dealt with the problems in Nottinghamshire more than adequately.

But there are now the constraints imposed on us by the new antiunion laws. We as a trade union don't accept these laws, and the trade union movement in Britain as a whole does not accept them. But there are those within our ranks who have preferred to conform to those laws.

2. In 1980, the British government named Ian MacGregor, then a partner in the New York investment banking firm of Lazard Frères & Co., to head the nationalized British Steel Corporation. After making sharp cuts in British Steel's output and jobs, MacGregor was named head of the National Coal Board in March 1983.

## Intercontinental Press

A biweekly forum for news and views in the international workers movement

The current issue includes:

- *Grenada: Interview with George Louison: New Jewel Leader Describes Revolution's Overthrow*

Louison, who was a member of the NJM Political Bureau and Central Committee, gives a chronological description of the unfolding crisis in Grenada from August to October 1983. The most authoritative account of the tragedy in Grenada from a key supporter of Maurice Bishop.

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But we are desperately trying to overcome the difficulties imposed on us by those laws.

**Q.** Many railroad workers, some trade union councils, ship workers, transport workers, and so on have either indicated solidarity verbally or have taken certain acts of solidarity. How important is solidarity within the union movement in Britain and internationally?

**A.** From a domestic point of view, it is necessary to say that the two major victories of the miners in 1972 and 1974 were not won through their exclusive efforts. The strikes in 1972 and 1974 were won because of the solidarity of other workers in Britain.

We were able to paralyze the movement of coal because of the support of seamen, railway men, and transport drivers. We had some support in both strikes from power workers — which made our task easier. Clearly, that solidarity helped British miners to achieve important victories.

In international terms, in 1972 and 1974 we had the support of many European seamen, who refused to bring in British coal or to load and unload coal from the continent of Europe. That also helped our cause.

In the present situation we have had clear declarations of support from the same groups of people. Obviously we are concerned that we cannot call on transport workers nationally and internationally to lose wages when some of our own members are still at work. That is something we are working on.

In general terms, British miners are truly internationalists. We recognize that our ability to resolve working people's problems depends to a large extent on the solidarity we are able to develop with our counterparts in the mines in other nations, but more importantly with working people throughout the world. That is fundamental to success of any trade union movement.

## Maceo Brigade announces July trip to Cuba

The Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Cuban-American group favoring improved U.S. relations with Cuba, is organizing Cuban youth from the United States and Puerto Rico to visit Cuba this July.

This is the seventh trip to Cuba organized by the brigade. The first contingent visited the revolutionary island in 1977.

According to a press release from the brigade, "The VII Contingent will be composed of Cuban youth . . . who have been united by their desire to experience present Cuban reality, and who recognize the irreversibility of the Cuban Revolution. . . ."

"This year's contingent is dedicated to the efforts for maintaining world peace. The Antonio Maceo Brigade is against the interventionist policies of the Reagan administration, the increase in military aid to Central America, and the policies of nuclear rearmament."

Participation in the trip is open to all Cuban youth who left the island before the age of 18 or were born outside Cuba. For more information, write Brigada Antonio Maceo, GPO Box 1321, New York, N.Y. 10116.



**Truly needy** — What with possible legal fees relating to the probe of his swapping jobs for loans, presidential aide Edwin



**Harry Ring**

Meese may go bankrupt, worries the *Wall Street Journal*. (He's reported down to his last \$300,000.) A few months ago, Meese opined that "people go to soup kitchens

because the food is free and that's easier than paying for it." Check it out, Ed.

**Where are they now dep't** — Timothy Leary, 1960s advocate of revolution via LSD, is now offering a computer "brain game" that will assertedly revolutionize the way you think and live.

**Home sweet home** — Air pollution may be 10 times greater inside U.S. homes than outdoors, according to a recent federal study. Formaldehyde in plywood and particle board is one factor. Others include the chemicals in aerosol sprays, cleaning products,

dry-cleaned fabrics, etc. Added insulation intended to cope with soaring energy costs helps to trap these and other carcinogens more effectively.

**Doesn't it make you proud?** — A Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* ad for people to deliver the paper boasts that route earnings are higher than the individual incomes of 50 percent of the world's population.

**Deadly challenge** — What with people living longer, and more choosing cremation, coffin sales have slumped. An added obstacle is a new federal regulation barring funeral homes from advising cus-

tomers that a particular coffin will preserve the body longer, or falsely suggesting there's a legal obligation to buy a coffin for cremation. Responding to these vicissitudes, the industry is beefing up its sales force and adding more decorative moldings to the product.

**And the other 99 percent get robbed** — "Utilities Say 1% of Users Are Stealing Power" — News headline.

**Try root beer** — Major brewers are planning to peddle beer with a 2 percent alcohol content instead of 4 percent. A cost-cutting measure? Nonsense. Concern

for the consumer. "With tougher drunk-driving laws, people are afraid to have that beer for the road," a Schmidt spokesperson advised. "With this low-alcohol beer, you can have a few drinks and still pass the Breathalyzer test."

**Fashion tip** — The Montecristo Custom Hat Works of Santa Fe provides top quality Panama hats at prices ranging up to \$6,000. Hatman Milton Johnson explains that a truly fine Panama (they actually come from Ecuador) can only be worked on in the dead of night because the straw is sensitive to atmospheric conditions there. He didn't say how much the hat-makers get.

## —CALENDAR—

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Challenges Facing Working Women Today** — Report Back From Participant in Coalition of Labor Union Women Convention. Speaker: Sonja Franeta, Birmingham Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers and delegate to CLUW convention. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Forum Series. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

**El Salvador — Phony Elections and Growing U.S. War.** Speaker: Andy Rose, Birmingham Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Forum Series. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Diego

**How "Buy American" Campaigns Hurt U.S. Workers.** Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

### INDIANA

#### Indianapolis

**Congressman Andy Jacobs: Is He Really A Friend of Peace, Equal Rights, and Labor? A Look At His Voting Record.** Speaker: Dave Ellis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress. Sat., April 7, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers '84 Campaign Committee. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

**U.S. War Drive in Central America. Will Dumping Reagan in '84 Lead to Peace?** Speakers: Dave Ellis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress; Dave Young, toured Nicaragua in 1983 as member of U.S. antiwar delegation. Sat., April 14, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers '84 Campaign Committee. For more information call (213) 283-6149.

### IOWA

#### Waterloo

**The Socialist Alternative in '84.** Hear Joe Swanson, spokesperson for Mason-González campaign, member of United Transportation Union Local 305 and 1982 Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Nebraska. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. UNI-CUE, 715 E. 4th. Ausp: Iowans for Mason and González. For more information call (319) 277-8644.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**An Eyewitness Report: Life in Nicaragua Today.** Speaker: Dave Welters, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, recently returned from Nicaragua. Slide show presentation. Sun., April 15, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**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.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Nicaragua Vencera!** Slide show and presentations. Speakers: Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member of United Auto Workers Local 1200; Morrie Dietrich, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365. Both recently returned from Nicaragua cotton brigade. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 7, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor

Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

### LOUISIANA

#### New Orleans

**Rally to Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquín and All Other Refugees.** Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born socialist fighting deportation; Rev. S. L. Harvey, president, Louisiana Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Ron Chisom, community organizer. Sat., April 14, 7 p.m. St. Mark's Community Center, 1130 N Ramparts. Ausp: Louisiana Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee. For more information call (504) 891-5956.

### MISSOURI

#### St. Louis

**What Is Socialism and Why You Should Back Socialists in 1984.** Speaker: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Fri., April 13, noon to 1 p.m. Private Dining Room, Webster University. Ausp: Webster University Social Action Collective. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

**Bi-state Rally for Socialist Workers Campaign.** Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president; Nelson González, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois; announcing SWP candidate for governor of Missouri. Sat., April 14. Dinner, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. Salad Bowl Restaurant, 3949 Lindell Blvd. Donation: Dinner and rally, \$7; rally only, \$2. Ausp: SWP Campaign '84. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Reagan's Economic Recovery: For Real or for the Rich?** Speaker: Priscilla Schenk, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 13. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. (cor. Raymond, one block from Broad). Donation: Dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**The Irish Freedom Struggle Today.** Speakers: Paul Murray, coordinator, Capital District Irish Northern Aid; Chris Miller, member Noraid and visited Northern Ireland in 1982; David Wall, Young Socialist Alliance and member of Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Lodge 861. Translation to Spanish. Thurs., April 19, 8 p.m. 23 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**Campaign Open House. How to Win Jobs, Peace, and Freedom. A Socialist View.** Speaker: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sun., April 8. Reception and buffet, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$3. Ausp: 1984 Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. 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.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Iraqi War Against Iran.** Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, editor of *Militant* and eyewitness to

1979 Iranian revolution. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### 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.

#### San Antonio

**Rally in Defense of Political Refugees.** Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born socialist fighting deportation; Dr. José Martínez, Committee for Justice in Central America; Fr. Tim McCluskey, St. Timothy Church; Juan Mireles, state vice-chairperson, Texas GI Forum; John Sanders, Organizations United for East Side Development. (Organizations for identification only.) Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 7, 8 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1321 El Paso. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (512) 432-7394.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**U.S. Hands Off Grenada!** Videotape with New Jewel Movement leader Don Rojas. Speakers: Katalina Montero, Venceremos

## Texas farm workers hail SWP campaign

**Continued from back page**

During her tour of the Rio Grande Valley, González also visited a refugee center for Salvadoran refugees. This center, and others like it, are currently under attack from the INS (see article page 9).

González was interviewed by two valley newspapers, which carried articles announcing her visit and party platform. She was interviewed, as well, by two network TV affiliates and did a 10-minute Spanish radio spot.

Before leaving the valley González again met with campaign supporters from El Comité de Campesinos at a barbecue hosted by friends of the Socialist Workers Party.

The Chicano leaders proposed setting up an SWP campaign committee in the valley. They felt González's campaign, which speaks on behalf of workers and calls for independent political action, is what is needed in the valley.

González agreed to have Texas campaign representatives come to the valley once a month and work with the campaign committee in getting out the socialist campaign to small farmers, farm workers, and other workers.

"The spirit and lessons of the RUP are very much alive here," said González.

One activist in the farm workers movement and RUP said it had become obvious to them at the height of the RUP in the mid-1970s that the government didn't like independent political action. The U.S. government and cops would do just about anything to disrupt and destroy the Raza Unida Party.

"So this is nothing new to us," she

added. "We know the rich don't like being politically opposed by workers."

González told her campaign supporters that through her campaign she would be working to build solidarity between industrial workers in the north and farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley — both victims of the rulers' drive for profits.

González and her supporters also visited Pan American University (PAU), where the SWP candidate spoke before two meetings. PAU is overwhelmingly Chicano.

The first was a public meeting organized and hosted by the student American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The second was a political science class.

Of the 65 students and teachers who attended the public meeting, 45 signed up for more information on the Socialist Workers campaign.

The *Pan American*, newspaper of the school, had carried a front page article announcing González's appearance. One of the reporters for the paper notified the campaign team that threats had been made to disrupt the meeting with egg throwing. The overwhelming interest and support from the audience, however, squelched any such thought.

After the meeting students rushed the campaign table, buying mostly buttons and \$26 worth of literature.

In addition, three students who helped in organizing and building the meeting asked if they could build a Young Socialist Alliance chapter at PAU. González, a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, welcomed these young fighters to her organization.



# Chicano mayor defends support to U.S. war policy

BY CHRIS BRANDLON

SAN ANTONIO — Democratic Mayor Henry Cisneros has been putting in some overtime lately. The first Chicano elected mayor of a major U.S. city, Cisneros is going all out to sell working people here on the bipartisan Kissinger commission report on Central America.

At the time of his appointment, Cisneros pledged to file a minority report if the commission's findings were

follows these recommendations by proposing "other forms of pressure against the Sandinistas" and massive increases in aid to the El Salvador dictatorship.

Speaking before 75 people at a League of Women Voters forum February 26, Cisneros made his perspective very clear. He expressed the hope that the commission report could "replace and update the Monroe Doctrine." The Monroe Doctrine declared that interference in Latin America by European powers would not be tolerated by the United States.

In his talk, Cisneros repeated many of the lies that form the backbone of the report. He blamed the Soviet Union and Cuba for many of the region's problems and accused the Nicaraguans of conducting an "Eastern European-style military buildup." These charges were repeated on a "60-Minutes" segment that featured Cisneros. The show aired the same night as the talk.

The mayor also accused the Sandinista government of "totalitarianism" and threatening aggressions against their neighbors. At the same time, he praised the "center" forces in El Salvador, represented by José Napoleón Duarte, and defended the upcoming elections there.

Napoleón Duarte was president of El Salvador from 1980 to 1982, during which time the activities of the death squads reached record proportions.

Cisneros' support for the Salvadoran dictatorship was made even more explicit when he welcomed Pres. Alvaro Magaña to San Antonio on March 2.

Nor does Cisneros limit his proimperialist drum-beating to Central America. He recently told a Jewish-Hispanic conference meeting in San Antonio that Israeli technology could help "ensure democracy" in Central America and offered the possibility of Latino support for Israel in exchange for Jewish backing for Chicano issues.

Cisneros' aspirations to higher office are generally acknowledged, and he is sparing no effort to prove his reliability to the ruling class. Many workers still have illusions in Cisneros as well as in other Black and Latino capitalist politicians. But many others are beginning to see through their cynical lies and are looking around for an alternative.

Chris Brandon is the Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 23rd Congressional District in Texas.

## AS I SEE IT

unsatisfactory. He had presented himself as a critic of Reagan's policies. But when the report came out, the mayor's name was on it right beside the others.

Cisneros has tried to play up the fact that he filed "dissenting notes" on two issues. By calling for a one year suspension of aid to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and urging rebel participation in the Salvadoran elections, he has tried to present a moderate image. But he

# Minnesota socialists reach out to workers, farmers

BY ROGER JAMES

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Members and friends attended the second state convention of the Minnesota Socialist Workers Party February 25-26. At the center of the reports and discussions of the delegates were plans to bring the Socialist Workers election campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president to industrial workers, Blacks, Indians, and family farmers in Minnesota.

Susan Apstein reported that Minnesota SWP members will be petitioning July 3-17 to put Mason and González on the ballot here. This will be part of the effort to get Mason and González on the ballot in 27 states and the District of Columbia, including the surrounding states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

This region will be the focus of a tour by Joe Swanson, United Transportation Union member and 1982 SWP candidate for governor of Nebraska, speaking for the Mason-González alternative.

Delegates discussed the special opportunity this tour offered to reach the rural workers and family farmers in the Midwest region who have been hard hit by the capitalist crisis.

Delegates pointed out that while the bipartisan U.S. government has denied federal loans and assistance to family farmers, it has sided with its rich friends who own the meatpacking industry. These bosses have used bankruptcy ploys to aid their efforts to break unionized meatpacking.

At a campaign rally held as part of the convention, Swanson spoke to over 60 people about that socialist message. He said, "We need to forge a workers and farmers alliance independent of the Republicans and Democrats to repel the capitalist offensive and the escalated U.S. war

moves against the people of Central America.

"We need a labor party based on a fighting trade union movement to challenge the political parties of the nonproducing class — the bosses, bankers, grain merchants, and landlords."

He added, "The workers and farmers, the producers, are the majority and we need our own government. This profit system is outmoded and we should do with it what I saw, as a boy on the farm, my father do with worn out farm machinery — drag it down by the cottonwood trees."

One of the major topics of discussion at the convention was the impact of mergers, layoffs, and plant closings by the owners of the steel corporations on steelworkers. On the Iron Range in Minnesota, where taconite is mined and supplied for steel production, 12,000 out of 14,000 members of the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) have been thrown out of work over the last three years.

Dave Salner, reporting on "Iron Range party building perspectives," said these layoffs were caused by the overproduction of taconite, the recession and stagnation in the economy, and the increased use of scrap steel in making steel products.

Salner explained the steel bosses are determined to streamline the industry for profitability — weakening the union and destroying the jobs and wages of steelworkers. The reactionary anti-import campaign promoted by the owners and the top union officialdom, Salner added, came down to one more reason why steelworkers are told they can't take action. "But we can and must take action," Salner said.

Under the "Tasks and perspectives" report, delegates discussed deepening the political orientation of socialists in Minnesota to industrial workers, the oppressed nationalities, and family farmers as the

capitalists step up their broadside attack on the rights and living standards of U.S. working people, and workers and peasants in Central America.

John Gaige, Minnesota state organizer for the SWP, said that while the upturn in the capitalist business cycle offered no solution to unemployment, it did provide a chance for socialists to get jobs and strengthen the influence of socialists in in-

## IRA member fights extradition

BY WILL REISSNER

NEW YORK — Irish Republican Army volunteer Joseph Doherty, who escaped from a British prison in Northern Ireland with seven other IRA members, is fighting in federal court here to prevent his extradition to Northern Ireland. If returned to British control, the 29-year-old IRA member would face life imprisonment in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh jail.

Following his June 1981 escape, a special juryless court found Doherty guilty in absentia of killing a British army officer and membership in the IRA.

Doherty made his way to the United States in February 1982 and was arrested last June in New York. He has been held without bail ever since.

In the hearing that opened before Judge John Sprizzo on March 26, defense attorneys Mary Pike and Steven Somerstein are seeking to prove that Doherty's activities in Ireland were politically motivated and took place during a period of political insurgency. A person cannot be extradited for such offenses under the U.S.-British extradition treaty.

A similar defense was successful in the cases of IRA members Desmond Mackin and Liam Quinn, although Quinn remains

in jail pending a British appeal. The defense has called expert witnesses from Ireland to testify on the history of the struggle against British rule in Ireland, the discrimination against the nationalist population in the British-ruled north, and how the present phase of the armed struggle grew out of the civil rights movement.

Among those taking the stand were Nobel peace prize winner Sean MacBride, activist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, journalist Tim Pat Coogan who authored a definitive book on the history of the IRA, Elis Kelly, and Belfast priest Fr. Desmond Wilson. Doherty also took the stand on April 2 to describe his capture by British soldiers, his escape, and his flight to the United States.

U.S. assistant attorney Ira H. Block is flanked by two representatives of the British consulate throughout the hearing. Block is presenting the British government's argument that Doherty was convicted of criminal offenses.

In a courtroom packed with Doherty supporters, the irony of the fact that the government prosecutor has the same name as the IRA and the notorious H-Block prison wards was the subject of much mirthful comment.

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## Behind Salvador elections

The recent presidential election in El Salvador did not move that country one inch closer to democracy. Nor was it intended to. The U.S. government insisted on the election (and pressured its Salvadoran puppets to move up the voting date) to create the illusion of democracy and to try to bring to power a more stable and legitimate regime in El Salvador.

The social revolution led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), which threatens to tear El Salvador out of the grip of imperialist exploitation and secure real freedom and progress for El Salvador's workers and peasants, continues to move forward. Washington is determined to stop it. It needs a freer hand to make the military and political moves it feels are necessary to do so. This is what lay behind the election.

The electoral fraud was hailed by President Reagan as "another victory for freedom over tyranny, of liberty over repression, and courage over intimidation."

But one Salvadoran voter put it more accurately when he told a reporter, "This has been a farce. . . . The government made fools of us." The U.S. press reported missing ballot boxes, closed polling stations, and all sorts of bureaucratic obstacles and mix-ups. In short there was much more chaos than democracy.

Nevertheless many Salvadorans voted. This is hardly surprising. The majority of the country not yet controlled by the FMLN forces is run by a brutal dictatorship that is fighting a civil war. Voting is compulsory. Those who decided not to vote did so at their own peril, in the face of government sanctioned death squads. Others voted in the hopes that one of the candidates would be able to find some way to end the years of warfare and bloodshed.

Under such conditions of repression, the FMLN and the organizations that support it chose not to participate in the election. Prior to the election the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) made it clear that they "politically oppose the election, but we do not consider the electoral process a military target."

In those areas under the control of the liberation forces, they recommended that people not vote. But in those areas under government control, the FMLN urged people to vote if they felt it was necessary to avoid reprisals against them by the armed forces or death squads.

Those who did vote found little to choose from among the eight candidates. The top three candidates were José Napoleón Duarte, the Christian Democrat who served as president from 1980 to 1982 while the death squads ran rampant; Roberto D'Aubuisson, candidate of the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance — and the chief organizer of the death squads; and Francisco José Guerrero, candidate of the National Conciliation Party, the traditional political instrument of the military during most of the 1960s and 1970s.

Duarte and D'Aubuisson were the two top vote getters,

and a runoff election will be held within the next month.

Writing in the *New York Times*, Hedrick Smith spelled out what Washington hopes to accomplish in all of this. Smith called the aim of the election "to earn greater legitimacy for the American-backed government and to install a leader who could break out of the stalemate with the revolutionary left."

Washington was clearly pleased that Duarte was the front runner receiving about 40 percent of the vote. This, according to Smith, "eased what one [Reagan administration] official called the 'nightmare' of victory by Roberto D'Aubuisson."

The problem the U.S. government has with D'Aubuisson is not that he is an ultraright murderer — the CIA helps him to organize the death squad killings. Washington's problem is that it will be harder to win support from U.S. working people and among international public opinion for sending stepped-up military aid to a regime headed by D'Aubuisson. Washington hopes a candidate like Duarte would be a more acceptable recipient for the massive military firepower it will have to send in its effort to crush the FMLN.

The election farce also provides a justification for more open discussion of the direct introduction of U.S. combat troops as soon as Washington deems it necessary and advisable.

In Congress itself "a solid bipartisan majority," as Smith put it, "voted 72 to 23 against imposing restrictions on President Reagan's possible use of American forces in combat in Central America."

This action, supported by many liberal Democrats, was taken in the face of new revelations concerning the role U.S. forces are *already* playing in directly waging the war against the FMLN. Moreover, many liberals made it clear that now that the elections have been staged they are more willing to vote for increased U.S. military aid.

Maryland Democrat Michael Barnes, one of the chief congressional liberals who has often disagreed with the White House on how best to prevent an FMLN victory in El Salvador, commented that if Duarte is elected "it would change the atmosphere here; if he came up to Congress and asked for more aid, that would influence people."

This is ultimately what the election was all about: the trappings of democracy to prepare the way for an escalated war to stop the freedom struggle in El Salvador.

U.S. working people will have to rely on our own power to stop the new Vietnam that Washington is carrying out in Central America. It is among the workers and farmers of the United States that Salvadoran working people will find reliable allies in their battle for self-determination and freedom.

## No to U.S. chauvinism in unions

It appears that Steelworker International Secretary Lynn Williams is the winner in the special election held March 29 for the presidency of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Although the official tellers' report is not yet out, Williams asserts he won 161,063 votes to 107,137 for his opponent, International Treasurer Frank McKee.

Some one million union members were eligible to vote. That only 30 percent chose to do so is an indication of how most saw the election: as a power struggle involving top officials far removed from the real problems of the union ranks.

Neither Williams nor McKee put forward an effective program or strategy to meet the devastating employer offensive that has resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of steelworker jobs. While both candidates claimed to be opponents of any further concessions to the big steel companies, most steelworkers knew that both Williams and McKee helped negotiate the March 1983 giveback contract. USWA officialdom helped the steel barons impose this contract on workers in basic steel. Many steelworkers recognized that neither Williams nor McKee offered the slightest resistance to U.S. Steel's massive plant shutdowns last December.

The campaign was stamped by one feature that signaled a major danger in the labor movement. McKee sought to win the election by directing all of his fire against Williams over the issue of nationality. Williams is Canadian.

McKee's campaign committees — including one calling itself "Americans for McKee" — appealed to steelworkers: "Don't import an unqualified president."

McKee said he was fighting against "Canadian interests taking over" the union. A nationwide McKee mailing sent out with address labels bearing an uncanny resemblance to those used for official union business — announced "240 PERCENT" on the envelope — the alleged rate of increase of Canadian steel imports from the time Williams became acting USWA president last November. McKee portrayed this as the main issue.

McKee's backward appeal to U.S. chauvinism and anti-Canadian attitudes is a potential cancer in the labor

movement and it should be rooted out.

There can be no effective fightback against plant closings, layoffs, or any other kind of employer attack that does not begin with the idea of labor solidarity. Without a return to the principles of solidarity there can be no union movement that defends workers' interests.

Working-class solidarity cannot stop at the borders of the United States. The employers have an international outlook — they strive to make profits wherever they can and they exploit workers all over the world in the process. U.S. workers cannot defend ourselves from this international drive for profit by retreating to reactionary U.S. nationalism that implies we have more in common with U.S. employers — because they too are "Americans" — than with fellow workers in Canada, or Japan, or El Salvador.

The truth is that U.S. workers have a lot to learn from fellow workers in other countries. Unlike procapitalist union officials like McKee or Williams many workers in other lands are mobilizing a fightback against the profit drive.

French steelworkers are setting a good example by their militant struggle against steel-mill closings. British miners have been doing the same for weeks in their heroic strike. It was Canadian auto workers who led the fight against Chrysler's wages cuts by launching a militant strike in November 1982.

Every one of these battles sets an example and aids the struggle against the employers here. McKee's backward appeal — like appeals to racism and sexism in the unions — undercuts our struggles. The steel barons must have enjoyed the show.

With the election over, militant fighters in the USWA still face the challenge of mounting an effective fight against the proemployer policies that both Williams and McKee agree on. It is not for nothing that the anthem of the union movement when it is engaged in battle is "Solidarity Forever." The bureaucrats like to dust it off for use at Labor Day rallies. But it must become the real watchword of the union movement if an effective fightback is to be organized by the USWA and other unions.

## The 'vital link' in Nicaragua's revolutionary chain

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

On March 3 a plane from Havana, Cuba, brought a coffin to Nicaragua.

The coffin contained the body of Colonel José Santos López considered to be the "vital link" — what Sandinista Commander Tomás Borge described as the "link between wisdom and determination" in the Nicaraguan revolution.

Santos López joined the revolutionary army of Gen. Augusto César Sandino when he was 12 years old. At the age of 18 he was a colonel among Sandino's fighters. By

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the age of 22 he had fought in 216 battles for freedom and independence for Nicaragua and had been wounded seven times. Following Sandino's assassination by the U.S.-backed National Guard on Feb. 21, 1934, Santos López continued to organize resistance to the brutal Somoza dictatorship. In 1961 he was one of the founders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Thus Santos López was a human expression of the revolutionary continuity of the struggle of the Nicaraguan working people against U.S. imperialism and the tyrannical Somoza regime. This explains the hero's welcome accorded his body when it was returned from revolutionary Cuba where he had been buried 19 years ago.

Commander Víctor Tirado, a member of the FSLN's National Directorate, was one of those young revolutionists who was trained by Santos López when the FSLN was founded. Santos López "only half knew how to read and write," Tirado explained.

But Santos López was never discouraged by his lack of formal education. He insisted, said Tirado, that only "a clear mind and sensitive heart were necessary to understand what was happening to Nicaragua due to U.S. intervention."

Santos López was one of five children born into a peasant family in Yalaguina, located in what is today the department of Nueva Segovia. He ran into some of Sandino's troops as he was helping his mother one day in 1926. He asked them if they let children join and from that moment on "behind my mother's back" became part of the squadron.

He was part of a group called the "Choir of Angels," so named because they were teenagers who accompanied the rebels on ambushes and attacks in order to shout and make noise so the marines would think there were more Sandinista fighters than there really were, or that reinforcements were on the way.

Santos López grew up in the rebel army and became a leader of the fight against U.S. intervention.

In 1960 he was contacted by Carlos Fonseca, a student who became the central leader of the FSLN. It was "a mutual discovery," said Tomás Borge. Fonseca asked Santos López to join the FSLN, which he did without hesitation.

Víctor Tirado explained what this meant to the young fighters of the FSLN as they were beginning their historic struggle against Somoza and his U.S. backers:

"The colonel assimilated all of Sandino's guerrilla tactics; he was a genius in tactics and taught us how to take care, stand watch, do guard duty, attack, and make incursions."

But Santos López added something else to the fighting capacities of the new revolutionary organization. "Beyond military discipline," explained the FSLN newspaper *Barricada*, "Santos López imposed a political discipline which helped temper the FSLN."

Borge related how Santos López placed himself at the front of the first group of fighters, put them in contact with other veterans of Sandino's army and fought in battles.

In doing this, Santos López helped to reknit the revolutionary continuity between the young people, primarily student youth, who were initially attracted to the FSLN and the heritage and lessons of the worker and peasant cadres who had maintained Sandino's legacy under the conditions of Somoza's dictatorship.

In 1964 Santos López was struck by lung cancer. He traveled to Cuba where he died in 1965.

The FSLN cadres trained by Santos López wrote a glorious new chapter in the continuing history of the struggle for the socialist revolution in the Americas when they overthrew Somoza and established a workers and farmers government in Nicaragua in July 1979.

As the remains of Santos López were interred alongside the mausoleum of Carlos Fonseca, Tomás Borge continued the eulogy:

"Colonel José Santos López: you have not come to rest in peace. You have come to continue fighting for peace and the dignity of this land. You, a man who fought since childhood, continue fighting now, even after your death."



# Cops on Lenell Geter case: any nigger will do

Lenell Geter, a young Black engineer from Greenville, Texas, had no idea that reading books and feeding ducks could land him in jail. But it did, and if it hadn't been for his friends and coworkers, Geter would've spent the rest of his life in the pen.

In 1982 cops arrested Geter for the armed robbery of a fast-food restaurant in a Dallas suburb. He was tried, convicted by an all-white jury, and sentenced to life im-

no criminal record in Greenville, the cops circulated Geter's photograph to other towns — perhaps he committed his crime outside of Greenville.

Several witnesses in Balch Springs, the town where the fried chicken joint got clipped, picked out Geter from photos. The witnesses had previously given different descriptions of the robber, but the Dallas County District Attorney, Henry Wade, took the photo identification as a positive one. There was no physical evidence linking Geter to the robbery.

The prosecution portrayed Geter as a hardened criminal who had been involved in several armed robberies. Wade presented two witnesses who identified Geter as the robber in two other holdups. Geter was never charged for these robberies.

Geter's coworkers and friends organized support for him. The NAACP also came to Geter's aid. With their help, Geter's case received widespread publicity, including a segment on the popular TV news program "60 Minutes."

This public pressure forced the Dallas County prosecution to grant a new trial last December. The trial was scheduled to be on April 9.

But on March 21 District Attorney Wade announced that his office had another suspect in the case and dropped all charges against Geter. The new suspect, Curtis Mason, is also Black.

Geter, who spent 14 months in prison, was ecstatic about his victory, but warned that "People expect our judicial system to work in a 100 percent efficiency mode.

I know it doesn't, and I'm a prime example. There are other Lenell Geters out there."

We don't know how many, but Geter is right. The racist system of capitalist justice has railroaded thousands of Blacks and other workers to prison for crimes they didn't commit. Unjustly picked up and charged, tried before all-white juries, and thrown into prison in disproportionate numbers, Blacks, and other oppressed nationalities, are the most victimized by the police and courts.

Blacks make up 41 percent of the inmates in city and county jails, and 37 percent of those in federal prisons are nonwhite. There are no statistics available on the racial composition of the 394,141 inmates in state prisons.

The racist nature of the capitalist courts is also shown in the use of the death penalty. Forty-two percent of the prisoners on death row in 1981 were nonwhite. Between 1930 and 1981, 3,862 people were executed by civil authorities; 2,066 — or 53 percent — of those were Black. The percentage is even higher if Chicanos and other oppressed nationalities are included.

The Geter case helps to expose the racist, anti-working class nature of the employers' "law and order" campaign. As Geter's supervisor, Charles Hartford, pointed out, "The law enforcement people and the District Attorney didn't try to find the truth, they just tried to get a conviction. My feeling about law and order has kind of changed after watching this. You keep wondering how many other times something like this happens."

All too often, when the cops are looking for someone to pin a crime on, they'll say: *Any nigger will do.*



## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

prisonment for a crime he didn't commit. Coworkers testified that Geter was at work at E-Systems, Inc., in Greenville — 50 miles away from Dallas — when the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant was robbed.

But being Black in racist America is a criminal offense. Geter became a suspect in the robbery case after a white woman in Greenville complained to police about Geter's habit of reading and feeding ducks in a park near her home. She suggested that Geter may have been involved in a robbery.

So, the Greenville cops put a tail on Geter and began surveillance of his home. When they discovered he had

## LETTERS

### Steelworker election

During the last weeks before the Steelworkers' election, I saw many materials supporting Frank McKee's bid for international president.

#### International?

A brochure compares the "qualifications" of the two candidates on facing pages.

McKee: "AMERICAN CITIZEN, registered U.S. Voter, U.S. military infantryman wounded in World War II."

Lynn Williams: "CANADIAN CITIZEN, Not eligible to vote in U.S., One year in Royal Canadian Navy." There's an American flag in the corner of McKee's page; a Canadian flag for Williams.

A sticker urges members to "Vote to keep our union American."

A flyer mailed to the membership says Canadian steel imports (made, I imagine, by members of our union in Canada) have increased 240 percent since Williams became acting president. It asks: "Who's he trying to protect? His pals in Canada?"

A 3 x 5 card manages to fit all of the following: "Be American-Vote American," "Support The Qualified American Candidate," "Don't Import an Unqualified President," "Vote American-Vote McKee," "Support the Qualified American Candidate" (again), "Stop Imports — Buy American — Vote American." It's signed "Americans for McKee."

I received another piece of material in the mail earlier this year: my 1984 union card. The Steelworkers' oath is printed on the back.

"I do sincerely promise, of my own free will, to abide by the laws of this union; ... never to discriminate against a fellow worker on account of creed, color, sex, or nationality. ..."

The oath is printed there every year. I guess not everyone reads it. Steven Fuchs  
Baltimore, Md.

### Appeal for help

This appeal comes to you with a deep sense of social obligation and concern.

For two years now, Greenlee County has suffered the worse unforeseeable events and misfortune in 100 years.

In April 1982, hundreds of workers were laid off from Phelps Dodge Corp., our prime source of livelihood. Many are still waiting

for work. (Since July 1983, much of the work force is still out of work out of respect for the picket line at the Phelps Dodge gate making the labor dispute the longest running strike in our nation today.)

In October of 1983, hundreds of homes belonging to our brothers and sisters were destroyed by Arizona's worst flooding forcing many homeless, and into bankruptcy. Federal and state aid is slow in coming and many families need immediate help.

To be perfectly candid, we at the Food Bank are in desperate need of help in order to continue the service so many depend on for survival. Our funds are low and our store of food is dwindling to dangerous levels.

If you can find it in your hearts to give just a little, the burden of these trials would be lightened. Please send your tax-deductible donations to:

Clifton Morenci Food Bank  
P.O. Box 186  
Morenci, Ariz. 85540

Your generosity will be sincerely appreciated.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Nancy Cervantez, Director  
Travis Flannagan, President  
Morenci, Ariz.

### Striker likes paper

At this time I would like to compliment you on your superb newspaper. It gets to the point, it is very up to date, and of course very precise. We should have more newspapers like yours around circulating to open up America's eyes to what's happening and going on in our complicated world.

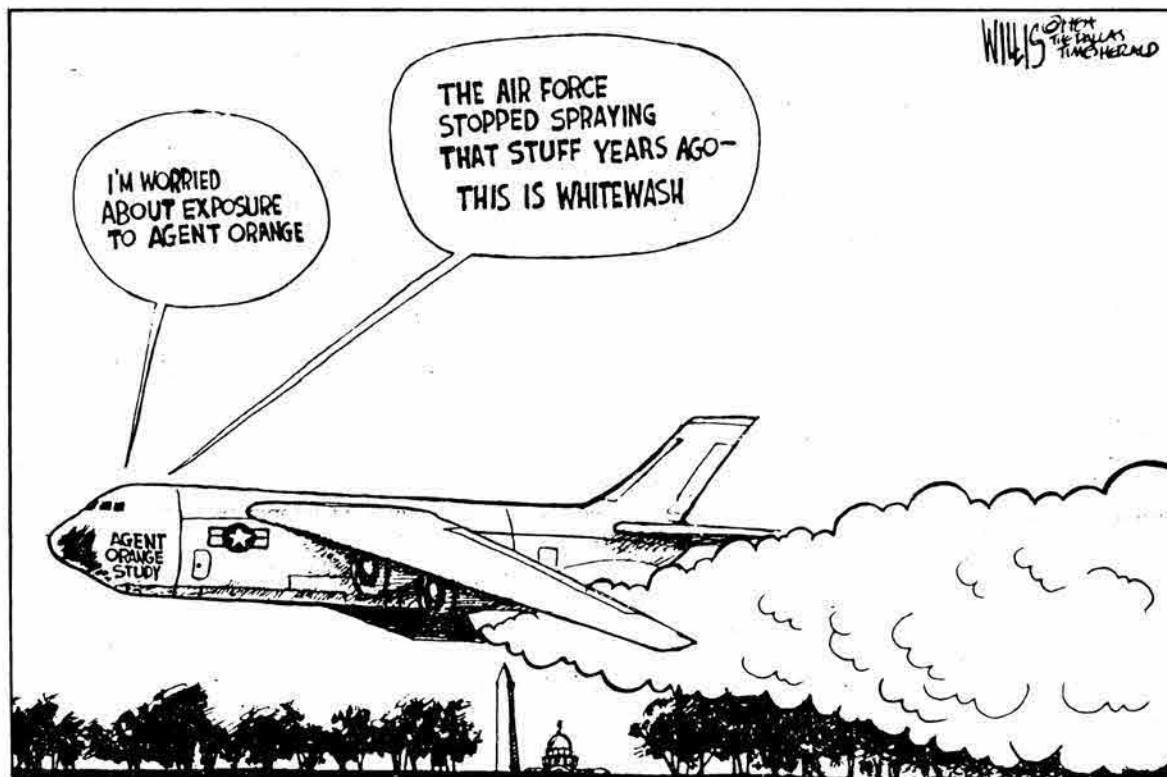
For the moment I would like to stop my subscription due to the fact that I'm planning on moving from Morenci on account of our labor dispute here with Phelps Dodge.

Thank you very much again for a most informative newspaper.

Albert Luna  
Morenci, Ariz.

### Labor history

The March 23, 1984, issue of the *Militant* contained an article by Lisa Hickler on a Coalition of Labor Union Women-sponsored rally in Seattle. Part of the article dealt with the nine-month-old strike by the Lumber and Production Industrial Workers union in Everett, Washington, and included the statement that "the



biggest labor protests in Everett's history were held in solidarity with the strikers."

She did not elaborate as to what activities had actually taken place but it is unlikely that the protests were larger than the reaction to the 1916 massacre of members of the Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies).

In his book, *Milltown*, Norman Clark gives a history of Everett from its founding in the late 19th century to its rise as a lumber town where the boom and bust cycle of capitalism radicalized the workers. In 1916 Wobblies flocked to Everett to support an ongoing strike by the millworkers. The local authorities drove them from town with kidnappings and beatings.

The Wobblies responded by chartering ships to carry free speech protesters from Seattle, 30 miles to the south. As one of the ferries approached the dock the sheriff and his deputized gang of strikebreakers opened fire from the dock. A number of people were killed either by the bullets or by being drowned after they were pushed off the ship in the ensuing panic.

Unfortunately, my copy of *Milltown* is packed in preparation for a move and I am unable to check exactly how many people were killed. Perhaps this massacre could be the subject of a future *Militant* article.

Ron Richards  
Harrisburg, Pa.

### Blacks and labor

In 1968 the *Militant* took a forthright position in defense of Black rights in the case of a struggle by Blacks to gain some measure of influence and control over education in the Ocean-Hill Brownsville community in New York City.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) led a racist strike against the Black community's demands. Prominent in this strike was AFT Pres. and AFL-CIO Vice-president Albert Shanker.

The *Militant's* position opposing the strike and advocating support to Blacks who crossed the racist picket line created quite a discussion in the radical movement at that time.

I recently came across two interesting precedents for the *Militant's* position in Philip S. Foner's book, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker*, page 255.

"In late 1941, 500 white workers at the Curtis-Wright aircraft plant in Columbus, Ohio, struck when a Negro was promoted to the tool and die department. Thomas (then president of the UAW) immediately removed the local union official who had endorsed the strike and ordered the men back to work.

"When Packard shifted two expert Negro metal finishers from work on automobiles to the polishing department of a new tank plant in 1943, 250 CIO members staged a 40-minute sit-down strike, hold-

ing up the work of 600 persons. The Blacks were withdrawn, and for the next six months the government, the Executive Committee of the UAW, and the Packard Company were involved in a battle with white auto workers to bring about the transfer of the two Blacks. Finally, the racist elements were told to work or to leave the plant, and the blacks were transferred."

At Ocean Hill-Brownsville the AFT pitted itself against an oppressed nationality seeking to eliminate racism in the school system which serves only to perpetuate divisions in the working class along race lines which together with sexism undermine the solidarity we need to take on the corporate giants who today are assaulting working people.

Jim Kendrick  
Dallas, Texas

### Correction

A caption in last week's *Militant* gave an incorrect title for Kong Korm. He is Kampuchea's deputy foreign minister.

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.



## Blacks, others discuss Grenada defeat

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

More people than ever are discussing the Grenada revolution. Sparked by the U.S. invasion of the island last fall, this discussion centers on drawing the lessons of the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) headed by slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

This discussion continued on March 13, which marked the fifth anniversary of the Grenada revolution. In several cities events took place around this date to commemorate the revolution and discuss its defeat.

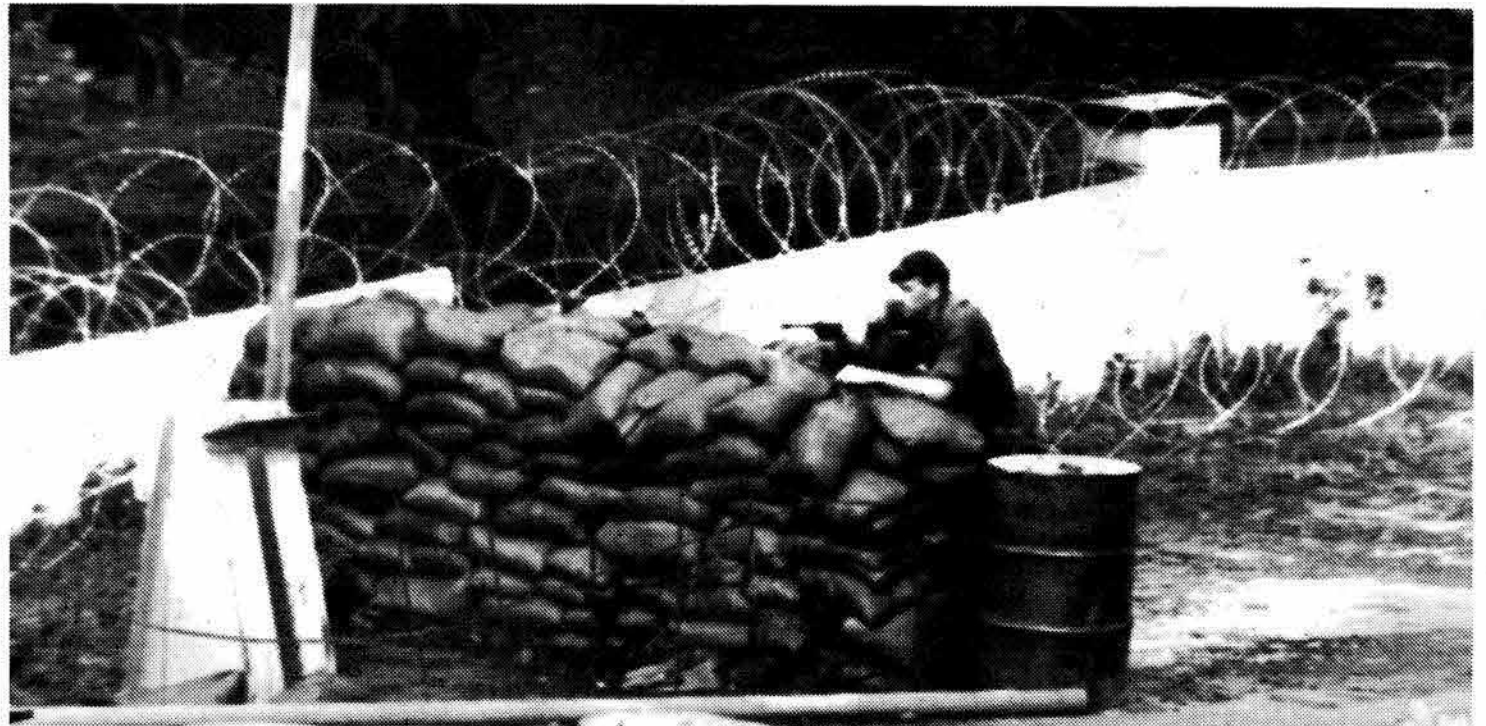
In New York City, for example, the Committee for a Free Grenada organized an all-day conference on March 17, which was held at Hunter College. The gathering was cosponsored by Hunter's Central American Solidarity Committee and Day Session Student Government. The conference, which drew around 100 people, heard leaders of the Caribbean community and activists from Grenada solidarity organizations. In a workshop on U.S. foreign policy in the Caribbean and Central America, conference participants heard Daisy Moncada, a representative of the Nicaraguan Mission to the United Nations.

The next day, March 18, the National Black United Front (NBUF) and Medgar Evers College Center for Women's Development sponsored an afternoon forum on Grenada at Medgar Evers. The featured speaker at this event was Adeyemi Bandle, who is the chair of NBUF's International Affairs committee and recently headed a fact-finding tour to Grenada. The NBUF investigating team was in Grenada the week of March 8 through 16.

Bandle gave a report on the current situation in Grenada and the activities of the "Maurice Bishop and Oct. 19, 1983, Martyrs Foundation" to the 75 people attending the forum.

The NBUF delegation also presented a videotaped interview with Alimenta and Ann Bishop, the mother and sister of Maurice Bishop. The interview was a small portion of the more than 20 hours of video tape the NBUF team filmed, including an interview with George Louison. Louison was the minister of agriculture under Bishop and a founding member of Bishop's party, the New Jewel Movement (NJM).

On the evening of March 18 about 250



Leonor Kusor

Grenada Beach Club, the U.S. military headquarters and base camp, surrounded by barbed wire and 24-hour guard. U.S. occupation forces bolster proimperialist regime that is dismantling programs of Grenada revolution. Vanguard layer of U.S. working class is discussing lessons of Grenada revolution's achievements and overthrow.

people attended a forum on Grenada held at Casa de las Americas. Speakers at this event were Haywood Burns, cochair of the National Conference of Black Lawyers; Johnnetta Cole, executive board of U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society; and Dr. Steven Robinson, a medical eyewitness of post-invasion Grenada.

In addition to these meetings, several other smaller gatherings were held during the week of March 13. Forums on Grenada were held in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and other cities as well.

All of the gatherings discussed the big achievements of the Grenada revolution. Under the four and a half years of PRG rule, workers and farmers made major advances in eliminating unemployment, providing health care and education, and furthering Grenada's economic development.

But some of the most important discussion at the meetings dealt with the overthrow of the PRG by a clique of govern-

ment functionaries and military officers led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. Some people at the meetings felt it was necessary to concentrate on building opposition to U.S. imperialism's domination of Grenada rather than discussing the events leading up to the October 25 U.S. invasion.

Many others, however, felt that discussion of the events from October 12, when Bishop was placed under house arrest by the Coard faction, to October 19, when Bishop and other central leaders of the NJM were murdered by Coard's followers, is essential to drawing the correct lessons from the Grenada revolution.

Another crucial aspect of the ongoing discussion is assessing the role of the Cuban government and leadership in aiding the Grenada revolution and telling the truth about its overthrow.

In many of the gatherings participants also drew the connection between workers

and farmers winning political power in Grenada — an island with an overwhelmingly Black population — and the striving for Black political power in the United States. Many felt that this power could be achieved through the campaign of Jesse Jackson for the Democratic Party's nomination for president.

Others argued that one of the essential lessons of the Grenada revolution was the need for working people to break with the capitalist parties and struggle to put political power in their own hands.

An invaluable contribution to this discussion is the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks* (published by Pathfinder Press). The book contains all the major speeches by Bishop between 1979-1983. It also has the October 20 and 25 statements of the Cuban government and Communist Party, and the November 14 speech of Fidel Castro on the execution of Bishop and his supporters and

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## Texas farm workers in Valley hail SWP campaign

BY JOSÉ ALVARADO

HOUSTON — Andrea González, vice-presidential candidate for the Socialist Workers Party, arrived here in the Rio Grande Valley March 6, opening her tour of Texas with a press conference in Matamoros, Mexico.

"We are not all Reagans and Mondales in the United States," she said. "My campaign and supporters clearly understand that it is not — contrary to what the U.S. government would like to have workers believe — the Mexican or Salvadoran workers who are responsible for the economic recession and unemployment in the U.S."

"It is simply inconceivable," she continued, "that Mexican or Salvadoran workers held a meeting and decided to shut down the steel plants and lay off workers. I call for the opening of the border with the full understanding that only the corporate bosses are responsible for the decisions that shut down plants and bring unemployment."

### 10,000 maquiladora workers on strike

The socialist's press conference in Mexico took place with the backdrop of a strike of 10,000 maquiladora workers in Reynosa, Mexico.

Maquiladora plants are shops that complete only part of the assembly of an item and are mostly runaway U.S. electronic and garment factories profiteering from the

low-wage, nonunion, 80 percent female labor provided by Mexico's Border Industrialization Program. The product is usually returned to the United States for completion and sale.

*El Puente Internacional*, newspaper of the International Union of Agricultural and Industrial Workers, reported that in Mexico 75 percent of the 600 maquiladora plants are located along the Rio Grande in the cities of Reynosa, Matamoros, Juárez, Laredo, Mexicali, and others.

The rank and file of the maquiladora workers' union in Reynosa is demanding a wage increase of 50 percent, reduction of the 48-hour work week to 40 hours, and the right to elect their own union leadership. The maquiladora worker earns at best about \$3.35 a day; some in Reynosa earn as little as \$1.65 a day.

Some of the North American-owned companies paralyzed by the militant strike in Reynosa, reported *El Puente*, are Zenith, Tideland Energy S.A., Genesco de Mexico, Domestic Motors, Rey-Mex Bra (Sears), and Hamil de Mexico.

Last November maquila workers in Matamoros went out on strike and won an increase in wages, from 42 cents an hour to 60 cents.

González's Matamoros press conference was attended by five Mexican newspapers and one U.S. paper, the *Brownsville Herald*.

That afternoon González drove to the colonia Santa Maria in Texas to meet with a leader of El Comité de Campesinos (Farm Workers Committee), Maria Silva. A colonia is an unincorporated community without city services — usually occupied by farm workers.

### Support among farm workers

Silva explained El Comité de Campesinos is "an organization to defend and organize people around civil and human rights."

"Through the Comité," she said, "we are able to fight for the type of education we want our children to have. We fight with law suits, demonstrations, or whatever it takes to get results."

"Right now we are suing the Texas Educational Agency. We are suing for the funds that are supposed to be used for the children of migrant farm workers."

"These funds are ours, we have paid the taxes, the monies come to the state and schools but our children never see it. These funds are supposed to be used not only for lunch programs, but for shoes; hats; and in the winter time for pants, coats, and sweaters, which our children very much need."

El Comité de Campesinos was part of a 300-strong farm workers' march on Hidalgo County Courthouse January 26 demanding help with utility bills, shelter, and food in the wake of the devastating De-

cember freeze.

The committee spearheaded a class action suit through Texas Rural Legal Aid, claiming unequal distribution of the emergency disaster aid.

"The one-million dollar emergency aid," said Silva, "was divided among four counties and most of it was used by agency administrators to expand their departments. They opened new jobs and hired their personal friends."

The one big victory by farm workers of forcing the state to ban the use of *el cortito* (the short handled hoe, which intensifies the work and forces workers to stoop as they work) is now being circumvented by the big growers forcing weeding and thinning crews to either pull weeds by hand or use a knife.

The ruling class politicians, Democrats and Republicans, know well that the conditions in which these farm workers work and live make for an explosive political situation, especially considering the fight-back history of the Rio Grande Valley farm workers and the Texas Raza Unida Party. RUP was an independent Chicano party that actually held governmental power in some south Texas areas during the mid-'70s.

What we need, said Silva, "is our own representatives." She and a friend later hosted a dinner for González.

Continued on Page 12