

Nicaragua: Congress complicit in CIA war

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We are in full-scale war," Interior Minister Tomás Borge declared April 12, referring with facts and figures to the largest counterrevolutionary offensive ever to be launched against the revolution here.

Some 11,000 counterrevolutionaries, armed and trained by Washington, are now mobilized to attack Nicaragua.

Of these 11,000, some 5,000 to 6,000 are already inside Nicaraguan territory, fighting in the provinces of Matagalpa, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, and in northern and southern Zelaya.

In the last few weeks, 219 Sandinista combatants have been killed in battle; 204 have been reported wounded.

Meanwhile, the 600 mines planted in Nicaraguan ports by the CIA have caused \$9.1 million in losses to Nicaragua and private shipping companies.

In January and February alone, Nicaragua incurred \$28 million in war-related damages, bringing the total damages in the two-and-a-half-year-old, U.S.-funded war to \$250 million.

"The same senators who a few days ago approved \$21 million to step up the war against Nicaragua are now red in the face about the mining of the ports," said Borge. "But what did those senators think? . . . That these millions of dollars were to be used to plant flowers and vegetables in our fertile land?"

"They are alarmed by the worldwide repudiation of the mining of our ports, but they show no embarrassment over the grief, blood, and tears of a people who have never caused the slightest harm to North Americans," Borge reminded the Nicaraguan people.

Commander Joaquín Cuadra, chief of staff of the Sandinista People's Army, urged reporters at an April 12 news conference to look reality in the face — that sums greater than \$21 million have already been handed over to the counterrevolutionaries. Cuadra explained that all that was necessary to realize this was to take a look at the ships, planes, bases, and arms these forces now have at their disposal.

"Won't the vote in Congress [for or against the \$21 million] make any difference?" one journalist asked Cuadra.

Cuadra explained that while a vote against the \$21 million would give the *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) less political space, it would not stop the flow of funds from other, secret accounts. Pointing out that it's an election year in the United States, he said Democrats are taking advantage of shades of differences they have with the Republicans. "Both parties want to see this revolution smashed," he said, "but they have differences on how to do it."

One of the terrorist contra groups the Democrats and Republicans are financing is the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE). Based in Costa Rica, it is led by Edén Pastora and Alfonso Robelo.

On April 16, in an obvious bid for more cash from Washington, ARDE claimed it had captured the Nicaraguan town of San Juan del Norte, a fishing village on the Atlantic Coast near the Costa Rican border. ARDE spokesmen said they were in firm control of some 40 miles of Nicaraguan territory and would soon set up a provisional revolutionary government. They called San Juan del Norte an area of major strategic importance.

The next day, Pastora admitted to
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Gov't frees KKK, Nazis who shot rights fighters

North Carolina socialist rips court whitewash



Socialist Workers senatorial candidate Kate Daher condemned April 15 acquittal of nine rightists who shot down five civil rights and labor activists in November 1979.

BY GREG McCARTAN

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — On April 15, an all-white jury acquitted six Ku Klux Klan members and three American Nazi Party members of charges of civil rights violations in the gunning down of five members of the Communist Workers Party (CWP).

Dale Sampson, the widow of William Sampson, who was one of those shot to death at the Nov. 3, 1979, anti-Klan rally in Greensboro, said, "This is a real go-ahead for the Klan and Nazis to kill people." The CWP held a press conference to denounce the verdict.

So did Kate Daher, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from North Carolina. She termed the verdict an "outrage" and said it was a serious "blow to the democratic rights of all working people, Blacks, and political activists who fight for social justice."

The nine racists who were on trial were part of a car caravan of nearly 40 Klanners and Nazis who drove into the Black community to the rally site at a public housing project, got out of their cars, and fired shotguns, pistols, and semi-automatic rifles into the crowd. Their victims — five dead and several others wounded — were

activists in the labor and Black movements.

Although this brutal assault was witnessed by scores of people and filmed by four television camera crews, the state's murder trial of six of the reactionaries resulted in acquittals in November 1980. The state then dropped charges against all other participants in the attack.

The federal courts became involved in the case only after a two-year public pressure campaign forced them to investigate this gross denial of civil rights.

As in the 1980 trial, attorneys for the ra-
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Court backs antiunion factory raids

The Supreme Court has struck a dangerous blow against the union movement and the rights of immigrant workers.

In an April 17 decision the court ruled that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) may conduct unannounced

The raids are racist by their very nature. The INS cops are unlikely to demand papers from most white workers (unless, of course, they are heard committing the "crime" of speaking a language other than English). Any workers who are not white, however, are considered fair game for INS interrogation.

These raids are intended to create an atmosphere in which any worker is afraid to speak out, to oppose employer abuses of any kind, or to be active in their union.

Employers increasingly are collaborating with the INS in staging these raids —
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EDITORIAL

raids on factories. Under the guise of a hunt for "illegal aliens," these raids are designed to intimidate and terrorize all workers.

This racist ruling threatens not only the Latino, Asian, and Caribbean workers who bear the brunt of INS victimization. It endangers all union organizing.

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist claimed INS raids consist of "mere questioning." Nothing could be further from the truth. A dissenting court opinion more accurately called such raids a "frightening picture of people subjected to wholesale interrogation."

These raids are an act of intimidation aimed at every worker. INS cops barge into a factory. Some remain stationed at the door to prevent any worker from leaving before answering to INS interrogation.

Other INS agents walk through the plant demanding workers answer questions and produce immigration papers. Those who cannot produce such papers or answer to the satisfaction of INS agents are arrested — and often deported. In many targeted plants this can result in arrests of half the work force.

Emergency fight opens to win green card for Marroquín

BY HOLBROOK MAHN

NEW YORK — The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) has launched an emergency campaign to force the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to grant Hector Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist, a permanent residence visa, or green card, as it is commonly known. Such a card would allow Marroquín to remain and work in the United States.

This campaign takes on an immediate urgency because the Supreme Court could rule any day on a plea by Marroquín for political asylum. If it rules against him, he will have 48 hours to leave the country voluntarily or face deportation to Mexico. He would then have to reapply for a green card from outside the United States, a much more difficult procedure.

Marroquín applied for a green card in June 1983 based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen, Priscilla Schenk. Such applications are routinely granted.

But the INS has refused to issue one to Marroquín and has delayed processing his application at every stage. The INS hopes the Supreme Court will deny Marroquín's plea for political asylum before the INS is forced to give him his green card.

Even though the INS has given preliminary approval to Marroquín's application for a green card, its stance is that it will not allow him to remain in this country to pursue his application if the Supreme Court rules against his political asylum case.

For this reason PRDF, which is coordinating Marroquín's defense, is urging supporters of Marroquín's right to live in the United States to immediately send letters and telegrams to Alan Nelson, INS Commissioner, demanding that the INS give Marroquín his green card.

Marroquín's fight to stop the INS's attempts to deport him has won broad support from the labor movement, Black and
Continued on Page 11

BY BARBARA SIMONS

VIRGINIA, Minn — On Minnesota's Iron Range, there has been almost a complete news blackout of information on the British coal miners' strike. As with the Arizona copper miners' strike, it was up to the Iron Range Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance to introduce the issue to iron ore miners at their plant gates.

Because the *Militant* had sent a working U.S. miner — Bruce Kimball — to Britain to get first-hand coverage of the strike, *Militant* sales to workers here were the best way to get out the word.

An all-out effort was made to reach every operating mine in the area with the *Militant's* coverage.

The special one-week mobilization began with door-to-door sales in the small mining town of Nashwauk, where a team of six people sold 20 papers in less than an hour.

Every plant gate, some as far away as 50 miles, was hit with a morning or afternoon sale. As a

result, we sold half the week's bundle of *Militants* at these gates.

Free-standing, two-and-a-half foot by four foot signs announced the British miners story, and drew attention to our sales locations. These gates are all approached from main highways, with cars passing at speeds up to 60 mph. Company guard stations are also located near some of the sales posts.

Under these conditions, it's clear that those miners who stop know who we are. They have their money ready, and are buying a paper they know something about.

At the Reserve Mine at Babbitt, where over 80 percent of the work force has been laid off over the past two years, three miners stopped, listened to our brief description of articles in the *Militant*, bought three papers, and continued on to work, without any discussion over whether or not to buy the socialist press. This has not been one of our regular sales locations.

At all of the mine gates, many

workers wave, or give the "thumbs-up" sign, letting us know they support us. One miner at the Minntac plant at Mt. Iron said, "A lot of guys would stop, but they're afraid the guards will recognize them. But I'm not afraid; I'll read anything I want to."

Since the fall of 1981, Iron Range miners have experienced massive layoffs (80 percent in some communities), concession contracts, home foreclosures, and threats of mine closures.

Miners attend union meetings seeking answers to their problems. Many miners express concern that the union officialdom offers no leadership and no fightback. But solidarity among the miners grows with the realization that in this basically one-industry area, everyone is just a layoff away from poverty.

The *Militant's* coverage of the British coal miners' strike has emphasized and advanced the awareness of the need for workers solidarity, not only regionally but internationally.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

Southern Africa
USWA election
Settlement in
VOL. 48/NO. 11

Coal miners in Britain battle cops and gov't

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, England, Mar 21 — For coal miners Britain is in a state of martial law. More than 20,000 police — the largest number since the 1926 general strike — have been mobilized to break the strike called by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). Organized by Scotland Yard under the code name "Operation Robin Hood," this police operation is designed to maintain a system that steals from the poor and gives to the rich.

More than 100,000 of the 183,000 miners are on strike, and pickets are persuading others to stop work. The miners are protesting government plans to close many mines, or "pits," as they are called here.

This strike brings miners and those who take solidarity action with them into a head-on confrontation with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative (Tory) government.



March 30 *Militant* featured front-page, eyewitness account of British miners strike.

Mason exposes new racist slander of Jackson

The following is a statement released by Mel Mason, 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate:

I strongly condemn the racist slander campaign against Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson and Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam. The big-business media, the Democratic and Republican parties, and the capitalist class that runs them all are once again raising a hue and cry about "Black anti-Semitism" and "Black racism."

These racist charges were first made after Jackson's "Hymie-Hymietown" remark came to light.

In spite of Jackson's retraction of the remark, he, and all Blacks, were smeared as anti-Semites. This was especially true for critics of the U.S.-backed racist state of Israel and its oppression of the Palestinian people.

U.S. ruling-class circles have now dug

up a March 11 transcript of a sermon by Farrakhan, which, they claim, proves that Jackson's campaign inspires anti-Semitic prejudice and violent behavior in general.

The capitalist media charged that in his remarks Farrakhan threatened the life of Milton Coleman, the *Black Washington Post* reporter who made public Jackson's anti-Jewish slur. The employers' propaganda machine also widely publicized Farrakhan's supposed admiration of Hitler.

But the bosses' slander campaign began to unravel as the facts became known. On April 17, more than two weeks after the racist charges against Farrakhan were made, the *Black Moslem* leader's March 11 speech was printed in the *New York Times*.

In an April 11 news conference Farrakhan correctly pointed out that the big-business news media was guilty of "wicked and malicious tampering" with his remarks. The capitalist media ignored Farrakhan's statement that no physical harm would come to Coleman and, instead, harped on a later comment that "traitors" to Black people would be punished by death.

"One day soon we will punish you with death," warned Farrakhan. He made this statement while explaining the vision of the Nation of Islam, which is that Black people will form their own nation-state under Farrakhan's leadership. Farrakhan believes this will happen within the next five years.

Once this is achieved, argues Farrakhan, Black people will be able to use that state power to crush racial oppression and all those, white and Black, who uphold it.

One may not agree with this view, but it's no more bloodthirsty than the belief that some people are condemned to burn in hell for eternity.

Moreover, Farrakhan's view contains a kernel of truth — Black people need political power to end racist discrimination. It's because Farrakhan speaks to this need, though distorted by its religious form, that he gets a warm reception from Black audiences.

As to Farrakhan's comments on Hitler, here also the capitalist media distorts and lies about the truth. Farrakhan said that some Jews "call me Hitler." Answering them Farrakhan said Hitler was "a great man" who "rose Germany up from nothing," after Germany's defeat in World War I.

Farrakhan, however, went on to say that since he is "rising our people up from nothing," there might be some superficial likeness between himself and Hitler, but otherwise "don't compare me with your wicked killers."

Meanwhile, Jackson, seeking the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, has strongly disagreed with Farrakhan's comments about Hitler and Coleman. Jackson, however, refuses to repudiate Farrakhan, who is a staunch supporter of his campaign.

Jackson's refusal to denounce Farrakhan has come under heavy attack from the employers and their kept media. At the heart of this assault is an attack on all Blacks. Marvin Kalb, a news reporter, put it this way in a question he asked of Jackson on the April 8 edition of "Meet the Press": "Are you a Black man who happens to be an American running for the presidency — or are you an American who happens to be a Black man running for the presidency?"

I, and millions of other Blacks, said

"Right on!" when Jackson answered, "Well, I was born Black in America, I was not born America in Black."

New York Times columnist William Safire — a former speech writer for Richard Nixon who was known for his "off-the-record" anti-Semitic and racist remarks — commented the next day that Jackson "evidently sees himself as an American Black rather than as a Black American. Black is not the adjective, but the noun — the thing he is..."

That's right, and millions of other Black people view ourselves the same way. How could it be otherwise? Because we are Black we're segregated into dilapidated and inadequate housing. Because we are Black we're relegated to the dirtiest, lowest-paying jobs. And when we dare to protest this racist discrimination, we are the victims of brutal cop terror.

Malcolm X once said, "I'm not going to sit at your table and watch you eat, with nothing on my plate, and call myself a diner.... Being here in America doesn't make you an American...."

"No, I'm not an American. I'm one of the 22 million Black people who are the victims of Americanism.... I see America through the eyes of the victim. I don't see any American dream; I see an American nightmare."

As a Black socialist I believe this nightmare is caused by a class system, capitalism, in which a tiny handful of super-rich families profit from racist oppression and class exploitation. This nightmare will be ended when Blacks and other working people rise up and take power out of the hands of the capitalist class and wield it in our own interests.



Jesse Jackson (left), Louis Farrakhan.

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But the *Militant* gives you the workers' side of the news every week. That's why it's the paper you look to for coverage of the Socialist Workers campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president. While the other candidates are campaigning to "dump Reagan," Mason and González are campaigning to dump capitalism. While the Democrats and Republicans campaign to make the system work better for big business, Mason and González campaign for a government run by workers and farmers.

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Editors: CINDY JAQUITH

DOUG JENNESS

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

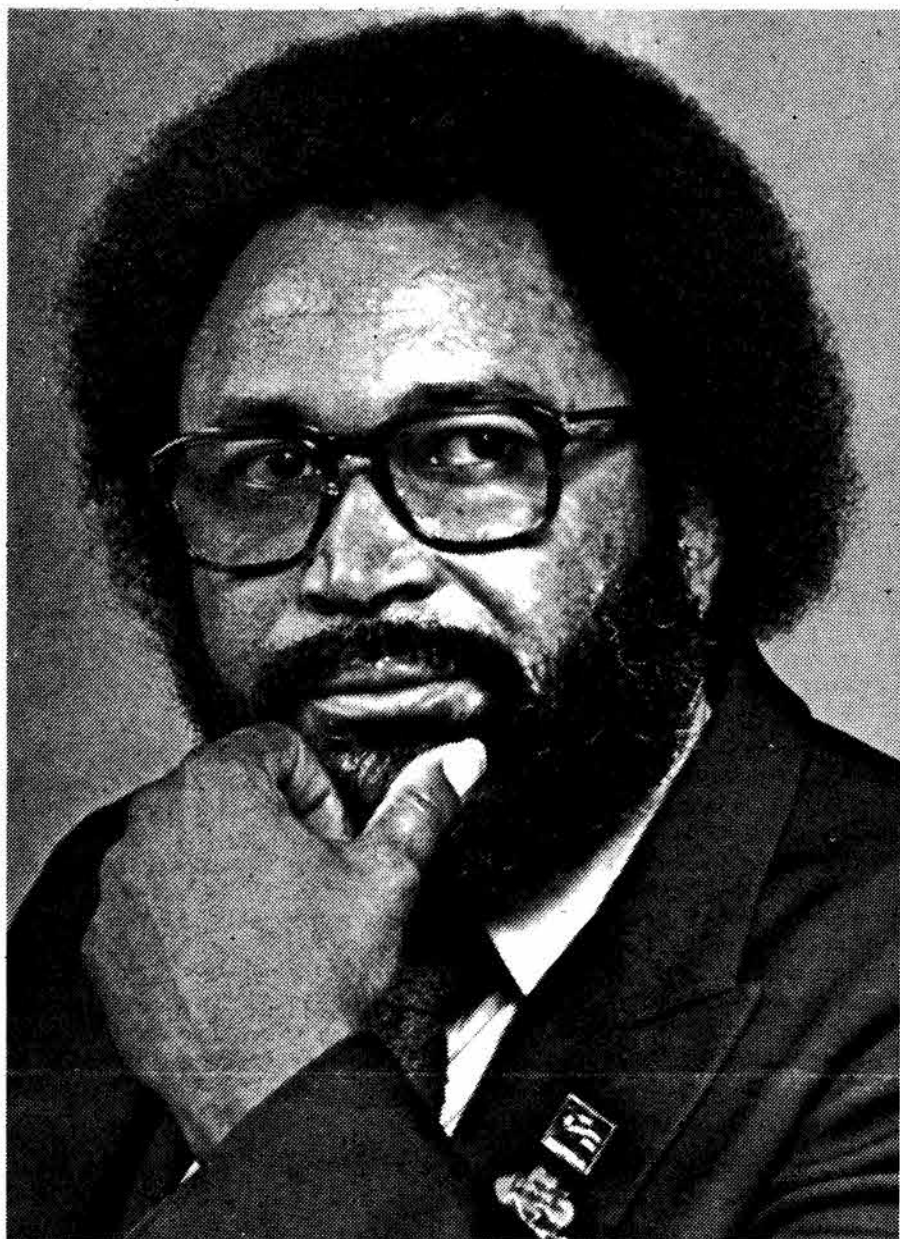
Editorial Staff: Connie Allen, William Gottlieb, Arthur Hughes, Margaret Jayko, Malik Miah, Geoff Mirelowitz, Mohammed Oliver, Harry Ring, Larry Seigle, Mary-Alice Waters.

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Mel Mason, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for United States president, is bringing his message in Southern West Virginia. In part, he is telling workers they must realize there are no substantial differences between the Democrat and Republican parties.

Staff photo by Dale Sparks

Campaigning

Socialist presidential candidate in state

By Bob Stiegel
Staff Writer

If Mel Mason had been president at the time, he would have sought to nationalize the company and return those coal miners to their jobs.

"Any corporation that claims it can no longer make a profit and does something we consider to be socially irresponsible, such as throwing thousands of people out of work, such as U.S. Steel did, then the government has a responsibility to nationalize that corporation," says Mason.

"We would have placed (U.S. Steel) under public control of a publicly controlled board, and all aspects of those operations would be open to the public."

Mason, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president currently campaigning in West Virginia, referred to U.S. Steel's massive layoffs more than a year ago in McDowell County. The 40-year-old California resident was accompanied by SWP's

U.S. Senate candidate Joan Radin in Beckley Saturday, bringing his message to workers here, they said.

Part of that message, Mason said, is workers must realize there are no substantial differences between the Democrat and Republican parties.

"As Malcolm X said, the Republican Party is basically the snarling wolf, and the Democratic Party is the fox," he paraphrased the civil rights leader. "They're both animals in the same family and they both like to eat the same meat — which is us."

"Walter Mondale was a part of the administration that attacked the United Mine Workers in 1978, when they were on strike, when they invoked the Taft-Hartley Act trying to force them to go back to work. There's union busting in both parties."

Mondale, a Democrat, also is the United Mine

(Please see Campaigning on 10A)

■ Continued from 1A

Workers' endorsed candidate for president. Ms. Radin, herself a UMW member, considers the endorsement politics as usual.

"The Democratic Party is still engaging in the process of promising a great deal to the labor movement, in return for support for their candidate," she said. "That's where it's at. That will change not from the top, but from the bottom, with more and more rank and filers becoming disillusioned with that arrangement ... because of the perpetuation of the problems."

Ending political attacks on unions and bringing workers into the government are included in the SWP candidates' platform. Mason's pledge to call home the country's armed forces also directly relates to a worker-oriented policy.

"Workers and farmers in this country have absolutely no interest in fighting the workers and farmers and young people in countries that are struggling for the same kinds of freedoms that we struggled for here," he said. "I would bring all the troops home immediately and use that money instead to create jobs."

Mason blames U.S. involvement in the Middle East, Central America and, formerly, Vietnam on American "imposition of capital" in those areas. Military involvement is considered necessary, by both major political parties, whenever American corporate profits are threatened, he said.

"Whenever the people in those countries get tired of being exploited and they rise up ... the United States government has his-

torically done two things: either fund a brutal dictatorship as it's doing in El Salvador and Guatemala, or send troops in as they did in Vietnam."

The SWP's platform includes shorter workweeks, no cuts in wages and benefits, and, most importantly, Mason says, guaranteed jobs in a society based on "the people motive, not the profit motive."

Despite the worldwide drop in demand for coal, putting all of West Virginia's miners back to work is feasible if "political barriers" are erased, Mason said.

"What would you do with all the coal?" he said. "Cuba could use coal. Nicaragua could use coal. Vietnam could use coal and steel and all the other products that are made by basic industry in this country. All the potential markets are not being used because of political reasons."

Mason was a Seaside, Calif., city council member and an instructor at Monterey (Calif.) Peninsula College before resigning both positions to seek the presidency. He admits having virtually no chance of defeating either candidate of the two major parties, but says he will campaign "very seriously" nevertheless.

"I'm running this campaign to do as much as possible ... to win," he said. "But even if we don't win, our most important responsibility is to get this program out to the working people because we think this program offers a long-term perspective on how things can be made better for working people."

"Working people have to be in power in this country. The first step is breaking away from the Democratic and Republican parties."

W. Va. socialist candidate condemns right-wing violence

BY MICHAEL CARPER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — An early morning attack on the Socialist Workers Party campaign headquarters here on April 14 left hundreds of dollars in damages. A brick was thrown, breaking a window and further damaging a door that had been broken in an earlier attack.

This is the second attack on the headquarters, which also houses the Militant Bookstore, in a week and the eighth time windows have been smashed since the store opened in 1982.

Joan Radin, Socialist Workers candidate for Senate, issued an emergency telegram to West Virginia's Governor Rockefeller, Secretary of State A.J. Manchin, and Charleston Mayor Mike Roark demanding that they condemn right-wing violence and act to apprehend and punish those responsible.

"This is a serious attack and an attempt to obstruct a federal election campaign," Radin said. "Thousands of West Virginians are now signing petitions to ensure that the socialist slate will be on the November ballot. A brazen assault on their democratic rights, this violence is aimed at intimidating all West Virginia working people from participating in politics."

"Governor Rockefeller and other state and local officials are responsible for ensuring a democratic election and protecting the constitutional rights of all citizens."

"Our campaign and supporters will not be intimidated from telling the truth about what is happening to working people in this country and abroad. We will continue to advocate a government of the majority, organizing society on the basis of human needs and not the profits of big business."

For Socialist Workers presidential candidate Mel Mason and U.S. Senatorial candidate Joan Radin, Beckley, West Virginia, is an important spot.

Beckley is in the heart of the southern West Virginia coal fields — United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) country. Thousands of UMWA members live in the area. Mason and Radin believe the program they are campaigning for is of particular interest to coal miners who are the victims of the capitalist economic crisis and the relentless drive for profits by the coal operators.

This election is the first time an SWP presidential candidate is petitioning to appear on the West Virginia ballot. This development comes at an important time.

In the weeks before the election, UMWA contracts with coal operators in West Virginia and around the nation will expire. Miners are preparing for a showdown over their right to a decent contract.

At the union's convention in Pittsburgh last December the delegates registered their determination to win that contract when they unanimously approved a bargaining position of: "No backward steps! No takeover contracts!"

The aggressive campaigning being carried out by Mason, Radin, and their campaign supporters is aimed at letting miners, and other working people, know that there are socialist candidates and a political party that will back their fight 100 percent.

On this page the *Militant* is reprinting in full the coverage on the socialist campaign that appeared in the April 8 issue of the Beckley *Register/Herald*.

Candidate says Manchin fears Socialist party

By Bob Stiegel
Staff Writer

A. James Manchin is a politician of the rich who is harassing socialist candidates because he fears they'll lead other common workers into the political process, a United States presidential candidate claims.

Mel Mason, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, also contends the secretary of state's criticism of a fellow candidate's pauper status shows he supports coal industry over coal miners.

"What it does is intimidate people who might want to run for office and who might have to file pauper status," said Mason. "You can see the intimidation involved: If I file pauper status, I'm going to get investigated and possibly prosecuted."

Manchin has criticized U.S. Senate candidate Joan Radin, of Charleston, for filing as a pauper, and evading the \$753 filing fee. Ms. Radin, a member of UMW Local 2271, makes about \$2,000 a month at her coal mining job.

"What (Manchin) didn't mention is that she's been out of work for 15 months, and was just recently rehired," Mason said Saturday while in Beckley. "Where they expect us to get this kind of money is beyond me."

"Were we able to afford the filing fee, we would have paid it," he added. "Even though we think the filing is very prohibitive for working people and the poor who might want to run for office."

"But Manchin's implication is that coal miners are somehow greedy, overpaid people," Mason continued. "I think it's real significant that this insinuation comes up at a time when the contract for the miners is coming up for negotiation."

"To me that plays right into the hands of the coal bosses who are trying to force coal

miners to accept concession contracts."

Mason, who also filed as a pauper and bypassed a \$2,000 fee, said Manchin has asked prosecutors to investigate for possible violations by the SWP candidates. The secretary's reaction, he said, is consistent with the country's ruling elite.

"There's a fear, I think, on the part of Manchin and the rich people he represents that more workers could follow the example being set by Miss Radin," Mason said. "If the union (UMW) really began running a lot of miners for various positions that come up in the state government, the miners in West Virginia could conceivably be the government here and could reorganize the state, not only in the interests of miners, but workers and the poor in general."

Mason said he is currently unemployed, having resigned a city council position and college instructor's job in his hometown Seaside, Calif., to seek office. He said he and running mate Andrea Gonzalez hope to be on the ballot in 27 states and the District of Columbia in November.

"We had to look at our party's resources and look at states where we felt getting enough petitions (for the ballot) were reachable," he said. "We had to rule out places like California, for instance, which would require that we collect 810,000 signatures. That's just absolutely horrendous. So we concentrate on states such as West Virginia."

The SWP candidates need at least 7,500 signatures to get on the November ballot, a number Mason expects to at least double because he expects Manchin to challenge several of them.

"There's been an opening shot by Mr. Manchin," he said. "I think he's made it very clear he doesn't want our party on the ballot."

The socialist campaign platform

■ "Bring all U.S. troops in Lebanon, Grenada, and Central America home now. Stop the war against Nicaragua. End the blockade against Cuba. Cut ties with the military regime in El Salvador. Unilateral U.S. nuclear disarmament. No draft. Independence for Puerto Rico."

■ "Stop union busting. Repeal 'right to work' for less laws and other anti-union legislation. No government interference in union affairs."

■ "Jobs for all. Shorten the work week with no cut in pay. With money now spent on war, launch a public works program to build schools, hospitals, roads, and child care centers to provide jobs at union wages."

■ "Stop racist attacks. Affirmative action, including quotas, in education and em-

ployment. Desegregate the schools, including through busing. Defend voting rights. Stop the deportation of undocumented workers."

■ Defend women's rights. Defend safe, legal abortion rights. Stop forced sterilization. Support the Equal Rights Amendment."

■ Stop farm foreclosures. A moratorium on all debts. Extend low-interest credit for machinery, seed, fertilizer and other farming necessities. Guarantee family farmers an income adequate to meet the costs of production and sustain a decent living."

■ "For socialism. For a socialist society based on human needs, not profits, in which the whole of society will enjoy the benefits of industry and science; where culture will flourish; where wars, racism, sexism, and exploitation will no longer exist."

Virginia shipyard workers meet González

Socialists defend right of Blacks to vote, run for office

BY AMY HUSK

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — On April 2, workers at the huge Newport News shipyard had a chance to meet Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president. González's three-day tour of the Tidewater area of Virginia included a visit to the gates of the shipyard during lunch hour.

Campaigning with González was Eli Green, the Tidewater SWP's candidate for Newport News City Council. Green is a pipefitter at the Newport News shipyard and a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8888.

Some workers were surprised to see socialist candidates outside the gates of a shipyard that builds warships for the U.S. Navy. One man asked González if the socialist proposal to eliminate the military budget meant he would lose his job and "have to go on welfare." González explained that the socialist program calls for the creation of more jobs, not fewer, but through producing goods that benefit human needs, not weapons to protect U.S. businessmen's investments abroad.

A Black man that González talked with was furious about the recent attacks on the right of Blacks and working people to vote and run for office in Newport News. He pointed to the case of Pauline Jackson, an independent candidate for Newport News City Council.

Jackson is a 52-year-old Black nursing assistant who made her bid for the city council campaign by going door to door in her neighborhood and collecting 216 signatures on election petitions. Since her announcement, Jackson has been the target of numerous investigations and "exposés" by the press and city government. It was disclosed that she had been convicted of "welfare fraud" and ordered to repay \$593 in "overpayments" in food stamps. She has been declared ineligible to run because of nine alleged forgeries on her petitions.

This Black shipyard worker pointed to the injustice of the harassment of Pauline Jackson. "They go after her over a few hundred dollars she got to feed her kids, when these big companies steal millions and get away with it," he said. He was glad to hear that the socialist candidates are defending the rights of Blacks and working people around the country.

While she was in Virginia, González met with Rev. Milton Reid, editor-in-chief of the *Journal and Guide* newspaper, the largest circulation Black newspaper in Virginia. Reid is also the pastor of the New Calvary Baptist Church and a longtime activist in the civil rights movement. González and Reid discussed his recent trip to Nicaragua on a tour sponsored by the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. During the meeting with Reid, González expressed the SWP's support for Reid's fight against government harass-

ment of him and his church (see story on this page).

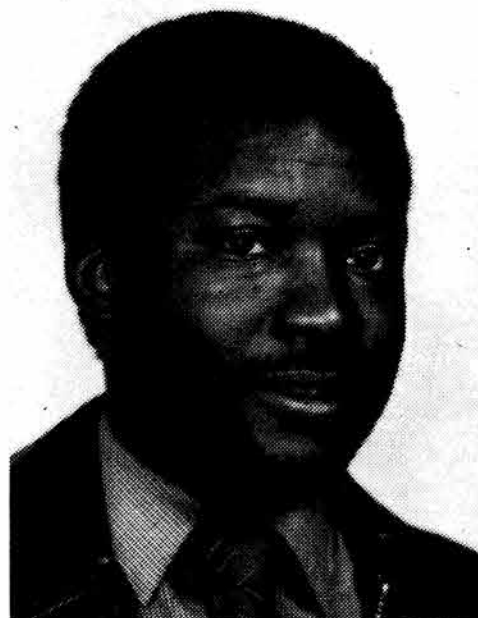
González's tour included a rally at a YWCA in the Black community of Newport News. Eli Green also spoke.

Green condemned the attacks on Pauline Jackson. Pointing out that this is an attack on Blacks and all working people, Green said, "They want us to believe that Black workers and women who are forced onto welfare have no right to run for office. The socialist campaign supports Pauline Jackson's right to run."

All indications are that the investigations of Jackson were engineered by the local Democratic Party. The forgery investigation was initiated by Commonwealth Attorney Willard Robinson, a Democrat, who said he was acting on an anonymous "tip." A number of leading Democrats have indicated that the "tip" originated in party circles with the purpose being to eliminate the competition in the city council election.

Green also discussed the Democratic Party's role in attempting to limit voter registration drives in Newport News. The majority-Democrat Newport News Electoral Board instituted a policy that all groups holding special registration drives be required to take out advertisements that would cost \$200 or more. The Newport News NAACP filed a formal complaint on the advertising requirement with the State Board of Elections. Reacting to the pressure from the Black community, the local board removed the requirement, but then banned all special registration drives.

The NAACP and other community



Militant

Eli Green, socialist candidate for city council in Newport News, and Andrea González, vice-presidential candidate.



Militant/Harry Ring

groups have said they will ignore the ban and have called for the removal of the local board members. Even the state board and the local press have called for the resignation or removal of the local board members. On April 8, reacting to this pressure, the chairman of the Newport News Electoral Board submitted his resignation.

Greetings were given to the rally by a representative of the Young Socialist Alliance, a national organization that is organizing support for the SWP candidates. González is the YSA's national secretary.

Anne McDonald, coordinator of the Southeast Virginia Peace Coalition, expressed her personal support for the socialist campaign. Her experience over the years with Democratic Party "peace" candidates, she said, showed her that the primary purpose of these candidates was to get people "out of the streets and into the ballot box." But the SWP candidates are different, she said. "I've marched in demonstrations and worked on committees with SWP candidates. I know they really care about the issues."

Va. court intervenes in Black church

BY MIKE FLETCHER

NORFOLK, Va. — A Norfolk, Virginia, civil rights leader and minister is facing jail for standing up against government intervention in the affairs of his church. Rev. Milton Reid is pastor of the New Calvary Baptist Church, which embraces liberation theology and is widely known for its commitment to progressive social causes.

Reid is also publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Journal and Guide* newspaper of Norfolk. The *Guide* is Virginia's oldest and largest circulation Black newspaper.

The civil rights leader has been found in contempt of court and fined \$1,000 a day for refusing to hand over the membership list of his church to a court appointed overseer.

The court action against Reid stems from an August 1982 lawsuit filed by a group of church dissidents. They charged that Reid was mismanaging church funds and was attempting to rule the congregation without going through proper channels.

The group, which claims to number about 250 out of a congregation of 860 active and 150 inactive members, is seeking an election of the board of deacons, an audit of church funds and property, and removal of Reid from the pulpit he has held for 17 years.

Supporters of Reid say the dissidents number no more than 50 with voting rights in the congregation.

This past January, in response to the church dissidents' complaint, Judge Edward Ryan appointed Norfolk attorney William Mazel to oversee a meeting of the church members and ordered Reid to turn over the membership list to Mazel and the dissidents.

Reid has refused, and the church membership has stood firm behind the decision. On April 8, a meeting of more than 300 church members was held. They voted unanimously to support Reid's stand, retain him as pastor, and remove the dissidents from membership.

According to Reid, "New Calvary is a Black activist church in the arena of civil

rights, human rights, liberation and justice, and salvation for the total man. For the white power structure to receive such a list of our members — in this very racist society — we are not sure or certain of what reprisals will be taken against them."

The church was an active participant in organizing for the Aug. 27, 1983, jobs, peace, and freedom march on Washington, D.C. This past February, the church sponsored a meeting for Cecilia Moran, a former Salvadoran political prisoner on a speaking tour against U.S. intervention in her country.

As publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Journal and Guide*, Reid has made the paper a tribune of progressive social causes. The *Guide* took a strong stand against the U.S. invasion of Grenada and has been outspoken in defense of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Reid recently returned from a fact-finding tour of Nicaragua, sponsored by the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. He was greatly moved by the advances of the Nicaraguan people and has given prominent coverage to his tour and his observations of the revolutionary process in the pages of the *Guide*.

According to Reid and his supporters, it is the liberation theology of New Calvary, and its activism in social causes, that is behind the dissident challenge.

In response to the court action, a class-action lawsuit has been filed against the Commonwealth of Virginia by the Center for Constitutional Rights. Noted civil liberties attorney William Kunstler is part of the legal team fighting this violation of First Amendment rights.

Joining New Calvary as nominal plaintiffs in the suit are the Tidewater Metro Baptist Ministers Conference, Bethany Baptist Association of Southside Virginia, and the Virginia Black Pastor's Conference.

The outcome of the New Calvary case could have widespread implications. It raises the question of the right of the government to interfere in the affairs of the church, or any other voluntary organization. If the court action against Reid and New Calvary is not overturned, it would give the government an important weapon to attack organizations and individuals who hold views and support causes the government finds objectionable.

Socialists solidarize with striking oil workers

BY BOB ROWAND

PHILADELPHIA — Supporters of Katy Karlin, Socialist Workers Party candidate in Philadelphia's 2nd Congressional District, celebrated the successful completion of a month-long petitioning drive at a spirited campaign rally March 30.

More than 3,700 signatures were collected to put Karlin on the ballot. Andrea González, the party's vice-presidential candidate, was in town to campaign with Karlin.

Karlin is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-901, which is currently on strike against the Sun Oil company. This is a coordinated strike with the OCAW local at Sun Oil in Toledo, Ohio.

Sun Oil is the only oil company bargaining with the OCAW that has refused to accept the union's request for a 20 cent raise in the first year of the contract and a 35 cent raise in the second.

Sun's offer of a lump sum payment instead of a raise in hourly rates undercuts the value of workers' benefits, pensions, and overtime rates. In addition, the com-

pany is seeking more control over who is fired and hired by demanding a three-tier seniority system. And it is trying to divide the work force by having new hires start at a lower rate — in some jobs by as much as 50 percent.

In a statement released by González and Karlin, they called on all workers to support the oil workers. They explained that "the same oil barons who are destroying the gains of these workers are driving all of us to war in the Mideast and Central America. They wage these wars to defend their enormous profits and the capitalist system. U.S. workers do not want to die for 'Big Oil' in wars abroad, nor to slash our living conditions at home for their greed."

González and Karlin visited the picket lines at Sun's Marcus Hook refinery. González was asked what she would do for the strike if elected. "For starters, I would get rid of the court injunction limiting pickets to four at a gate," she responded.

The injunction was the cause of frustration among strikers, who wanted to shut the refinery down with mass picketing. One picket said he thought things would be

better if Mondale were elected. When González explained that the Carter-Mondale administration invoked the Taft-Hartley Act during the mine workers strike in 1978, the worker was surprised.

The pickets agreed with González when she explained that building solidarity with other unions would strengthen their strike.

González and Karlin also visited Stanley Blacker and Botany 500, two large Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union-organized shops.

González met with Margie O'Rourke, wife of imprisoned Irish freedom fighter Michael O'Rourke. O'Rourke is fighting U.S. government attempts to deport him to Ireland for his activities in the Irish Republican Army. O'Rourke sent greetings to the campaign rally.

Greetings were also read from Mohammad Khalil, president of the Philadelphia General Union of Palestinian Students, and Bruce Bloy, a member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

Sales drive's start shows wide interest in socialist ideas

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

Campaigning for socialism was the theme of the April 14-15 kick-off weekend of the eight-week special effort to sell 35,000 to 40,000 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Initial reports indicate that the weekend was highly successful.

Salespeople found concern among working people about the U.S. war against Nicaragua and high interest in the proposals of Socialist Workers Party candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González to end that war.

Although the socialists had mapped out ambitious plans to introduce people to the campaign newspapers of the Mason-González ticket, the response in many areas was even better than they had expected. Branches of the Socialist Workers Party and other supporters of the Mason-González campaign are adopting sales goals based on this receptiveness.

Campaigners in San Francisco sold 78 *Militants*, 18 *PMs*, and 17 copies of the *Young Socialist* — the newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance — their first day out.

In the predominantly Black Hunters Point district they introduced the Mason-González campaign to people who had been closely following Jesse Jackson's campaign for president. These people were glad to hear that another Black person was running for president and were interested in what Mason and González had to say.

Socialists in Birmingham went back to places where they had found particularly high interest in socialist ideas during their recently completed ballot drive. A highlight of their weekend effort was sales in Jasper, Alabama, the center of the coalfields in that area. They sold 75 *Militants* their first day out — an average of 13 per salesperson — and took a goal for the drive of 600.

When Michael Harrington, cochairperson of the Democratic Socialists of America, spoke at a meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 13, campaigners for Mason and González participated in the lively discussion about the 1984 elections that followed. People attending the meeting bought 19 *Militants*. Total sales in Albuquerque during the kick-off weekend were 79 *Militants* and 12 *PMs*, a good start on their goal of 480 *Militants* and 120 *PMs*.

In several states the kick-off weekend for the sales drive came in the middle of efforts to collect the tens of thousands of signatures required for the socialist ticket to appear on the November ballot. Michigan supporters of Mason and González, for example, are slightly ahead of schedule in their drive to collect 30,000 signatures. At each step of organizing petitioning, they have discussed the importance of getting out the campaign newspapers and the logistics of how to do it.

During the four-week petitioning effort, they have sold more than 350 copies of the *Militant*.

Our correspondent reports that these sales were much higher than during previous petitioning drives as a result of

petitioners paying special attention to getting out the press. Before the petitioning drive began, they had been selling about 100 copies of the *Militant* per week; that rate continued during petitioning even though selling during petitioning was new for many of the campaigners.

Socialists petitioning in West Virginia and New Jersey over the weekend also experimented with using the press as the central piece of campaign material.

In spite of heavy rain in New Jersey, 52 papers were sold. One campaigner reports meeting a person from Trinidad who bought two *Militants* and asked how he could join the SWP.

In San Jose, California, five teams went out Saturday, including four active supporters of the SWP, and sold 48 *Militants* and 18 *PMs*. A big part of their sales drive is getting out to the areas outside of San Jose. Three of their five teams went to cities in the outlying region.

Sales of *PM* during the kick-off weekend indicate that receptivity to socialist ideas among the section of the U.S. working class that speaks Spanish is high.

Campaigners in Los Angeles sold 102 *PMs* along with 98 *Militants*.

People who bought *PM* in Houston were particularly interested in its coverage of the fight against police brutality in Miami. One immigrant from Central America com-



New Jersey socialists sold *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial* while petitioning to place socialist candidates on ballot.

mented that he had come to the United States because he had thought it was a free country, yet here "I'm attacked by the police for no reason at all."

One of the main goals of New Orleans supporters of the socialist campaign is to use the sales drive to learn how to reach out to the over 100,000 Central American immigrants that now live in their city. Many of the campaigners speak only a little Spanish, but armed with introductory phrases about *una revista socialista* (a socialist magazine) and Spanish-language campaign literature, they were able to in-

troduce the socialist election campaign to Spanish-speaking people in New Orleans. Like in many other cities, they report a high level of anger and suspicion over the U.S. mining of Nicaraguan waters and the growing possibility of a Vietnam-type war in Central America.

All in all, the kick-off weekend was a rousing success. Thousands of people were introduced to the socialist alternative in the 1984 elections. The response to the socialist campaigners underlines the growing opportunities to discuss socialist ideas with working people.

Gov't frees KKK, Nazis who killed activists

Continued from front page

cists argued that their clients acted in self-defense and were motivated, not by racism, but by "deep patriotism." The Klanners claim they were attacked first and were in fact "terrified" during the shooting.

The federal government, like the state of North Carolina, had no intention of punishing these reactionary criminals or of drawing out all the facts of police and FBI involvement in the murders.

At least two government agents were operating in the KKK and Nazi Party chapters that carried out the attack.

Edward Dawson, a former FBI informer and, at the time of the killings, an informer for the Greensboro police, is a defendant in this trial. However, even the government prosecutor — who is supposed to be seeking justice for the victims — attempted to whitewash Dawson's role. He said Dawson was merely "masquerading as a police informant."

The other agent, Bernard Butkovich of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, infiltrated the local Nazi Party chapter and encouraged its members to bring guns to the rally. He was not even under indictment.

The trial also avoided the important issue of why there were no city cops at the scene of the rally when it was attacked. Publicly available transcripts of police radio communications from the day of the murders show that the movements of the Klan caravan were closely monitored and that cops were intentionally directed by their superiors to stay away from the scene after the shooting began.

In an ominous move, federal Judge Thomas Flannery issued a "gag order" and conducted jury selection in secret, claiming this would protect potential jurors from intimidation. But the Klanners and Nazis were in the courtroom throughout the process. Only the public and the victims of the Klan were excluded. Several major daily papers in the state protested their exclusion.

The government and the big-business media have used this trial to put the demonstrators and "communism" on trial. The rally is consistently referred to as the "communist rally," and its participants as "the communists."

At her press conference, socialist candidate Daher said the trial was designed to "cover up the government's role in the cold-blooded" shootings.

Daher explained that the trial portrayed

political activists and communists as "violence prone" and the Klan as a "peaceful, patriotic organization." But the history of the Klan and Nazis, Daher recollected, is "a history of violence aimed at Blacks and labor."

"The imposition of the gag order and the so-called secret jury selection are precedents aimed at intimidating and silencing victims of cop and right-wing violence. They are a fundamental assault on the constitutional rights to free speech and a fair and open trial."

Referring to Washington's escalation of its unpopular war in Central America, Daher said that the acquittals sent a message: "if you demonstrate your opposition to government policies or racism, the gov-

ernment, along with its agents, its courts, and its Klan and cops will be unleashed against you."

Daher called on her opponents in the senatorial race, Democratic Gov. James Hunt and Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, to demand justice in this case and "seek full prosecution of all government officials and Klan and Nazi members responsible for the killings."

Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, joined Daher in sending a solidarity message to the Greensboro Civil Rights Fund, which represents the survivors of the attack. The socialists pledged their full solidarity in the continuing struggle against this crime.

Copper miners women's auxiliaries set May 5 strike solidarity action

BY KAREN KOPPERUD

PHOENIX, Ariz. — As the strike against the union-busting copper giant Phelps Dodge continues through its 10th month, the Morenci and Safford, Arizona Miners Women's Auxiliaries have sent out an urgent call for a May 5 Solidarity Day rally to support the striking workers. All unionists and other strike supporters are invited to Clifton for the protest.

The rally has been scheduled as government attacks on the strike and the state labor movement escalate. Two bills before the Arizona state senate would strengthen the state "right-to-work" (for less) law. They are explicitly directed against the copper miners.

The bills would empower the attorney general to initiate felony charges carrying a jail term of up to 21 months against anyone who uses "violence" to prevent scabs from crossing a picket line. Using undefined "other means" could bring misdemeanor sentences of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Meanwhile the National Labor Relations Board, acting with unusual speed, has ruled that Phelps Dodge has been acting in good faith in the labor dispute. Union charges of unfair labor practices were dismissed despite public findings by a congressional subcommittee that Phelps Dodge is responsible for provoking and prolonging the strike.

On April 9 a Phoenix Superior Court

judge dismissed a \$2 million union law suit for defamation filed against Phelps Dodge and the Phelps Dodge-backed Arizona Right to Work Committee. The suit arose from an August demonstration of scabs organized by Phelps Dodge after strikers forced a shut down of mine operations. Children at the demonstration had been given signs to carry such as, "Please Mr. Union Boss, Don't Shoot My Daddy!"

In Tucson, also on April 9, a U.S. district judge took under advisement a union attempt to stop Phelps Dodge from evicting 400 strikers from company housing in Ajo and Morenci. The judge gave no indication of when he would rule on the case.

Underlining the grave implications of the anti-union climate for all Arizona working people is a referendum measure to appear on the November ballot. It would amend the state constitution to exclude all public employees down to the school board level from striking or even from binding arbitration.

If this antiunion measure passes, public employees will legally be "voluntarily" quitting their jobs if they go on strike. If ever hired back they would have to take a 10 percent pay cut and be ineligible for wage or benefit increases for at least a year.

For further information on the May 5 rally, contact: Women's Auxiliary, 1113 Third Ave., Safford, Ariz., 85546, or call (602) 865-5477 or (602) 428-5223.

From Pathfinder

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Japanese unionists under attack

Japanese Revolutionary Communist League leader interviewed

BY DIANE WANG

TOKYO — "Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone calls his policy a total change of Japan's post-war political system," explained Hino Osamu, a member of the Political Bureau of the Japan Revolutionary Communist League, in a March 22 interview with the *Militant*.

"The Nakasone government has launched four main attacks," Osamu said. "One is a military buildup of the Japanese self-defense forces.

"Second is the rationalization of the public sector, which also implies destroying the militant trade union movement in the public sector. For example, the plan is to fire many national railway workers. And some public sector enterprises will be sold to private capitalists," Osamu said.

Currently the public sector includes, in addition to government workers and teachers, the national railway, the telephone and telegraph systems, the postal system, and the tobacco and salt industries.

"The third attack is the policy of strengthening government control over education," Osamu continued. "The fourth attack is a radical reorganization of Japanese industry."

Military buildup

The military buildup reflects Japan's growing role as an imperialist power and U.S. partner. This year the Nakasone government has budgeted \$12.6 billion for military spending. This is a 6.5 percent increase over last year's war budget, more than six times the increase given to education and more than three times the increase given for welfare payments. Pensions and public works spending were lowered.

Japan is currently spending about \$1 billion each year to help maintain U.S. bases in its country. In addition it spends some \$2.3 billion in foreign aid, much of it, of course, to prop up dictatorships in South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and even Honduras.

"The United States demands that Japan play a bigger counterrevolutionary role in world politics, but this is a big burden for the Japanese economic imperialists," Osamu said.

But the Japanese imperialists cannot escape that burden any more than they can the other problems of the worldwide capitalist crisis.

"Now the Japanese economy has become internationalized. Originally Japanese imperialists had refused American economic demands to open Japan's internal market or limit exports to the United States. But this is a very serious problem for the Japanese economy. There is no perspective of the Japanese being independent from America; finally Japanese imperialists have to accept the American demands on the economic issues. Therefore the perspective of the Japanese economy will totally depend on the American economy," Osamu pointed out.

Previous Japanese governments tried to resist U.S. demands, he said, "but Nakasone gave this up as a useless attempt. The reason Nakasone can behave so is that the government attack has already been partly successful in destroying the militant workers movement so that now there is little resistance."

Labor movement in disarray

"In order to achieve his objectives, Nakasone is trying to destroy the traditional Japanese militant workers movement," Osamu said. "Sohyo [the General Council of Trade Unions], the majority of whose leaders are Socialist Party members, has been the biggest national organization of trade unions, the center of the Japanese workers movement. But now the employers and the Liberal Democratic Party government are concentrating their attack on Sohyo. They are trying to divide and split it."

Leaders of unions in steel, auto, and other big industries set up an alternative All Japan Council of Private Industry Labor Unions, which dominated last year's contract negotiations. "This was not real labor unity," Osamu said. "This unity was initiated by right-wing bureaucrats so that leaders of private industry unions in Sohyo

could leave the federation.

"The next step of the Japanese bourgeoisie will be to organize the same sort of so-called unity in the public sector," Osamu continued. "There are many 'yellow unions' in the public sector. The Japanese bourgeoisie is trying to unite these and the Sohyo-affiliated unions. If this second step is achieved, Sohyo will be totally dissolved."

SP moves right

"In parallel with these attacks," Osamu said, "they try to push the Socialist Party rightward. The leaders of the SP and labor bureaucrats are now giving up their traditional militant positions.

"One milestone is the position on the Japanese-United States alliance. The majority of trade unions and the SP had been opposed to the Japan-U.S. Security Pact. But more recently most of these lead-

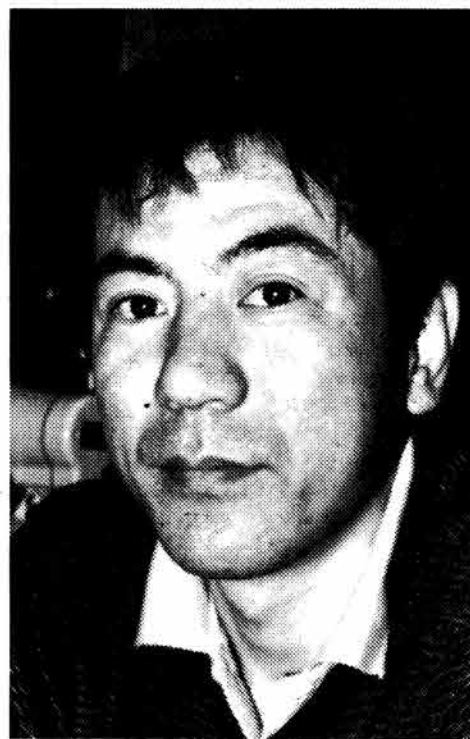
ers have given up that opposition and call the pact a 'realistic' approach," Osamu said.

"In matters of foreign policy the Japanese workers movement has been leftist since World War II," he explained. "Majority sentiment was pro-China and in favor of the Asian revolution, in reaction to the experience with Japanese and U.S. imperialism. It was a vague but strong sentiment.

"But this was destroyed by the 1971 U.S.-China pact. Anti-imperialist sentiment was confused, as Peking supported the Japan-U.S. Security Pact and a Japanese military buildup. Since then the anti-imperialist movement has been in decline and confusion."

The Japanese government boasts that while 10 years ago only 4 out of 10 people supported the security pact, today two-

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Diane Wang
Hino Osamu, member of Japanese Revolutionary Communist League Political Bureau.

JRCL target of ultraleft violence

TOKYO — Four members of the Japan Revolutionary Communist League (JRCL) and one member of its youth group, the Japan Communist Youth (JCY), were badly injured by goon squads of a sectarian group called Chukaku (Revolutionary Communist League, National Committee-Core Faction).

The five militants were ambushed in separate, coordinated attacks staged in Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Osaka-Kobe on January 9 and 10. Chukaku goon squads attacked Toshikazu Tanabe, Tsunehisa Ota, and Tadeo Miki as they were on their way to work. Jun Ogata and Naruaki Kuno were attacked at their homes.

Chukaku declared that it intends to

"stamp out" the JRCL, the Japanese section of the Fourth International, as "counterrevolutionary agents."

In response, the JRCL has launched a public campaign to oppose such violent attacks. Some 358 well-known Japanese intellectuals issued a joint statement condemning Chukaku's violence against the JRCL. The *Rodo Joho* ("Labor Information") network of militant trade unionists, the Democratic Women's Club, and the Farmers Opposition League Against the Sanrizuka Airport and its solidarity group have all protested the Chukaku attacks.

The JRCL has been a consistent supporter of the farmers' struggle against the Sanrizuka (Narita) international airport. In addition, the JRCL is active in solidarity

work on behalf of the struggles in the Philippines, Korea, Indochina, and Central America. JRCL members are active militants in their trade unions.

These attacks only serve the police and the bourgeois state, the JRCL has emphasized. The police have used the Chukaku attack as an excuse to harass the JRCL, stationing police in front of JRCL offices or trailing activists to factories or meetings.

Chukaku's attacks have also been used to smear the mass political movements in the media.

The violent ultraleft attacks by Chukaku make it more difficult to defend the labor movement and international solidarity groups from right-wing violence in Japan.

The recent Chukaku violence is also an attack on the Farmers Opposition League Against the Sanrizuka Airport. For 18 years, farmers in the Sanrizuka area outside Tokyo have opposed the construction of the Narita international airport on their land. The long struggle has involved massive mobilizations, martyrs, and arrests. (Several members of the JRCL are serving four-to-ten-year prison sentences for participating in 1978 protests.)

The farmers are now organizing opposition to a second phase of airport construction. They have decided to sell small plots of the land lying in the path of the airport's proposed second runway to active supporters around the country. By selling land to thousands of "joint owners," the farmers hope to make it difficult for the airport corporation to acquire the land.

Chukaku charged that this was a "sell-out" to the airport corporation and publicly campaigned against the farmers' decision. The JRCL, on the other hand, supported the decision and affirmed that the farmers have the right to decide such matters of tactics and strategy. At a March 8, 1983, meeting the farmers voted by a majority of 173 to 30 to break relations with Chukaku.

Chukaku organized its own rump "airport opposition league" and escalated verbal attacks on the farmers and JRCL, culminating in the January ambush attacks.

Chukaku has a long history of sectarian violence. In the 1970s it launched a war against another radical group, violence that ultimately took the lives of 50 militants. The JRCL was in the vanguard in opposing such violence and calling for the formation of united-front organizations to advance the interests of Japanese workers and farmers against the capitalist government.

Since the January attacks, Chukaku has telephoned death threats to members of the JRCL and the farmers league. They have distributed threatening leaflets at places where JRCL members work. JRCL members' apartments have been burglarized and political material stolen for publication by Chukaku.

Messages supporting the JRCL's campaign against violence within the workers movement can be sent to: Japan Revolutionary Communist League, Shinjikai-sha, 5-13-17 Shiba, Minatoku, Tokyo, Japan.

Solidarity action with Philippines

TOKYO — Twenty-five people from a dozen organizations crowded into a room at Japan's foreign ministry here on March 28. They explained to ministry officials their opposition to a 55 billion yen (about U.S. \$247 million) loan that the Japanese government plans to extend the brutal regime of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines. The loan is part of Japan's efforts to play a growing role in aiding Washington to prevent the spread of revolution in Asia.

"We demand that the government not give financial aid to the Philippines government because it will not benefit the lives of the Philippine people, but only help the Marcos regime intensify its repressive policies," said a leaflet distributed by the delegation.

Yoshiyuki Onogi, vice-chairman of the General Sekiyu Oil Workers Union and one of the group's spokespeople, explained that the investment loans will only cause economic and social dislocation for Philippine workers and peasants. Onogi visited with Philippine trade unionists last year.

The government spokesperson claimed that the loan will only be used to build useful projects such as roads and bridges. The delegation pointed out that under the Marcos dictatorship even these would be used for military purposes.

The Japanese government should at least reconsider the loan in light of the assassination of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino, said the delegation. The government representative echoed Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone's hypocritical claim that denying the loan on this basis would mean "interference" in the Philippines' internal politics.

After concluding their talk with government officials, the group discussed plans for future actions. As Japan steps up its collaboration with the United States to prop up Marcos, as the proposed loan goes through in April, and Marcos stages his rigged elections in May, the group intends to voice its solidarity with the Philippine liberation struggle.

Last September a demonstration of 300 people was sponsored here by a similar coalition.

The delegation included activists from *Rodo Joho* (Labor Information), which is put out by left-wing trade unionists; the Pacific Asian Resource Center; Catholic church; Committee in Solidarity With the Liberation Struggle of the Philippine People; Asian Youth Conference; and the Revolutionary Communist League, the Japanese section of the Fourth International.



Militant/Diane Wang
Delegation to foreign ministry in Tokyo protests Japanese loan to Marcos regime. Front row from left to right: Mr. Yamada of Catholic church; Onogi Yoshiyuki, vice-chairman of General Sekiyu Oil Workers Union; and Mr. Okada of Pacific Asian Resource Center.

Firsthand report from Vietnam, Kampuchea

In February and March, the *Militant* sent correspondents Steve Clark and Diane Wang to Vietnam and Kampuchea to record the progress of those revolutions and the problems they still face. They spent 20 days in Vietnam and 10 days in Kampuchea.

The following is an interview that Clark and Wang gave to *Militant* staff writer Mohammed Oliver upon their return to the United States.

Question: Why did you go to Vietnam and Kampuchea?

Wang: One reason is that we think solidarity with the Vietnamese revolution today can be a real contribution to the new antiwar movement that is needed to fight U.S. intervention in Central America. The more people know about and remember what happened in Vietnam when the U.S. government went to war over there, the more they will oppose the military activities that Washington is escalating today in Nicaragua and El Salvador as it prepares another Vietnam-style war.

We also need to win people to solidarity with the Indochinese revolution because the U.S. ruling class continues its hostile actions against Vietnam.

For example, the U.S. government refused to send Vietnam the \$3.5 billion in reconstruction aid it promised in 1973. Washington continues to organize an economic and political embargo against Vietnam. It backs armed counterrevolutionary groups in Indochina and engineered the Chinese invasion of Vietnam in 1979. And it keeps up a steady barrage of propaganda and lies about Vietnam and Kampuchea.

Clark: There's a conscious attempt now by U.S. government officials and by the press, spokespeople, and propagandists for the U.S. ruling class to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War. They want to prettify it, to wipe out of the consciousness of the American people what we learned during the Vietnam War. The idea is to soften up U.S. working people for the new war that the employers must carry out in Central America and the Caribbean.

They also want to portray the revolutions in Indochina as not having been worth the fight — that the revolutions in Vietnam and Kampuchea only led to tyranny, poverty, and oppression.

The U.S. rulers aim not only at winning support for the continuing U.S. campaign against the extension of the socialist revolution in Indochina, but also at cutting across the sympathy and solidarity in the United States and internationally with the struggles in Central America and the Caribbean.

So, we went to Indochina to be better able to tell the truth — from a firsthand standpoint — about what Washington did in Vietnam and Kampuchea. To describe what the U.S. bombers and other engines of war did to these countries, what the social results of the war were.

Q: What is the legacy of the U.S. war against Indochina?

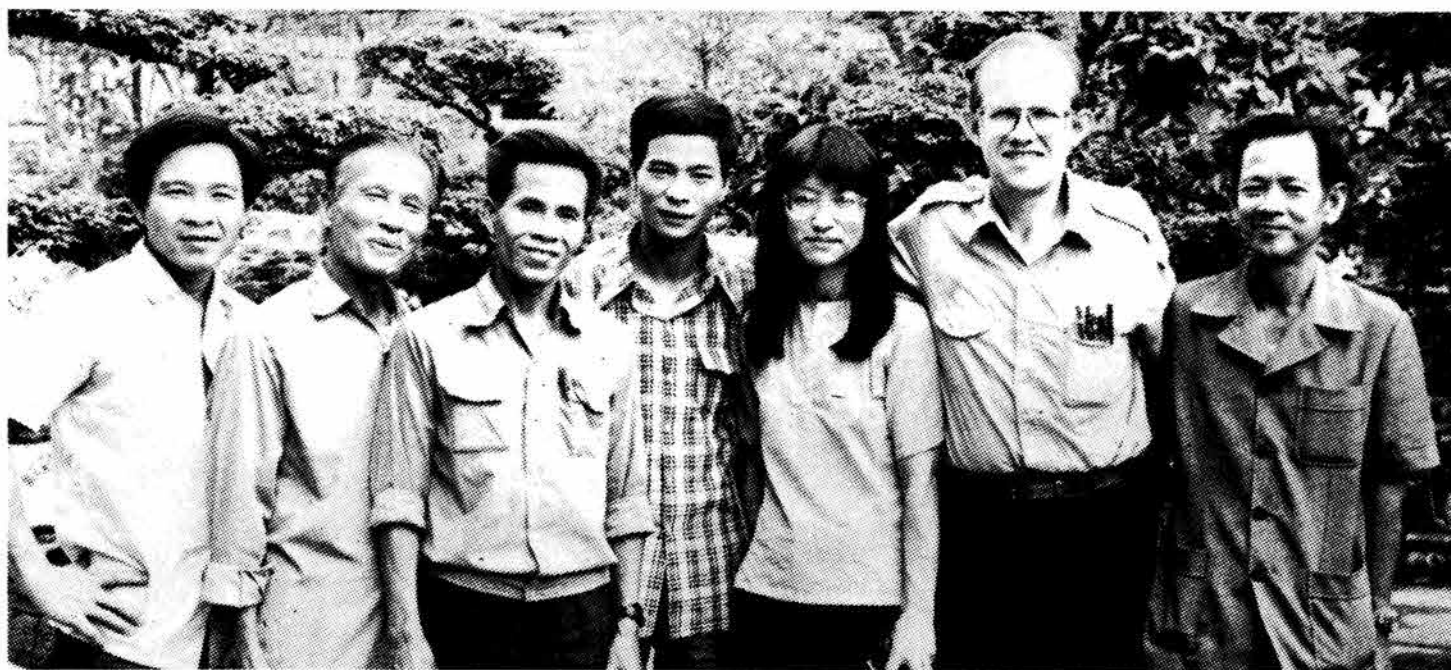
Wang: While we were in Vietnam, we traveled quite a bit both in the northern and in the southern parts of the country. In the north, in addition to Hanoi where we were based, we went to the coal fields of Hon Gai, Lang Son near the Chinese border, and the textile center of Nam Dinh. In the south we visited a new economic zone, the province of Dong Nai, and factories, hospitals, and schools in Ho Chi Minh City.

In Kampuchea we went to Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang, and some villages in Kandal province. In both countries we were able to interview government leaders.

Even though I had read about it and felt very strongly about it, I never realized how massive the destruction by the U.S. bombing was. It makes you appreciate more what it meant for the U.S. antiwar movement to help stop the bombing.

Clark: We visited a textile mill in Nam Dinh in northern Vietnam where there was so much bombing they had to dismantle this huge plant of 14-15,000 workers and distribute the machinery to 11 different locations. But they carried on production throughout the entire period, although at much reduced levels, of course.

The U.S. bombers also attacked Nam



Steve Clark (second from right) and Diane Wang with provincial leaders in Dong Nai, Vietnam.

Dinh city. They often struck in the middle of the night while people were at home asleep to cause the maximum number of civilian casualties.

We went to several schools that had been bombed repeatedly and, once again, had to continue by scattering classrooms throughout the countryside or conducting classes in underground tunnels.

We went to Hon Gai, a city in the coal-mining area that was completely leveled during the bombing in December 1972, right before the Paris peace accords were signed. It had been bombed repeatedly over the previous six years. The workers had to find housing in the forests to escape the terror bombing. The mines themselves were bombed, but production was continued.

Q: How did the Vietnamese revolution deal with these and other problems generated by the U.S. war?

Wang: North Vietnam, in particular, shows what it meant to fight a war for 25-30 years continuously. As a result, the country is still extremely poor. As we were told by the deputy director of Vietnam's agriculture ministry, "While other countries were experimenting with the 'Green Revolution,' we were still fighting a revolution for liberation. Now, we have to catch up in terms of our agricultural productivity."

You can't help but feel a real sense of pride in the Vietnamese when you realize that in this country, where the main modes of transportation are the bicycle and ox cart, the people were able to beat back militarily the most brutal and powerful imperialist power that has ever existed.

Clark: People would often say to us that during 30 years of war they had learned how to fight. They had learned how to organize themselves to win the national liberation of their country.

Now, they said, they have to learn how to reorganize society, how to improve agriculture, how to build industry. This is the big task that faces them, along with combating the ongoing war pressures.

You also see the results of the war in Kampuchea. The U.S. imperialists want people to forget that the crimes of Pol Pot between 1975 and 1979 were preceded by another massacre of Kampucheans committed by the U.S. government. Washington carried out massive carpet bombing of Kampuchea between 1970 and 1975, killing tens of thousands of Kampucheans, destroying crops, and demolishing factories. The Kampuchean people are still suffering from this aggression.

We went to a provincial hospital where eight of the 130 patients had lost limbs from coming across U.S. bombs and land mines that still litter the fields. People run into them while tending water buffalo or plowing.

So, the legacy of that horrible period of destruction laid the foundation for the kinds of terror and destruction carried out under the Pol Pot regime.

Q: In what other ways does the U.S. war against Vietnam and Kampuchea continue?

Clark: The Vietnamese explained to us over and over again that the worst time for them was the period between 1977-1980. It was a period when the diplomatic and economic blockade by Washington was the tightest. The isolation intensified after Vietnamese troops came to the aid of Kampuchean freedom fighters at the beginning of 1979. One official told us that there was not one single official delegation to their country from a major imperialist power in 1979-80.

In 1979 Vietnam also faced the U.S.-backed invasion by Peking. We visited the Chinese border areas and saw some of the massive destruction that resulted. It was a big economic setback.

This blow came on top of four consecutive years of serious drought and bad harvests, the need to divert a substantial portion of even that small crop to help the Kampuchean people, and some errors the Vietnamese leadership feel they initially made in moving too quickly toward cooperative forms of agriculture in the newly liberated South. We were told that this mistaken policy led to a situation where small farmers, who supported the revolution but were not yet convinced of the value of cooperative production, were simply refusing to produce under these new conditions.

But the Vietnamese leaders feel that they have been able to make a real recovery since then. They point out that their ability to defeat the Chinese invasion and crush the Pol Pot forces in Kampuchea was a real blow to U.S. imperialism, which had put a great deal of stock in those moves against the Vietnamese revolution.

They also explain that their ability to stand strong for the years since 1979 has begun to produce a few cleavages among the imperialist powers, so that the Vietnamese have gotten a little more maneuvering room.

The Labor Party government in Australia, the French government, and the Japanese government, for example, have made some moves that help loosen the political and economic boycott a little bit.

The Vietnamese have carried out a series of economic reforms, especially since 1981, to correct some of the initial missteps they feel they made. The grain harvest this year reached 17 million tons, making this the first year they've not had to import any food grains. They've put the immediate emphasis on agriculture and on light consumer goods industries to meet the pressing needs of the people.

At the same time, the Vietnamese are laying the foundation for more extensive industrialization down the road — extending electrification, improving transportation, and so on — to make possible further economic development and improved living conditions.

Wang: The policies of the U.S. government are a big obstacle to the people of Vietnam and Kampuchea being able to concentrate their energies on establishing normal trade and economic relations so that they can rebuild their country. This policy of diplomatic and economic isolation is still the U.S. government's aim in Indochina.

We in this country have an interest in demanding that the U.S. government end its hostile policies toward our fellow working people in Vietnam and Kampuchea and provide massive aid to help reconstruct these countries.

Q: What have been the accomplishments of the Vietnamese and Kampuchean revolutions so far?

Wang: Both Vietnam and Kampuchea are beginning to recover from the U.S. war. They are realizing in life the saying of Ho Chi Minh that "We will rebuild Vietnam 10 times more beautiful." The whole people are organized toward making that statement a reality.

We met young people participating in the new economic zones, reforestation, and other reconstruction projects. They're inspired that they have a government that's really trying to rebuild a united and independent Vietnam.

Clark: In the north — despite the destruction caused by the war and the poverty — you see what is possible once capitalism has been replaced by a social system no longer based on the exploitation of peasants and workers. Take education, for example. Literacy campaigns were carried out in the north not just since 1954, but throughout the liberation war against the French. And literacy campaigns and other education was carried out not only in the liberated north after 1954, but also in the liberated zones in the south during the struggle there.

There's a tremendous emphasis on educating the population, which the Vietnamese see as the key to advancing the economic modernization of the country.

Free public education is provided to the Vietnamese in their own language right up

Continued on Page 11

Indochina slideshow available

Militant correspondent Diane Wang is available to speak with a slide show on "Vietnam and Kampuchea: an Eyewitness Account."

Wang recently spent 20 days in Vietnam. While there she visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City; the coal mines in Hon Gai; the textile center in Nam Dinh; Ma Da forest, destroyed by U.S. chemical warfare; a new economic zone; as well as factories, schools, and hospitals.

In Kampuchea Wang spent 10 days visiting Phnom Penh and agricultural and fishing cooperatives in Kompong Chhnang and Kandal provinces. In both countries, Wang interviewed leaders of the government and mass organizations.

The presentation is available in English or Spanish.

For information about arranging a speaking engagement, write or call the *Militant*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014; (212) 243-6392.

Guinean military takes power, re

Imperialists look to greater plunder of vast mineral wealth

BY ERNEST HARSCH

With Ahmed Sékou Touré safely buried in Conakry, the Guinean capital, a group of proimperialist military officers saw their opportunity to seize power in that West African country on April 3.

The coup came just eight days after Touré — Guinea's president for more than a quarter of a century — died of a heart ailment in a Cleveland hospital. The coup-makers' aims are to bury many of the Guinean people's political and economic conquests along with him and to reopen the doors to massive and direct imperialist exploitation of the country.

The political course of the junta, which is headed by Col. Lansana Conté, was quickly made clear.

The country's ruling party, the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG), was dissolved, as were all of the mass organizations, including those of the workers, women, and youth. Parliament and local elected bodies were also dissolved.

On the second day of the coup, the new Military Committee for National Rectification — as the junta is called — announced that it would dismantle many of the economic controls that restricted foreign and domestic capitalist trade and production. It said it would institute "the necessary monetary policies for a rational exploitation of our national resources as a means of encouraging free enterprise."

Claiming that Touré had presided over a "bloody and ruthless dictatorship," the military rulers said that they were freeing all "political prisoners." Many of these prisoners had, in fact, been jailed for illegal economic practices, black-marketeering, smuggling, or corruption, or for participating in some of the earlier imperialist-inspired attempts to overthrow the Touré regime.

A military delegation promptly paid courtesy calls to the U.S., West German, and French embassies. According to a report in the April 4 *Washington Post*, the delegation assured U.S. Ambassador James Rosenthal "that the new regime is looking forward to continuing close relations with the United States."

The U.S. State Department's initial response was to declare that it was "guardedly optimistic about the political orientation" of the new regime. Rightist Guinean exile groups also hailed the coup.

The imperialists clearly hope that the coup will make it possible for them to move in to exploit Guinea's fabulous mineral wealth on a far greater scale than they were able to while Touré and his PDG were in power.

Though Guinea has a population of only 6 million, it is blessed with two-thirds of the world's known deposits of bauxite (the ore from which aluminum is made), as well



Demonstration of women's wing of Guinean Democratic Party under Sékou Touré. New military regime has disbanded mass organizations of women, workers, and youth.

as significant deposits of iron ore, diamonds, uranium, gold, chrome, platinum, and possibly oil. It has rich and well-irrigated farm land.

Smear campaign

In a bid to cover up such designs on Guinea, the big-business news media in the United States and other countries have seized on Touré's death and the subsequent coup to continue their vicious smear campaign. This slander exercise has two main themes.

In an obvious attempt to red-bait him, Touré has frequently — and falsely — been portrayed as a Marxist who transformed Guinea into a "Soviet client state" soon after it won its independence in 1958. A more recent variation of this charge is that Touré came to power as a Marxist, but subsequently repented when he realized that his policies were doing little to ease the poverty of the Guinean masses. In the words of an obituary in the March 28 *New York Times*, he confessed "that Marxism had been a failure in his homeland."

A related claim that has often been raised is that Touré was a brutal dictator who sought to keep the Guinean population as a whole in terror through a massive police and military apparatus.

Both charges seek to obscure the real source of Guinea's poverty and underdevelopment: the legacy of decades of colonial rule, followed by numerous imperialist attacks and acts of economic sabotage and Guinea's continued subordination to the world capitalist economic system.

They also seek to belittle and discredit Touré's efforts — however limited they were — to develop the Guinean economy, improve the conditions of the Guinean masses, and lessen the burden of imperialist oppression and exploitation.

Unionist and anticolonial fighter

Sékou Touré's involvement in the anti-colonial struggle began four decades ago, in the immediate wake of World War II, when popular aspirations for national independence swept much of Africa and Asia. Guinea, which at that time was administered as part of a large colonial entity known as French West Africa, was no exception.

Touré first emerged as a leader in 1945, when he became secretary-general of the post and communications workers union in Conakry. He soon became head of the Guinean General Confederation of Labor (CGT), which was linked at that time to the Communist Party-led CGT in France.

Using this base in the workers movement, Touré entered into open political activity against the French colonialists, first as a leader of a nationwide nationalist grouping, then in 1952 as head of the local Democratic Party of Guinea. The following year, he led a 73-day strike that won a 20 percent increase in the minimum wage and the introduction of a 40-hour workweek throughout French West Africa. That transformed him into an extremely popular figure.

Under the pressure of the mounting anti-colonial movement in Africa (including Algeria, where a war of liberation was under way), the French government of Gen. Charles de Gaulle in 1958 proposed a reorganization of its West African colonial possessions into a new "Franco-African Community." Each of the territories were allowed to decide by referendum whether to accede to this proposal, or to reject it and become independent. In most of the territories, the nationalist leaderships went along with de Gaulle's proposal and urged their followers to vote "yes," on the grounds that they would benefit economically from a continued political association with France.

After some initial attempts to negotiate a compromise, the PDG decided to call for a "no" vote. It was the only party to do so. During a visit to Conakry by de Gaulle himself, Touré boldly declared, "We, for our part, have a first and indispensable need, that of our dignity. Now, there is no dignity without freedom. . . . We prefer freedom in poverty to riches in slavery."

When the referendum was held on Sept. 28, 1958, a resounding 96 percent of Guinea's electorate chose independence by voting "no." Less than a week later Guinea became independent.

Imperialist retaliation

The French government — which never really expected its offer of independence to be taken seriously — was stunned. Fearing that Guinea's example would inspire other

French colonies in West Africa to follow the same course (all, in fact, did within several years), the French imperialists decided to make the Guinean people suffer for their choice and cripple the newly independent state.

Economic assistance was cut, and French-owned capital was pulled out of Guinea. Within only several weeks, almost all French technicians, administrators, and other personnel left. But before they did, they destroyed or took away vital files and documents, smashed equipment, and stripped some factories and buildings of fixtures and machinery.

This treacherous blow did cause considerable economic disruption in Guinea's early years, but the new state survived. To do so, it sought assistance from the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other workers states, and took steps to mobilize the Guinean population against the imperialist pressures and threats.

For much of its existence, the Touré government remained in sharp conflict with imperialism and with neighboring proimperialist regimes. It condemned aggressive actions by the French, U.S., and other imperialist powers around the world and provided assistance to numerous African liberation movements, especially to those fighting Portuguese colonial rule in neighboring Guinea-Bissau.

There were numerous plans and attempts to overthrow Touré's government, including a plot in 1959 by the French intelligence agency to organize an invasion of Guinea by French-led Guinean exiles. The plan was dropped after details leaked out, but other attempts to foment a coup by sectors of the Guinean military followed.

In November 1970, Portuguese troops and armed bands of Guinean exiles did invade Guinea. Their aim was two-fold: to overthrow the Touré government and to prevent Guinea from being used as a base of operations by the guerrilla fighters of Guinea-Bissau.

During several days of heavy fighting, the invaders were repelled. A key role in Guinea's defense was played by the popularly-based militia, which had received training by Cuban instructors. A Cuban military unit also participated directly in the defense.

However, sectors of the officer corps of the regular army failed to put up resistance



Sékou Touré

Announces legacy of Touré regime

to the Portuguese, and were subsequently purged for complicity in the invasion.

'A policy of nationalism'

It was because of Touré's anti-imperialist declarations and actions, his acceptance of aid from workers states, and his support for various liberation struggles, that his political opponents (and some of his supporters as well) sought to pin the 'Marxist' label on him. While Touré admitted that he had studied Marx and Lenin and incorporated some Marxist terminology into his speeches, he generally denied the charge.

In a June 1982 speech in New York City, for example, he explained, "Guinea has never been a communist country. Ours has never been a communist government. Its president has never been and never will be a communist chief of state. . . .

"Anyone who is an impartial observer has only to look at the history of Guinea to realize that we follow a policy of nationalism, because we have a heterogeneous country, out of which we want to build a modern nation."

Within this perspective, Touré initiated policies which — he insisted — would lead to Guinea's economic development, end its subordination to imperialism, and improve the conditions of the Guinean masses.

In the first years after independence, sweeping nationalizations were carried out, largely of abandoned French properties. Soon, most of the Guinea economy was officially brought under state control, including banking, trade (both foreign and domestic), and what little industry the country had. Guinea broke from the franc zone and established its own currency. Attempts were made to introduce economic planning, and new industries were built up on a modest scale.

Nevertheless, the main mining enterprises were still partially foreign-owned, especially by U.S. interests. This was significant, since bauxite and alumina made up the vast bulk of Guinea's exports, and reflected the fact that its economy remained integrally tied to the world capitalist market.

In the countryside, the backward institution of chieftaincy was abolished, and elected village councils were set up. All land was nationalized, state farms were established, and peasants were encouraged to form cooperatives.

Health care and education was greatly expanded (compared to the days of colonial rule). All eight of Guinea's main languages were taught in schools.

Women secured new rights, and polygamy was declared illegal.

Various mass organizations were set up, including the National Confederation of Guinean Workers, the Women's Wing of the PDG, the Youth of the African Democratic Revolution, and the 30,000-member People's Militia.

'Not a class struggle?'

These were all important gains for the Guinean workers and farmers in their struggle for social progress and against imperialist domination.

But their impact was weakened and undermined by the fact that the workers and peasants of Guinea did not themselves hold political power, making it difficult to defend these gains — or extend them.

Touré and the leadership of the PDG explicitly opposed such a perspective.

Falsely arguing on the basis of the need to maintain national unity against imperialism, Touré emphasized, "we reject the principle of class struggle, less through philosophical conviction than through the desire to save African solidarity at any price."

"The Guinean revolution," he said at another time, "is not a class struggle."

Touré also denied the vanguard role of the working class within the struggle for national liberation. "No social strata, no group of workers, no proletarian category can pretend to be more revolutionary than the people," he insisted.

Flowing from this perspective, workers were not allowed to form their own inde-



pendent organizations. The unions were directly subordinated to the PDG.

Although the right to strike existed on paper, in practice it did not. "Since the regime is essentially popular and progressive, any union action directed against the power of the state is reactionary," Touré claimed. When the Teachers Union simply raised some criticisms of the government (from the left) in 1961, its leadership was jailed. Later the government clamped down on the railway workers as well.

The government's attitude toward other sectors of the population — such as the women, the peasants, and the youth — was similar. While it encouraged a certain amount of mass mobilization to strengthen its hand against imperialism and domestic reactionary opponents, it did so in a strictly controlled manner, at the direction of the PDG leadership and in support of the PDG's policies. Nothing was officially allowed outside of that framework. In fact, membership in the PDG was compulsory for every adult Guinean.

For a long time, Touré remained genuinely popular, thanks to his radical stance. But his relationship with the Guinean masses was paternalistic. He did not seek to bolster their self-confidence and combativity. He lectured to them. And when someone strayed from the approved line, they faced intimidation, harassment, and sometimes even detention.

Over time, this approach led to demoralization and disillusionment. In October 1983, Touré publicly admitted that there was a "lack of enthusiasm" in the workers', women's, and youth organizations.

Thus, Touré's policy of checking any independent initiative and blocking the workers from playing a leadership role undercut the Guinean people as a whole in their conflict with imperialism.

Reactionary forces gain

On paper, there were countless restrictions on the emergence of local capitalist elements. Where private trade or production was allowed (in some services and small-scale industries), those involved were hemmed in by numerous regulations and controls. The constitution forbade any trader from holding a leadership position in the PDG or government.

But in practice, Touré could not wish away the real class struggle, nor could he force those who looked to imperialism or to greater openings for private accumulation to go along with his concept of "national unity."

Behind the facade of state control over most of the economy, capitalist trade flourished. The black market in Guinea was widespread, with much of the agricultural production in rural areas being sold through private channels rather than the state marketing agencies. Smuggling of agricultural produce and livestock across the borders into neighboring countries took place on a massive scale.

This naturally led to the enrichment of those engaged in this trade. It fostered rampant corruption within the state enterprises and the PDG, including its leadership bodies. Some PDG-run agricultural cooperatives openly sold their entire production across the borders. Tractors intended for peasant cooperatives were appropriated for private use by state officials in the countryside.

Corruption wreaks havoc

Foreign contracts were often accompanied by bribes and kickbacks. Imported

foreign goods — even goods that had been provided as international economic assistance — were misappropriated by officials and then sold on the black market.

This black-marketeering and corruption wrecked havoc on the government's economic plans, with much of the economy functioning outside of its control. Stocks of food distributed through the state agencies fell, leading to frequent scarcities of key items. Scarce items could sometimes be found on the black market, but at highly inflated prices.

Living conditions suffered. Services could not be improved — or even maintained. Guinea remained one of the poorest countries in Africa, with a per capita yearly income of only \$230.

The gradual emergence of this aspiring bourgeoisie further undermined popular confidence in Touré and his government.

Touré's response to the corruption and black-marketeering was contradictory. It was so widespread that he often simply turned a blind eye to it. At times, he responded with repression. Periodic purges and crackdowns eliminated some of those involved in the illegal trade, but could not stop it. In desperation, Touré outlawed all private retail trade in 1975 — a totally unrealistic step. It led to widespread rioting by market women two years later, and Touré was forced to rescind the ban.

Touré further undercut his government's support by several other measures. Efforts to impose agricultural collectivization led to significant peasant resistance. In January of this year, an attempt to force peasants to pay their taxes in produce rather than money led to demonstrations in Forecariah. Several people were killed, including a senior police officer, and troops were called in.

While Touré's government and the leadership of the PDG were at first fairly representative of the different peoples in Guinea, their composition narrowed over time. During its last years, the leadership was composed primarily of Malinkés (including Touré himself), leading to resentment among the Foulah, Soussou, and other peoples.

Foreign policy shifts

Under the combined impact of the persistent imperialist pressures, the growth of domestic opposition (largely from the right), and his government's declining

popularity, Touré's initially radical foreign policy stance was considerably tempered during the late 1970s.

Touré went on a major drive to try to attract foreign investment to Guinea in the hopes of boosting economic production and generating much-needed foreign exchange. While such efforts were clearly necessary, Touré accompanied them with political concessions to imperialism.

On trips to France and the United States, Touré praised the governments and economic policies of those countries — a sharp reversal of his earlier stance. "Guinea believes that cooperation with the United States will be far-reaching and positive," he declared at an investment forum organized by the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York in June 1982. He spoke of his "friendship with the late Nelson Rockefeller."

That same year, the Guinean government participated in an imperialist-inspired attempt to split the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In February, it joined 18 other regimes — led by the Moroccan monarchy — in a walk-out from an OAU Council of Ministers meeting to protest the admission of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic as an OAU member. Later, in August and November, it helped block an OAU summit meeting from being held in Libya, and joined the chorus of attacks against Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi.

Touré succeeded in attracting some new U.S. and other imperialist investments to Guinea, but not on the scale he had hoped for. Washington, Paris, and their allies were still suspicious of Touré's regime. Foreign investment laws had been relaxed somewhat, but numerous restrictions remained. The mass organizations, however weakened, still existed. Openly pro-imperialist individuals in Guinea still suffered harassment and detention — though they had been greatly emboldened by the erosion of Touré's regime and base of support.

Despite the shifts Touré initiated in the late 1970s, the imperialists did not consider his government as *their's*. They wanted a much freer hand to exploit Guinea's resources, and they wanted a government that could be relied on to defend their interests.

The April 3 military coup provides the imperialists with an opportunity to achieve just that.

Protests hit U.S. aid to South Africa

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Protests against U.S. government support to the South African apartheid regime took place in several U.S. cities recently. The two weeks between March 21 (the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa) through April 4 (the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.) had been targeted for anti-apartheid activities.

The two weeks of actions were coordinated by the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), and the call for the protests was made at a National Student Conference held last October. Some 300 activists from 24 states attended that gathering.

Many of the actions were organized by students. In Washington, D.C., a coalition of student groups held activities that culminated in a march and picket outside the South African embassy on April 4. Students at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) held a forum attended by several hundred. On April 7 UCLA students joined with University of Southern California students in a rally of 300 for divestment of all state funds in corporations with ties to South Africa.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) joined with anti-apartheid organizers in Atlanta in holding an April 4 rally at the gravesite of Martin Luther King, Jr. Speakers at the action stressed King's support of economic sanctions against South Africa.

The call for divestment was also at the center of an April 4 action in Springfield, Illinois. The Coalition for Illinois Divest-

ment from South Africa and several locals of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees mobilized 300 people to lobby at the state capitol for passage of a bill for divestment of state pension fund money from companies with ties in South Africa.

At Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, students marched on April 4, demanding that Harvard's \$500 million in South Africa-linked stock be divested.

Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, was also hit with a divestment protest. On April 1 a demonstration of some 300 people demanded that the school remove its funds from companies in South Africa. An April 6 rally at Yale was held to commemorate Solomon Mahlangu — an African National Congress activist hung in 1979. The 200 rally participants were addressed by Black South African exiles Dennis Brutus, Rev. Sipo Mzimela, and Tandi Gcabashe.

New York City was also the site of anti-apartheid protests. Two hundred fifty people participated in a candlelight vigil outside the South African consulate calling for a halt to executions of political prisoners in South Africa and supporting legislation to divest state pension fund money linked to South Africa.

According to ACOA student coordinator Joshua Nessen, "These weeks of action have sent a strong message of opposition to U.S. investment in South Africa and to the Reagan administration's policy of 'constructive engagement' with the white minority regime of South Africa."

Fidel Castro's letter to people of U.S.

The April 1 edition of *Parade Magazine*, which is carried in Sunday newspapers across the country, ran an article by Tad Szulc on a series of discussions on many topics that he held recently with Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro.

"Our 12 hours of talks took place during an all-night session at Castro's office at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, during a jeep tour of Havana's suburban beaches, over drinks and dinner in a rural hideaway, and aboard his helicopter. I had not been with Castro in many years, and I found him, at age 57, slimmer and trimmer and in excellent physical condition, though his beard is beginning to turn gray," said Szulc.

Central to their discussions, reported Szulc, were U.S.-Cuban relations.

"It is not we who declare ourselves the enemy of the U.S.," said Castro. "It is the U.S. that declares itself beforehand the enemy of revolutionary countries. What the U.S. does is to place conditions, demand that countries cease being revolutionary, that countries sever their ties with other countries, that countries sell themselves."

According to Szulc, Castro said that some improvement in relations between the United States and Cuba would be possible if "partial changes" occurred in Washington's attitudes, such as "to respect Cuba and to develop diplomatic relations, even economic relations."

Castro added, however, that any negotiations with the United States must be conducted, "on the basis of equality of the negotiators, which would require that the U.S. be disposed to eliminate the [economic] blockade of Cuba and to discuss [U.S.] withdrawal from its naval base in Guantánamo [in Cuba]."

In talking about Central America, Castro pointed to the prospect that the "increasingly demoralized" Salvadoran army could collapse, leading to direct U.S. military intervention.

U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, Castro added, would be "even more costly" than in El Salvador. "I am certain that hundreds of thousands of soldiers would be required only to occupy the country."

During this talks with Szulc, Castro also "went out of his way to draft in longhand a message to the people of the U.S." The text of Castro's message is printed below.

* * *

We have always harbored the most sincere feelings of admiration and affection toward the people of the United States for their enterprising, dedicated, persevering, altruistic and idealistic spirit. They are also a very creative people.

I have harbored these feelings ever since I first became acquainted with the history of their independence struggles and the concepts contained in the 1776 Declaration. These continue to be and will always be evident truths. Those ideas greatly influenced Cuban revolutionaries from our independence struggles to our Socialist revolution.

Congress complicit

Continued from front page

Costa Rica that his forces had been driven out of San Juan del Norte. In an interview with Costa Rican wire services, he did a turnaround on the importance of the town: "It's better for us to disperse, because San Juan del Norte has no strategic value."

In his April 12 speech, Commander Borge pointed out that while life seems to go on as normal in Managua and other parts of the Pacific Coast region, in the war-torn areas of Nicaragua "hundreds of thousands are suffering the direct consequences of the aggression. They are fighting, not for housing and food, but to keep from being murdered." The "normality" in the Pacific region, he said, "is artificial and subsidized."

In order to defeat imperialist aggression, Borge explained, "there can be no delay in socializing defense of the country."

"Effort, sacrifice, thrift, austerity, and revolutionary enthusiasm must be shared by all Nicaraguans. Anyone who doesn't grasp this truth is unworthy of being considered a Nicaraguan."

We essentially seek the same things, but in different eras and historical conditions. Progressive ideas, as life itself, also evolve. In my defense, when I was tried for the rebel action of the Moncada [his 1953 attack on army barracks in Santiago], I invoked, among others, the ideas from the 1776 Declaration.

I likewise greatly admire Lincoln, his humble origin, his life and his work.

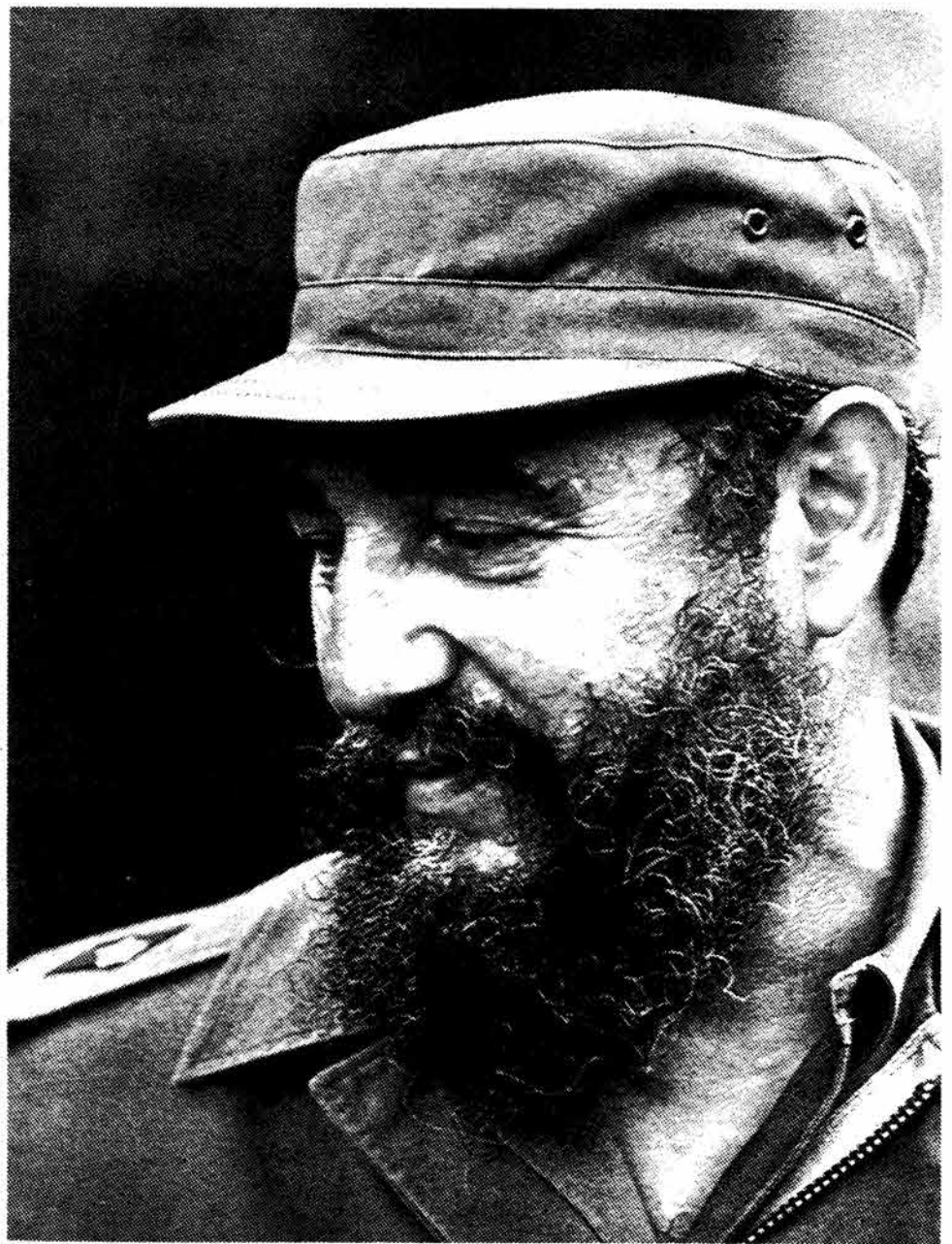
I also admire the United States as the melting pot that has blended men and women of all origins, religions and ideas into a great nation, even though this melting pot has still much to blend whenever I think about the fate of the Indians, the Blacks and the Hispanics.

The Americans' noble feelings, altruism and idealism, however, have not always been well directed. Not seldom — although always under the guise of noble and just purposes — selfishness, expansionism and chauvinism were enhanced and used to commit atrocious actions, such as the mutilation and seizure of Mexican territory; the occupation of the Isthmus of Panama and of Puerto Rico; the repeated interventions in numerous small, weak and poor nations of the Caribbean and Central America; the Vietnam War and the invasion of Grenada, to mention but some examples. Not few came to consider this last and unglorious episode as a merit and a victory.

But whenever the people of the United States were led to commit unjust actions, demagogic appeals were made to their generous and noble soul. Freedom was always invoked, and, as someone has said, many crimes have been committed throughout history in its name.

We have suffered from that policy in our nation. At times, attempts have been made — and are still being made — to eliminate me physically. As you can see, I am being candid in passing this critical judgment. But as a personally convinced revolutionary, and due to deeply rooted principles, we shall never blame the people for the responsibilities of governments and systems. In this case, more than ever before, one must render unto God the things that are God's and unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.

In our homeland — and all U.S. citizens who have visited us in the past 25 years can bear witness to this — we have never sown and shall never sow feelings of hostility and hatred toward the people of the United



States. I have always made it my personal concern to stress their great virtues and merits. The hospitality and respectful and friendly treatment U.S. citizens find here are the result of that policy and of our people's education.

We are staunch and unyielding revolutionaries, but we are not fanatics. For us, the evident truths are never those that may be inculcated through lies, demagoguery or by appealing to the lowly passions that man

may harbor, but only those we are capable of reasoning and thinking through calmly and profoundly.

We wish the people of the United States peace, which is the same as wishing all mankind peace; and we wish them security and progress, which is what we also wish for all peoples. I am convinced that one day the people of Cuba and the United States will live in complete peace and friendship.

Report from Nicaragua's Corinto harbor

BY JANE HARRIS

CORINTO, Nicaragua, April 11 — An hour's boat ride through the channel here proved uneventful, but as Internal Commerce Minister Dionisio Marengo pointed out, it doesn't necessarily reveal what's lurking under water. The harbor contains mines that have been planted here since early March.

Speaking from a practical point of view, Capt. Mario Alemán added, "the only reason there hasn't been an attack in 10 days is that there's been plenty of moon light, which doesn't lend itself to covering up the speed boats' activities."

Alemán, who at age 21 is the head of the Sandinista navy here, explained that four to six of these high-speed launches, run by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, are operating from a U.S. warship, based 35 to 40 miles off shore.

To protect foreign ships, members of fishing cooperatives drag their nets, weighted with chains, to detect the mines while skin divers search simultaneously under water. Then the port's one and only tug boat follows, serving as another buffer between foreign ships and mines placed by U.S.-funded counterrevolutionaries.

Marengo explained that Nicaragua is almost completely dependent on Corinto, through which 75 percent of imports and exports are shipped. "We don't have the luxury of having five to six ports."

"The CIA is trying to create panic among foreign merchant companies, and we are on an information campaign to explain to international insurance companies and shipping consortiums the preventative measures we're taking."

"So far we've been able to keep the cost of insurance from rising. But we are pain-

fully aware that if our port is declared a danger zone or a war port, everything will be extremely expensive to import."

In particular, Marengo denounced the fact that a shipment of powdered milk had to be diverted to Costa Rica, as the British vessel carrying it feared its fate in the channel here. The minister said that already this was causing problems with the children's milk supply. In addition, for the same reasons, 5,000 tons of spare parts for fac-

tories, tractors, and other vehicles are now docked in Costa Rica.

To date, four ships have been damaged in the port here by the mines, six have been diverted because of their presence, and Corinto has lost some \$200,000 import tariffs.

But as port manager Francisco Martínez points out, referring to Corinto's importance to the national economy, "We can't limit the losses to dollars."

Nicaraguan denied right to speak

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — By denying a proper visa to Nicaraguan government leader Sergio Ramírez, the U.S. State Department has slammed the door in the face of nine U.S. universities, including some of the most prestigious in the United States.

Harvard, Yale, MIT, University of Pennsylvania, University of Kansas, and four others had invited Ramírez to speak on their campuses. But the White House granted permission only for the visit to Kansas, ordering that Ramírez leave the country immediately afterward.


In a letter to the universities April 11 explaining why he could not fulfill the speaking engagements, Ramírez blasted the new tactic of issuing visas with "unacceptable limitations."

Previously, outright denials of visas have prevented speaking tours to the United States by Nicaragua's Minister of Interior Tomás Borge and Council of State Pres. Carlos Núñez.

Also recently declared unwelcome in the

United States were Nobel prize winning novelist Gabriel García Márquez and Guillermo Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador.

García Márquez was part of an international delegation in solidarity with Nicaragua that was scheduled to meet with United Nations and U.S. congressional leaders. Ungo had also been scheduled to meet with a number of U.S. congresspeople.

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The April 30 "Intercontinental Press" has the full text of an interview with Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro, a portion of which appeared in "Newsweek."

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Firsthand report from Vietnam, Kampuchea

Continued from Page 7

through the university level. All Vietnamese are guaranteed nine years of education.

This is something that is not paralleled by any other country in Southeast Asia, and the achievements are very impressive.

Then, there is the emphasis on medical care, which is also free; on improving the diet for the entire population; and raising the living standards of the Vietnamese people in other ways, as well.

The limits to Vietnam achieving these things are no longer those imposed by a division of society into classes — into a handful of wealthy and a large mass of poor working people who produce the wealth — but are those imposed by the economic backwardness inherited from imperialist domination and the effects of the U.S. war and economic blockade.

Q: The Vietnamese revolution was victorious in the north long before driving the imperialists out of the south. Are there differences in the development of the north and south of Vietnam?

Wang: Going from Hanoi in the north to Ho Chi Minh City in the south is almost like going to another country. It's a real tale of two cities. They had very different histories over most of this century.

Of course, when you talk with people they point with pride to the fact that they no longer are two different countries, but they've been shaped by their different histories.

The south is still marked by the blight that came along with colonial existence and U.S. occupation. It still has unemployment, since Vietnam hasn't been able to create enough jobs yet in the countryside to employ all the people who were driven into the cities during the war, or attracted there by the lure of U.S. dollars. It is still coping with the social ills of prostitution and drug addiction left behind from the Nguyen Van Thieu regime and U.S. domination.

We visited one of the rehabilitation centers the Vietnamese government has set up to try to cope with the hundreds of thousands of drug addicts spawned by the U.S. occupation forces. The government provides vocational training for former prostitutes to help them put their lives back

together.

At the same time, parts of the south — especially around Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon — have the advantages of more modern infrastructural development left by the infusion of lots of U.S. dollars for several decades. It has more modern roads and buildings, more industry, even a more mechanized form of agriculture in the Mekong Delta.

Clark: The social, educational, and health level of the population as a whole is still much higher in the north. The Vietnamese government is working as rapidly as its resources permit to extend throughout the entire country the social guarantees that working people have had for several decades in the north — education, health care, and employment. Much progress has been made since 1975, but it's a big task.

Q: What about Kampuchea? Why did the Vietnamese intervene there and what's the current situation in the country?

Clark: The Vietnamese went into Kampuchea in 1979 because — as they explain — they had no other choice. Washington and its puppet regime in South Vietnam were defeated between 1973-75, but they didn't give up trying to contain the spread of the socialist revolution in Indochina.

Washington was able to further this aim through an alliance with the bureaucratic misleaders in Peking, and they got unexpected help, as well, from the new government that came to power led by Pol Pot in Kampuchea.

In Kampuchea we visited one of the mass graves, and we repeatedly talked to people who lost 2, 3, 4, as many as 9 or 10 members of their family during the Pol Pot period. The government there estimates that some 3 million people, out of a population of 8 or 9 million, died of hunger or illness, or were executed during the Pol Pot years.

Vietnam faced increasing military attacks from Kampuchea in 1977 and 1978. It was the victim of a pincer strategy — on one side, the Chinese government's military pressure from the north, on the other, pressure from the Pol Pot regime in the west — as U.S. imperialism sat in the dug-out grinning.

By acting in self-defense to stop the Pol Pot attacks, the Vietnamese also liberated the Kampuchean people from a horrible tyranny. They were welcomed as liberators by the Kampuchean people. Everyone we spoke to — peasants in the countryside, working people in the cities — that's how they viewed the Vietnamese. Along with the Kampuchean liberation forces led by Heng Samrin, the Vietnamese brought down the repressive regime of Pol Pot and laid the foundation for what we were able to see in Kampuchea — the beginning of a revival of social and economic activity.

Wang: The Pol Pot forces based in camps along the border with Thailand have no social base in Kampuchea. They are hated.

Their support comes from the imperialist-orchestrated efforts to bolster them and their coalition with other rightist Kampuchean forces. These groups get massive aid through the United Nations, which still recognizes these hated outfits as the official government of Kampuchea. The U.S. government foots the bill to provide arms, which are channeled through Peking and the Thai government.

Clark: There have been big improvements in Kampuchea since the liberation from Pol Pot. Nutrition is still at subsistence level, but starvation is no longer prevalent. In terms of education, the Kampucheans actually have more children going to school now than under the Sihanouk or Lon Nol regimes.

There were only 50 doctors left after Pol Pot's terror, since they and other educated people were special targets of assassination. The Kampuchean government has reestablished a medical school and is beginning to train medical personnel. This — combined with the help they get mainly from Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Cuba, as well as a few relief agencies and capitalist governments — has allowed them to begin to reestablish basic health care throughout the country.

Q: What should supporters of the Indochinese revolution be doing to aid Vietnam and Kampuchea today?

Clark: Supporters of the Indochinese revolution and supporters of human rights and social justice should join together in demanding emergency food aid for Kampuchea right now to meet the big rice shortfall they expect this year due to disastrous weather conditions. Beyond that, we should be demanding massive reconstruction aid from the U.S. government and other imperialist governments and agencies for both Kampuchea and Vietnam.

Wang: One thing that we realized once we visited Kampuchea is the importance of ousting Pol Pot's clique as the officially recognized government in the United Nations.

This is not just a diplomatic question, a symbol. Because the legitimate government of Kampuchea is not recognized by



Militant/Diane Wang

Vietnam needs aid to rebuild

the UN or by most of the world's capitalist governments, it's nearly impossible for it to obtain badly needed international economic aid and establish normal trading relations.

On the other hand, the UN and some 140 other international agencies are pouring in aid to the rightist forces of Pol Pot and others. By contrast, only 30 agencies service Kampuchea itself, and all of them have made massive cutbacks in that aid since 1980-81.

So, ousting Pol Pot from the UN means concrete aid to the Kampuchean people.

Today Nicaragua and El Salvador are on the front line of the battle between the extension of the revolution and U.S. and world imperialism. In the same way, Vietnam was on the front line throughout the 1960s.

Within Indochina itself there is a tremendous bond of solidarity with Central America. Every day while we were in Vietnam there were newscasts, statements of solidarity, and educational events going on about the struggles in Nicaragua and El Salvador. People recognize that the Nicaraguans and the Salvadorans are going into the kind of battle that the Vietnamese themselves faced for so many decades.

The Vietnamese recognize, as do the Cubans, that it was, in large part, because of the Vietnamese revolution that Cuba was able to survive. The Vietnamese are proud of that contribution they made.

In the same way, the Central American revolution is helping to give the Indochinese peoples an opportunity to consolidate their revolution without the direct military intervention of imperialism.

One Vietnamese told us on our last day there that "What you always have to remember is that history and time are the enemy of our enemy — imperialism."

They recognize that every extension of the revolution, as is taking place today in Central America, buys them more time in which to try to put back together their economy. In addition, everything we can do in solidarity with both Central America and Indochina also helps buy them time.

Emergency fight for Marroquín

Continued from front page

Latino organizations, and leaders of the women's rights movement. It is this support that has stayed the hand of the INS up till now and which now must be mobilized in Marroquín's fight for a green card.

Marroquín has lived in the United States ever since he fled here in 1974 after being framed up by the Mexican government because of his political activity. Marroquín and three other student activists, in a trumped-up charge, were accused of murdering a school librarian. Two of the accused were later murdered in cold blood by the police, and the third was kidnapped and "disappeared." It is the threat of similar treatment that is the basis for Marroquín's plea for political asylum.

Soon after arriving in the United States, Marroquín became politically active again, helping to organize a local of the Teamsters Union at the plant where he worked in Texas.

Later he joined and became a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

He has been an outspoken opponent of U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean and of the government's attacks on working people, including undocumented workers. This is why the U.S. government refuses to issue him a green card and is trying to silence him through deportation.

The key to preventing this is an immediate public outcry from supporters around the country demanding that the INS issue Marroquín a green card.

PRDF is asking supporters to do the following right away:

- Send messages to INS Commissioner Alan Nelson, INS, Washington, D.C. 20536, with a copy to PRDF, Box 649,

New York, N.Y. 10003

- Help contact endorers of Marroquín's case and urge them to send messages to Commissioner Nelson.

- Help get resolutions demanding that Marroquín be given a green card before trade union locals, chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Organization for Women, and Black and Latino organizations.

- Send a contribution to PRDF to help cover the costs of Marroquín's fight.

Court pushes ahead with railroad of Boudin

BY BARBARA MUTNICK

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — The Brink's hold-up trial of Kathy Boudin adjourned for a one-week recess April 12, with the selection of a panel of 72 qualified jurors.

The trial is being closely watched by supporters of democratic rights because of the many violations of Boudin's rights that have already occurred. The case, which arises from the 1981 robbery of a Brink's armored car in Nyack, New York has been used to attack defendants' rights and to smear Black and other political activists.

The only remaining stage in the jury selection process will be preemptory challenges of potential jurors — for which no reason need be given — by both the prosecution and the defense. This preemptory challenge process provides an example of how Boudin's rights are being trampled on in this trial.

Boudin's attorneys will not be able to use any preemptory challenges without the agreement of the court-appointed lawyer representing Samuel Brown, a codefendant in the case who has turned informer for the government. Brown testified against other Brink's defendants in an earlier trial. He

also gave 12 interviews to the FBI.

Boudin's lawyers have tried several times to have her case separated from Brown's. The court has refused.

Last month, Judge David Ritter refused to postpone the trial even after Brown's attorney presented evidence Brown was unable to participate in his own defense due to acute fatigue, pain, and depression. Brown is undergoing court-ordered psychiatric examination.

In response to Judge Ritter's decision, Leonard Weinglass, Boudin's attorney, commented, "This court is determined to go ahead with this case lickety-split, no matter what the consequences."

The day this reporter attended the trial, five prospective jurors were undergoing questioning by the judge and all the attorneys.

Kenneth Gribetz, the prosecuting attorney, unsuccessfully challenged a woman who had stated during earlier questioning that she had reacted to the extensive security measures, particularly the concrete barriers surrounding the modern, high-rise courthouse.

Weinglass opposed the challenge, stat-

ing, "the barricades are a problem with anyone. It is a complete non sequitur for the D.A. to complain about a juror's reaction to the barricades and yet defend their use."

Boudin's attorneys have attempted to rid the court of the barricades and other intimidating measures, arguing the measures can't help but impart to prospective jurors and the public the view the D.A. will argue in court — that Boudin is a hardened, desperate criminal involved in terrorist activities.

Correction

A printing error occurred in the article by George Novack, "Denial of rights in Boudin case must be brought to light," in the April 20 issue. One paragraph was inadvertently dropped and several lines of the article appeared twice. The dropped paragraph read:

Boudin's trial is currently in the jury selection stage. She is being defended by attorneys Leonard Weinglass, Linda Backiel, and Martin Garbus.

Cultural note — The Triton Museum in Santa Clara, Calif., is featuring a robot strapped into an electric chair. By depositing a quarter, you can be judge, jury,



Harry Ring

and executioner. Pull the switch and the robot shakes and shudders as the jolt hits. Last, the "artist" who created this had one called "Sweetheart," a coffee-pouring

female robot with Cadillac bumper guards for breasts.

Creeping communism — New York state public utility commissioners agreed to sponsor citizens utility boards to respond to utility moves for rate hikes, with the utilities required to include info from these boards when mailing out bills. However, the commissioners agreed not to call them "citizens" boards after one alert member noted, "It smacks of Paris communes."

Letting it all hang out — Visiting the San Clemente site of his future presidential library, old Tricky Dick assured that "everything about Watergate will be made public." Including, we as-

sume, that particularly noted tape with the mysterious 18-minute gap.

Bury the dead? — The Federal Communications Commission will review the "fairness" doctrine with an eye to scrapping it. Under the doctrine, broadcasters are supposed to provide equal time to contending views, and candidates for office. An FCC study found that in three years, 5,189 complaints were filed against broadcasters. Of these, 13 were upheld. As sanctions, offenders received letters from the commission.

Could displace Xmas — We didn't realize it at the time, but April 8-14 was Private Property

Week, a national observance of the right to own property. Maybe we missed it because we sort of assumed that in this country every week was Private Property Week.

Couldn't take it with her? — Florence Gould, daughter-in-law of railroad baron Jay Gould, checked out last year at 87. Her \$100-million collection of jewels, antiques, and paintings is being auctioned off, with the jewelry already netting a record \$8 million. Old friends recall she was rarely seen without her jewelry. She had no heirs and the proceeds go to her foundation to promote U.S.-French amity.

We're willing to try — A new how-to book: *How to Survive on*

\$50,000 to \$150,000 a Year.

Life of the party — A bash saluting Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler drew 700 guests. Apparently initiated by Sen. Orrin Hatch, he was asked who picked up the tab, and said he had no idea. Later, an aide advised that some 15 or 20 organizations chipped in. Like who? Like the American Medical Association, Blue Cross, and other organizations affected by Health Dept. rules.

We only work here — Pentagon officials said they could not "substantiate" a report that U.S. advisers accompanied Salvadoran government pilots into combat.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK Manhattan

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; Andrea González, SWP candidate for vice-president; Priscilla Schenk, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey; Gerry Kerr, SWP candidate for Congress from New York; Nan Bailey, SWP candidate for Congress from New York. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks below Canal). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (201) 643-3341 or (212) 226-8445.

CALIFORNIA Los Angeles

Anger and Fightback in Las Vegas: Eyewitness Report on the Restaurant and Hotel Workers Strike. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Seaside

The Growing U.S. War in El Salvador: a Danger for Workers. Speakers: Miguel Zárate, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress and member of International Association of Machinists Local 1327. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 1184 Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (408) 394-1855.

INDIANA Indianapolis

Blacks and the '84 Elections: Is the Road to

Liberation Through the Democratic Party or Independent Political Action? Speaker: Roger "Billy" Jones, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Ausp: Socialist Workers '84 Campaign Committee. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again. Videotape interview with Don Rojas, press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Fri., April 27, 7:30 p.m. Roxbury Community College, Collins Bldg. on Palace Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Grenada Solidarity Committee. For more information call (617) 492-8699.

Women and Their Unions: Report Back From National Convention of Coalition of Labor Union Women. Speakers to be announced. Sun., April 29, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Ellie Garcia, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate; Peter Brandli, SWP candidate for 4th Congressional District. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 28. Reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Ausp: 1984 Minneapolis Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Albany

Stopping Violence Against Women. Speak-

ers: Yvette Lejeune, representative of New York Public Interest Research Group on Women's Issues; Joanne Mullen, community service coordinator for Families and Violence Program, Schenectady; Sara Baird, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 27, 8 p.m. 23 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

OHIO

Toledo

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president; Mark Friedman, SWP candidate for Ohio state representative, and member of United Auto Workers Local 12 (Jeep). Sat., May 5, 8 p.m. (reception and party to follow). Toledo Health and Retiree Center, 320 Woodruff Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Violence Against Women: What Causes It and How To Stop It. Speakers: Katy Karlin, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress; Carol Cooby, delegate to Pennsylvania National Organization for Women State Board; representative of University of Pennsylvania; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Grenada Under U.S. Occupation: Eyewitness Report. Speaker: August Nimitz, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from fact-finding tour of Grenada and other Caribbean islands; slide show. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Socialism: A Future Worth Fighting For. Speaker: Joan Radin, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2271. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 1584-A Washington St. E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: SWP Campaign, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Support the British Coal Miners' Strike: Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Bruce Kimball, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2295, recently returned from reporting for *Militant* on British miners' strike. Sun., April 29, 2 p.m. 1584-A Washington St. E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Labor's Turning Point. Film about 1934 Teamsters strike in Minneapolis. Speaker: Robert Dees, chair of Milwaukee Young Socialist Alliance and member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 64. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

UTAH

Price

Las Vegas Hotel Strike: an Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Buddy Beck, member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 57; Susan Beck, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 23 South Carbon Ave., room 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Las Vegas hotel unions strike

Continued from back page

people didn't disperse. "I may soon be committing my first criminal act," said a woman in her mid-50s in response to the threat.

The crowd was angered by the brutality they witnessed. Shouts of "Gestapo!" "Fascist!" and "Down with Moran!" (the Clark County sheriff) were common.

Ken Collins put on a picket sign and walked the line in front of the MGM Grand.

"The cops were really brutal," Collins told the *Militant*. "One woman who shouted, 'Down with Moran!' was grabbed by the cops, her head whipped against the phone pole, and her arm shoved high above her back. She was thrown across a cop car, handcuffed, and arrested."

"A UFW lawyer from Salinas," Collins continued, "told me that he was frisked for weapons, a clear attempt at intimidation."

The workers are upset at the obvious complicity between the cops and the hotels. "The hotels are paying the cops overtime," is the way one worker put it.

As the demonstrators chanted, "We'll be back tomorrow," the school-bus sized police van filled with arrested strikers was rocked from inside.

The Las Vegas shows are a big money maker, and several other hotels have announced their intention to open up with scab labor. "This seems unlikely to workers here, since the MGM Grand was forced to close its show April 16 after three nights of protests," the *Militant* was informed April 17 by a striking waitress. "The MGM Grand was empty," she reported. "One patron left the swank hotel in disgust saying that it looked like war."

"The strike is very strong," observed Collins. "The hotels are losing millions daily. Travel agents are already reporting a loss of over half their Las Vegas bookings. But solidarity is vital. Workers everywhere, especially other hotel and restaurant workers, have a stake in this battle. The eyes of the nation are on Las Vegas," Collins said.

Collins and his supporters distributed campaign literature and the campaign's newspapers — the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. They were warmly received, although sales were limited by the fact that strikers had not yet received strike benefits.

One woman who bought *PM* told us that she had three relatives out on strike at Davis Pleating in Los Angeles and another relative who had just returned to work after a strike against McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, California.

Another striker said she was demonstrating with her mother, her son, and her daughter — all three generations are out on strike.

Donations and messages of support for the strike can be sent to: Culinary Workers Union Local 226, P.O. Box 14396, Las Vegas, Nev. 89114.

Japanese unions under attack

Continued from Page 6
thirds support it.

The SP capitulation to the Nakasone government on foreign policy compounds other problems facing the labor movement.

Trade union weakness

Osamu explained that trade union membership has declined to below 30 percent of Japan's work force. There is no closed-shop system.

In most cases each trade union is organized and based on a single company, such as Toyota or Nissan. Then those unions organize an autoworkers federation, for example.

In the mid-1960s Communist Party members and other militants were dealt severe blows by the combined efforts of the private companies and trade-union bureaucrats.

"Today there is no democracy in the private industry unions," Osamu noted. Workers who complained about the poor contracts negotiated last year were constantly harassed by union bureaucrats and thugs.

"The current reorganization of the labor movement started in 1974-75, with the international economic recession," Osamu said. "But frankly speaking, Japanese workers have not yet faced a major crisis in the post-war period. So they are confused about how to deal with it, how to organize a fightback."

"We are seeing the dissolution of the post-war Japanese reformist movements.

Sohyo faces dissolution, and the SP will turn to the right more and more. We are seeing a turning point in the Japanese workers movement," Osamu summarized.

Tasks confronting workers

"Most leftists in the workers movement think that to organize defense against Nakasone's four attacks we need to organize new, previously unorganized layers of the working class to counter the right wing," Osamu said. "We think this is necessary, but combine it with work within the already existing unions of Sohyo."

"For example, in the Japan National Railways there are 350,000 official employees. But there are many more who are sub-contract workers, who are unorganized and suffer poor conditions. A fightback means organizing them."

The JRCL is active on several fronts that also point the way forward for Japan's workers.

First, said Osamu, is solidarity with the Sanrizuka farmers who continue an 18-year battle against the Narita international airport built on their land.

Second is opposition to the Tomahawk nuclear weapons that the United States intends to station in Japan this year.

Another front is the necessary international solidarity with the liberation struggles in South Korea and the Philippines.

And finally is the struggle against attempts to deepen divisions in the working class and further attack the rights of working women.

New video: 'Defending reconstruction in Nicaragua'

Manzana Por Manzana: Defending Reconstruction in Nicaragua. A video documentary by Mary Anne Yanulis, Eric Shultz, and John Greyson. 35 minutes, color, Spanish or English. Rental, \$50; purchase, \$245; sliding scale available. ICARUS Films, 200 Park Ave. S. 1319, New York, N.Y. 10003. (212) 674-3375.

BY JON HILLSON

"They will never catch us sleeping," a farm worker laboring in the shadow of Honduras on the Nicaraguan side of the border quietly says, referring to potential U.S. invaders of this country.

IN REVIEW

"Never."

His voice is one of many heard in a powerful, crisply moving new documentary of life and struggle in the new Nicaragua, made by a team of North American video makers.

The 35-minute tape is culled from hours of footage shot during a three month stay in the strategic Segovias region of the country.

Manzana por Manzana — Acre by Acre — is the ideas and experiences of the people of the Segovias, in their own words, without interpretation, directly to the American people.

It was premiered by filmmaker John Greyson at the 1983 Havana Film Festival.

The film starts and finishes in the regional capital, bullet-scarred Estelí, a city of 52,000 whose liberation — after three insurrections between September 1978 and July 16, 1979, at a cost of massive destruction and the loss of thousands of lives — helped bring down the U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza, forcing his flight from Nicaragua.

Between interviews and scenes of daily life, the camera travels to the Honduran frontier, capturing the images of national defense, farming within mortar range of the counterrevolutionaries, and the faces and words of the workers and peasants who fortify this embattled edge of the nation.

Shot in color and available in Spanish and a superbly dubbed English, the documentary spotlights the problems, challenges, and advances facing the working people of the Segovias.

Manzana por Manzana goes into the homes and backyards of the poor, conveys the hopes of refugees resettled outside of counterrevolutionary bombing targets, records

the enormous difficulties of rebuilding a nation mired in three centuries of poverty, and lets us see the relationship between a society being born and mobilizing to defend itself.

It is the peasant describing the meaning of finally controlling the land worked but never owned by fathers and grandfathers.

The young Sandinista leader explaining the blows suffered with the recent deaths of seven *compañeros*.

The old Sandinista Defense Committee member describing the painstaking task of grassroots organizing in a poor neighborhood.

The farm worker too shy to face the camera softly telling of how a counterrevolutionary mortar beheaded a little girl a few hundred yards from where he speaks.

Today, as Washington escalates its war against Nicaragua, *Manzana por Manzana* is an especially welcome addition to the resources solidarity and antiwar activists can use to break through the curtain of lies the capitalist media has imposed on Nicaragua.

It will be especially useful in introducing workers to the Nicaraguan revolution, for solidarity work in the unions, Black and Latino communities, and in high schools and colleges. It is sure to spark discussion about why the U.S. government is committed to wage war on this small, courageous country.

Battle over British coal miners strike heats up

Continued from back page

Support for the miners is growing. Over the weekend, tens of thousands of trade unionists and Labor Party activists staged strike support rallies throughout the country. One of the most important demonstrations took place in Nottingham.

There, only 10,000 of 36,000 miners are striking. Because of more productive coal seams, higher investments, and an incentive wage scale, Nottingham miners receive substantially higher pay and the Coal Board has promised no pits there will close.

The incentive scheme has been used by the government to divide and weaken the union. A minority of the NUM leadership, in fact, has opposed the strike. This is the reason a minority of miners continue to work.

Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, appealed to Nottingham miners to join their brothers on the picket lines. Representatives from virtually every trade union in the country joined the Nottingham action, along with several Labor Party Members of Parliament (MPs) and activists.

One of the high points of the rally was the arrival of Kent miners and their wives. The miners had marched 280 miles over a 10-day period to join the demonstration. Their trek was symbolic, a young miner later told me. Many of their grandfathers had walked to Kent from South Wales and Scotland after the general strike in 1926 had been smashed. They were blacklisted and the only place they could find work was in the newly-opened Kent pits.

I spent Sunday talking with Kent miners and their wives. The previous evening 500

London trade unionists had organized a caravan of buses to Kent. They brought over 500 pounds in contributions and food to the miners. The NUM has no strike fund. Miners must depend on contributions from unions and the Labor Party to survive their strike.

Kay Sutcliffe, a leader of the Snowden Women's Committee, told me how moved miners were by this show of solidarity. Sutcliffe also explained how wives of miners had decided to take an active part in the strike.

The Coal Board has targeted all Kent mines for closure. "The pit closures mean the destruction of our communities," she said.

"The Coal Board wants to crush the union," Marge Davis, another miner's wife said. "Workers know that if the NUM is destroyed, their union could be next." Many other women from their village have joined the committee. Similar groups are being formed throughout the coal fields.

In addition to distributing food and money, the women have been speaking to the news media and at rallies. They have organized what the media has dubbed "petticoat pickets," to help keep coal from moving.

On April 16 Perry Harrison, secretary of the Betteshanger mine local, drove me to Maritime House in Dover. This is the international headquarters of the National Union of Seamen. The miners have secured the help of four unions representing railroaders, longshoremen, truckers, and seamen to stop the movement of coal. National picketing activities are coordinated from here.

The walls of the offices are covered with maps pinpointing all ports in Britain and Ireland. A phone call from seamen reports the movement of scab coal ships. Pickets are dispatched to the site.

Truckers and miners report an attempt to move stockpiled coal from tipples in Durham. Armed police are now riding in scab trucks. Many pickets have been beaten and arrested by the police. They include several Labor Party MPs. The miners and seamen discuss how to deal with this situation.

Unions representing coal, rail, and dock workers throughout Europe and as far away as Australia have pledged to stop coal from reaching Britain. They alert Maritime House when scab coal ships head for Britain.

Malcolm Pitt, president of the Kent NUM, is on the phone to the Polish embassy. The embassy agrees to inform the captain of a ship that the British miners are on strike and that he should not move coal.

Clearly the British capitalist class is worried about the massive solidarity the coal strike is receiving throughout Britain and abroad. Government action aimed at smashing the strike has increased public support. Two thousand police have been mobilized to stop NUM picketing. Two weeks previous, police barricaded the Dartford Tunnel, a major access route near London, searching cars for pickets.

Police attacks on pickets have shocked Britain's labor movement. This scale of police operations has not been seen since the 1926 general strike.

However, as one Black municipal worker told a meeting of the Southeast Region Trade Union Council gathered to discuss expanding support for the miners strike, Britain's Black community has long been familiar with police brutality. He pledged to help mobilize London's Black community in support of the miners.

Both the Southeast Region and Scottish trade union councils have adopted motions endorsing the miners strike. Support has also come from Irish trade unions.

Meanwhile, the British stock markets are plummeting, reflecting growing uneasiness about the outcome of the strike. The corporations fear repetition of the 1974 miners strike, which brought down the Conservative government. The working class voted the Labor Party into office in the ensuing general election.

A similar outcome to this struggle could seriously impede corporate plans to restructure British industry at the expense of the working class. As in the United States, the capitalist class intends to increase its profits by making its industries more competitive on the international market. This means it must break the power of the unions, impose speedup, lower wages, and massively increase unemployment in Britain. The Conservative government is the instrument through which they hope to do this.

Coal miners and other workers in Britain are beginning to absorb the magnitude of this struggle. As the wife of one young miner told me, "We've got to win. Troops or no, we're in for the duration — however long that may be."

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WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Congress talks peace, wages war

"One advantage of a covert operation is that it allows an awful lot of people who knew about it to say they didn't."

— Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)

"The record does not disclose a single instance in which Congress turned down a request by President Reagan in the field of foreign policy."

— Rep. Charles Mathias (R-Md.)

"When the invasion of Grenada was about to take place, we were informed. We knew that. We were told and didn't tell, that was our arrangement."

— Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.)

The widely reported "uproar" in Congress over the CIA's role in the mining of Nicaraguan waters is a fake and a fraud. It is intended to divert attention from the continuing, ominous escalation of Washington's war in Central America.

For the Democrats, the dispute over whether or not Congress was "properly" informed of the CIA role in the mining is intended to dupe working people into believing the Democratic Party is trying to limit the war drive, when in fact it is totally complicit in its escalation.

And the war is escalating.

On April 11, a Pentagon official in El Salvador confirmed that U.S. military "advisers" have accompanied Salvadoran army pilots on combat missions, helping to target and bomb guerrilla forces.

A senior U.S. embassy official there said, "I can't deny the fact that it has happened."

Meanwhile, the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights charged that 235 people were killed in the last two weeks of March when the Salvadoran air force repeatedly bombed groupings of war refugees in Cuscatlán Province.

Salvadoran church officials also charged increased bombings of civilians.

Furthering its war moves, the Pentagon has created an extensive permanent military base in Honduras. Such an act legally requires approval by Congress. But a cooperative Congress has conveniently looked the other way.

Several thousand GIs are now garrisoned in Honduras. With the slated opening of the Granadero I maneuvers, 3,000 more will be sent in for joint exercises with Honduran forces. The move is openly explained as intended to intimidate Nicaragua and the Salvadoran liberation forces.

It is reported there are now 11,000 U.S.-directed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary exiles — called *contras* — mobilized to attack the Sandinista revolution. Based in Honduras and Costa Rica, these terrorists now have four U.S.-built helicopters to evacuate battle casualties from Nicaragua. Their U.S.-supplied arsenal includes automatic rifles, mortars, and rocket launchers.

Some 5,000 to 6,000 of these *contras* are already in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed April 17 that prior to its mining operation, the CIA was directly involved in the costly sabotage attack on the Nicaraguan oil port of Corinto.

Earlier, the CIA conducted raids on Puerto Sandino and other Nicaraguan targets.

As with the mining of the harbors, specially trained commandos were dispatched from a CIA "mother" ship in small speedboats to attack the ports.

In the Oct. 10, 1983, attack on Corinto, the CIA hirelings opened fire on oil storage tanks, touching off a blaze that forced the evacuation of the city and injured 112 people.

It took two days to control the blaze, and 3.2 million gallons of fuel were destroyed.

The CIA delicately indicated its direct role in the Nicaragua operations by describing its hired commandos as "unilaterally controlled Latino assets."

As a corner of the curtain is being lifted on the U.S. war in Nicaragua, the hate-Nicaragua campaign by the media and capitalist politicians in this country is picking up accordingly.

In a venomous April 17 speech, Reagan demagogically asserted:

"Today, a faraway totalitarian power is committing enormous resources to change the strategic balance of the world by turning Central America into a string of anti-American Soviet-styled dictatorships."

There has been a revival of the threadbare initial pretext for the aggression against Nicaragua — the charge that Nicaragua is funneling Soviet and Cuban arms to the Salvadoran liberation forces.

This discredited propaganda pitch was featured on the front page of the April 11 *New York Times*.

Its authority? Totally anonymous "Western European and Latin American diplomats."

The reporter conceded that when challenged by friends of Nicaragua for evidence, "Diplomats acknowledge they have no proof."

One week later, the story was back on the *Times* front page.

This time the authority was a Salvadoran military commander. He too had no evidence.

The reason Washington pounds away at the charge Nicaragua is smuggling arms is to cover up the mammoth U.S. arms supplies going to El Salvador. The accusations against Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviet Union, are a smokescreen to justify sending millions of dollars — and eventually U.S. combat troops — to fight workers and peasants demanding freedom from a U.S.-backed dictatorship.

On the question of military aid to El Salvador, the "doves" in Congress are also helping Reagan. When Congress recessed for Easter, House Democrats worked out a deal with their Senate Republican colleagues to ensure continued funding of the U.S. intervention.

On the eve of the recess, an arrangement was made by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.) and Republican Senate majority leader Howard Baker. The deal they cut enabled Reagan to send another \$32 million in military aid to El Salvador on the basis of asserted "emergency authority."

O'Neill assured Baker this would be approved by the appropriate House subcommittee.

With this ruse, the House Democrats were able to escape having to actually vote the money — while making sure it was available.

When President Reagan — or Congress — talk "peace," it's a sure sign they're preparing for more war. It's also worth recalling that in December of 1982, the House voted 441 to 0 for the celebrated Boland Amendment.

Like the present House and Senate resolutions deploring CIA mining of Nicaraguan waters, adoption of the Boland Amendment was hailed as a blow for peace. It assertedly barred the administration from undertaking any action "for the purpose of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua."

The following November, Congress voted \$24 million for the secret war, which they knew full well was being waged precisely for the purpose of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua.

The current "antimining" stand has exactly the same purpose as the Boland Amendment — to divert attention from the bipartisan war escalation.

The record makes clear that it's folly to expect the Democrats or Republicans to do anything but what they've been doing — escalating the war drive.

Opposition to that war by U.S. labor — and working people around the world — is more imperative than ever.

SWP on need to fight for democratic rights

Last week we featured an article by George Novack on why everyone concerned with democratic rights should rally in protest against governmental trampling on those rights in the case of Kathy Boudin, a defendant in the 1981 Brinks armored car holdup trials.

Novack has played a key role for 50 years in the fight for democratic rights. And, as a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, he has helped shape the party's political stand in relation to this prime issue.

The following is an extract from a 1968 speech by Novack outlining the SWP's approach. It appeared in the July 1968 issue of the SWP's *Education for Socialists* bulletin, along with a 1950 resolution on the question adopted by the SWP National Committee.

* * *

Let me summarize the fundamental features of defense policy, which the pioneers of our movement worked out and which have guided all our subsequent activities and achievements.

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

1. The democratic, constitutional and legal rights of the American people are the most valuable political acquisitions of their past struggles. Socialists must staunchly uphold these indispensable instruments of the workers' struggle for emancipation against any encroachment, assault, or erosion by the forces of reaction. A strong defense of existing rights is the best way of extending them.

2. The right of legality is a crucial democratic right. It has taken tremendous sacrifice to secure the legality of trade unions and their right to strike, and of socialist parties and their right to advocate revolutionary views. These and similar conquests must not be taken lightly. The free and legal functioning of all progressive organizations and causes should be safeguarded at all costs by the revolutionary vanguard.

3. At the same time it must be recognized that the capitalists run the machinery of state and control its repressive agencies. They will honor the rights of the individual citizen and the people only so long as these do not cut deeply into their vital interests. None of the agents of the plutocracy can be relied upon to adhere even to their own legality.

4. Regardless of their claims to the contrary, the ruling class of the capitalist state and their servitors are the inveterate enemies of democracy. They fear its application and resist its expansion. This imposes the obligation upon the forces of socialism and spokesmen for the working class to be the most vigorous and consistent champions of democratic liberties. They must defend all victims of reactionary persecution, no matter what their special beliefs. This injunction is summed up in the solidarity slogan of the IWW: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

5. Whatever illusions liberals and others may have, Marxists should repose no confidence in the capacity or will of the capitalist regime, its courts, officials, or politicians to grant democratic rights. The best way to balk their frame-ups and insure a modicum of justice within class society is to develop a broad defense movement based upon those sections of the population that will lend an ear to the issues and respond to appeals on behalf of the defendants. Thus the counterpressure of aroused public opinion can be brought to bear upon the authorities to frustrate, or make more difficult, their attacks upon democratic rights.

6. It is crippling and self-defeating for a defense case, committee, or campaign to be conducted in a sectarian or exclusive manner. Appeals for support should be based, not upon agreement with the ideas or approval of the real or alleged acts of the defendants, but upon general civil liberties grounds. Care should be taken to point out how the issues at stake concern and affect the rights of others. Support should be solicited and welcomed from anyone willing to aid the defense on such a broad basis, regardless of their positions on other matters. The defense committee should stand ready to collaborate with other groups that have similar purposes in opposing violations of legal or human rights.

SECRET POLICE ON TRIAL

Post-trial brief filed by Socialist Workers Party in suit against government. Outlines party's beliefs and activities and reviews key disclosures of illegal police activity. \$5. Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Aid, not tanks, to Indochina!

President Reagan announced on April 13 that Washington will sell Thailand \$30 million worth of M-48 tanks. He also urged the sale of advanced F-16A fighter planes to the dictatorial Thai regime. All this, Reagan claimed, is necessary because of a supposed Vietnamese threat to Thailand.

But Vietnam is no threat to Thailand. Vietnamese troops are along the Thai-Kampuchea border only as a buffer to protect Kampuchea from the rightist terrorist bands that operate from Thai sanctuary.

Pol Pot, Norodom Sihanouk, and Son Sann, discredited former rulers of Kampuchea, have ganged up in an exile coalition "government." Their armed outfits carry out hit-and-run terrorist attacks to disrupt the People's Republic of Kampuchea as it attempts to recover from the holocaust of the Pol Pot years and the U.S. saturation bombing before that.

Because they have no support inside Kampuchea, the right-wing coalition can operate only on the basis of assistance from the United States, China, and Thailand.

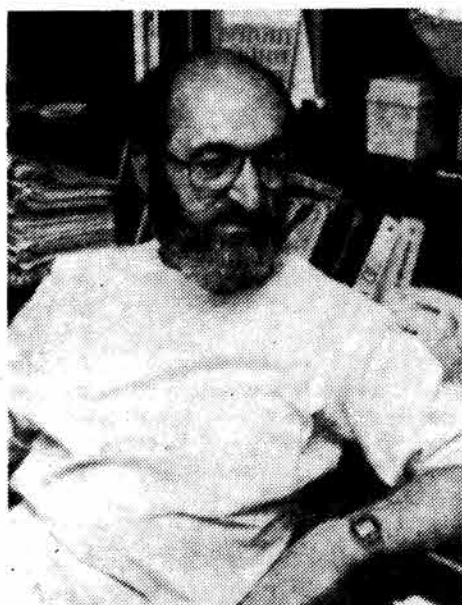
Nor are the Vietnamese a threat to the thousands of Kampuchean refugees along the Thai border. Right-wing military forces use the refugee camps as a human shield from attack and as a bait to lure international aid and supplies.

The Vietnamese and Kampuchean governments have urged that the refugees be allowed to return to their homes or at least be moved inside Thailand, away from the border and out of the line of fire.

In recent weeks there have been press reports that the Vietnamese have helped rout five rightist military camps and driven them back to Thailand. What worries Washington is that the Vietnamese and Kampucheans will finally smash Pol Pot and his cronies so that Kampuchea and Vietnam can build their countries in peace. That would be a victory not only for the Indochinese people, but for working people in this country too.

Instead of sending tanks to Thailand, Washington should give massive reconstruction aid to the victims of years of U.S. aggression — Vietnam and Kampuchea.

Canadian MDs challenge antiabortion law



Dr. Henry Morgentaler, one of three doctors on trial for violating Canada's reactionary antiabortion laws.

On Nov. 21, 1983, Dr. Henry Morgentaler was put on trial in Toronto, Canada. His "crime" was setting up clinics in Toronto and Winnipeg that provide women with abortions. This directly violates Canada's reactionary antiabortion laws, which make such clinics illegal.

The following article on Morgentaler's trial is from the April 9 issue of *Socialist Voice*, a revolutionary socialist biweekly published in Montreal.

BY MONICA JONES

The federal government began its defense of Canada's abortion law on March 20 in a Toronto courtroom with a ringing affirmation of the rights of a fetus, including its right to "live a full life." Lawyer Ar-

thur Pennington made his emotional defense of the "sanctity of fetal life" in the trial under way against doctors Henry Morgentaler, Leslie Smoling, and Robert Scott. The three doctors are on trial for conspiring to perform illegal abortions.

Pennington, who represents the office of Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan, declared, "I take strong issue with the submission that the sole purpose of the [abortion law] is to protect the health of the woman. An obvious purpose is the protection of the developing human life in the womb." The antichoice position of the government has never been clearer.

This high and mighty concern for the fetus, however, translates into utter contempt for women — victims of the present abortion law.

Morris Manning, lawyer for the three doctors, is seeking to have the abortion-related charges thrown out. They are in violation of the [federal] Charter of Rights, he has documented. His arguments have turned the trial into a historic constitutional battle.

Manning described the law as "discriminatory, cruel, unusual, and unfair." His case was backed up by 19 expert witnesses who testified earlier in the trial that many women have to leave Canada to obtain abortions. The court heard of women lied to by their doctors and abused by anti-women hospital staff.

Under the present law a woman's request for an abortion must be presented for her by a doctor to three other doctors on a hospital abortion committee. Ultimately the woman is denied choice on a personal matter that affects her whole life.

The recent case of Christine Medhurst illustrates the injustice of the whole procedure of obtaining abortions. After getting the necessary hospital approval, this Ontario woman had to endure two delays in

the abortion procedure. Her husband had applied to a court to overturn the hospital committee's decision.

In an interview, Medhurst stated, "It is not just for me; it's other women's rights at stake here, too. There's too many of us being pushed around lately." And she added, "I never thought it would come to this."

And it never should have. It is because of the present law, which Pennington describes as "functioning reasonably satisfactorily," that she was put through such an ordeal. What should have been a straightforward medical procedure decided between her and her doctor became a painful courtroom drama.

In place of this system that victimizes women like Medhurst, Dr. Morgentaler recommends outpatient clinics where women could have expert care, counseling, and supportive surroundings. This is exactly the kind of care women receive at his clinic in Montreal. And in the United States, the court was told, about 80 percent of abortions are done in clinics where the safety record is excellent.

But the government has chosen to ignore the well-documented case presented by Manning. Instead the government lawyer led his witnesses through sensational descriptions of the development of a fetus, complete with lurid color photographs. The government rests its defense of the thoroughly discredited antiabortion law on the irrational, emotionally charged appeal for the rights of the fetus.

The sides are clearly drawn. On one side is the vocal, well-financed minority at whose head is the Canadian government. On the other are the vast majority who favor wiping the abortion law off the books once and for all.

The stakes are high. A ruling in favor of Manning's argument that the charges are

unconstitutional would bring the trial to an end. It would be a tremendous blow to the abortion law. Fighters for women's rights, unionists, Dr. Morgentaler, and other courageous doctors like him would seize it as an inspiration to continue the struggle to remove all barriers to a woman's right to choose and to secure a woman's right to control her own body.

INS raids okayed

Continued from front page

particularly during union organizing drives.

The Supreme Court ruling overturned a U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit decision upholding an International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) lawsuit filed in California in 1978. The appeals court had ruled that such raids constitute a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution barring unreasonable search and seizure.

The lower court decision barred the INS from conducting such raids in nine western states in the Ninth Circuit Court's jurisdiction. The Supreme Court ruling is a clear signal to step up INS terror in those states, including California where hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers live and work. Such raids will assuredly be stepped up elsewhere as well.

The ILGWU is one of the few unions that has taken any action to oppose the raids. The court decision, which gives legal cover to an antilabor practice that is already well established, makes plain that more powerful, united action in defense of undocumented workers by the entire labor movement, and all supporters of democratic rights, is urgently needed. At stake are democratic rights and union rights for all working people.

LETTERS

On religion

I agree with your editorial in the March 16 issue that "the school prayer campaign is reactionary and should be condemned and combatted." But part of your argument is inaccurate and, therefore, ineffective. It is not only "Jews, Muslims, Buddhists — and atheists" who stand against the imposition of a state religion in this country, but many Christians as well. Despite their large numbers and favored status in our culture, Christians are also divided. The division into various denominations, as well as liberal and conservative factions, has forced a relative toleration and mutual desire for no one sect to wield sole political power. This led to the progressive step, embodied in the U.S. Constitution, of proclaiming the separation of church and state. This contrasts with the institutionalized state religion, traditional in European society, which Marx fought so hard against.

More liberal sectors among Christians are also directly opposed to the other concrete, reactionary items on Reagan's program, from taking evolution out of the textbooks, to funding private as opposed to public schooling. And there are religious sectors in all of the social movements that you enumerate as fostering "progressive social and political ideas" — the antiwar, Black, and women's liberation struggles. Many working people are religious.

In face of these facts, your overgeneralization that "the rulers foster religion and mysticism of all sorts" in some kind of grand conspiracy to befuddle the working class, only comes off as sectarian paranoia. The political ideas of the Socialist Workers Party need to be adopted by larger numbers of workers. The relative, short-term success of the capitalist economy will make that difficult. The isolation of a small group of courage-

ous vanguard elements can make more subjective "ideological" explanations for the delay seem unduly significant. Don't make the process of building a mass worker's party more difficult by insisting on a vulgarized interpretation of the problem of religion. That befits only Stalinists, not real Marxists. Working people correctly fear the undemocratic, forced ideology of Stalinism.

The real battle of atheist versus religious ideology will take much greater precision, sophistication, patience, and time. Marxists need not be so puritanical as to deny religion the positive side of its historical due — many progressive hopes and insights of common, working people are embodied in its traditions. The negative side — its often reactionary, obscurantist, simplistic idealism — is not denied by acknowledging some positive elements and roles.

Fight for the socialist revolution, to be accomplished by all working people, not for conversion to a simplistic atheist cult. The political insight of the Trotskyist tradition deserves and is capable of better.

Tim Knaak
Stanford, California

NBIPP charter

The April 6 *Militant* interested me, particularly the centerpiece layout on Black equality and the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). I commend the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance for consistently reprinting extracts from the Black party's charter. As the article, "Black party charter maps course for break from capitalist two-party system" explains, the charter advocates an anti-imperialist program of action through which Afro-American workers can, among other things, defend themselves against racist violence.

Nevertheless, there is another

section in NBIPP's charter that the *Militant* or the *Young Socialist* rarely, if ever, reprints. It is the section on the demand for Black reparations. The first two sentences from it reads: "For over 300 years, we, in the U.S.A. have suffered brutal oppression, economic exploitation and acts of genocide from the oppressive U.S. system. From the early period of captivity in this country, as chattel slaves, and throughout history, as a source of unpaid and cheap labor, we have produced the capital necessary for the development of this country and its expansion as an imperialist power throughout the world."

NBIPP concluded to build a committee on reparations designed to educate Black people "around our right to reparations and the necessary strategies and tactics for obtaining it." In November 1982 the African National Reparations Organization (ANRO) was founded to do just that as an independent, mass based organization. ANRO is in the process of building a united Black front around this just demand.

I wanted to point this out to the *Militant*, thinking it might be interested in doing a story or two on ANRO and its reparations demand. Keep up the good work!

Corbin Seavers
Lexington, Kentucky

Internat'l Women's Day

More than 200 unionists and women's rights activists jammed into the Cement Masons Union Hall in Cincinnati to celebrate March 8, International Women's Day.

The crowd was welcomed by Joan Vestring, president of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). "For over two centuries women in this country have been fighting to gain one single thing — equality," declared Vestring.



She warned that "our rights as women are being attacked on every front" pointing to affirmative action, abortion rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment as examples.

"And if you are a Black woman or a Latina," said Vestring, "the picture is even worse. In addition to facing discrimination based on sex, our Black, Asian, and Latina sisters are discriminated against doubly because of pervasive racism still rampant in the United States."

Vestring concluded: "We solidary ourselves with women all around the world, from those struggling for their unions and lives of their families in El Salvador against a brutal dictatorship, to those fighting against the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. . . . We can't stop fighting until we have won the total emancipation of women and men."

Sixteen organizations co-sponsored the CLUW-initiated event, including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, National Organization for Women, and AFL-CIO Central Labor Council.

Isabelle Ramirez from the Women's Association of El Salvador and Juanita Jenkins from 1199 Hospital Workers Union brought greetings to the rally.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Joyce Kornbluh, author of *Sister-*

hood and Solidarity and the editor of *Rebel Voice: an IWW Anthology*.

Margaret Kelley
Cincinnati, Ohio

SWP vs FBI

An incorrect sentence appeared in the article on the Socialist Workers Party suit against the government on page 6 of the April 20 issue. In the fourth paragraph of the article, the sentence should have read, "Is the Socialist Workers Party supposed to wait an additional eight years — or longer — before there is a decision?"

Curtis Mason not charged

In our April 13 issue, the *Militant* mistakenly reported in both a news article and in the "By Any Means Necessary" column that Curtis Mason has been legally charged with an armed robbery in Texas for which Lenell Geter had been falsely accused. However, while cops claim Mason committed the robbery, no charges have been filed.

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.

Las Vegas strikers fight takebacks

BY LARRY LUKECART
AND LYNN ALLEN

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Here in this resort capital, hotel workers are engaged in a bitter fight to defend their wages and benefits. A team of California supporters of Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González, traveled to Las Vegas to learn the truth about this struggle from the striking workers themselves.

The team was led by Ken Collins, Socialist Workers candidate for the Seaside, California, city council seat vacated by Mason when he declared his presidential bid. Collins, a sheet metal worker, is a former hotel unionist who served as a picket captain during a 1982 strike against the Hyatt Hotel in Monterey.

The Las Vegas strike began April 2 when union contracts with the Nevada Resort Association (NRA) expired. Over 17,500 workers were forced out on strike by the hotel owners.

The Las Vegas Hilton hotels account for a big chunk of the Hilton chain's international income say strikers. "They can afford to give us a contract with no take-aways," said one.

The NRA has demanded a series of takebacks that include a cut in real wages, elimination of several paid holidays, a hike in the amount workers must pay for medical insurance, an increase in the probationary employment period from 20 to 90 days, and the elimination of job classifications, forcing employees to work any job and any shift.

Union workers are resisting these concessions and are demanding a continued guarantee of a 40-hour week. "The hotels want us to work part-time," explained one striker. "This will cut not only our wages, but also our benefits, since benefits are based on the number of hours worked."

The striking culinary workers, barten-

ders, musicians, and stagehands held a powerful demonstration Saturday, April 14. "Going to fight — damn right!" chanted more than 5,000 unionists and their supporters in the solidarity march that virtually shut down the Las Vegas "strip" for more than two hours.

Spirits were buoyed by the large crowd of strikers, nonstriking union workers, and union contingents from as far away as San Francisco and Los Angeles.

As the march passed the Aladdin Hotel, union workers came out to cheer on the march (the Aladdin and a number of other hotels have already signed a contract with the unions). From the hotel rooms workers waved pillow cases and clenched fists in solidarity.

"There is tremendous unity here," noted Ken Collins. "Workers of all nationalities — Black, Latino, Filipino, Chinese, young and old, men and women, striking and nonstriking — are marching together."

This unity exists despite hotel management efforts to divide the workers. "The management took aside newly hired Chinese women and had a long talk with them," a Black woman union steward from the slot machine area at the Four Queens Hotel told the *Militant*. "So I talked to them for a long time too. They all joined the union. They all went out on strike. And they're all here at the march today."

The march boomed angrily as it passed the Marina Hotel. The Marina is claiming bankruptcy in its attempt to bust the unions. "This is the same tactic being used by growers in Salinas," Ken Collins explained to some workers. "Sun Harvest just declared bankruptcy, threw 1,000 farm workers out of work, and plans to reopen under a new name without the union," said Collins.

The march entered the rally site chanting, "We are winning," and then reassembled to the tune of the strikers' theme song,



Militant/Lynn Allen

Striker pickets Las Vegas hotel. Unions oppose concessions to casino bosses.

Donna Summer's "She Works Hard for Her Money."

"We are proud to be with you today," said United Farm Workers (UFW) Pres. César Chávez. "It makes our heart feel good to see so many women and men fighting for justice," he continued. Chávez pledged the support of the UFW, stating, "Like you, we know how to picket; like you, we know how to win."

"Don't let the bosses do to you what is done to bananas," Chávez advised. "When bananas stay in the bunch nothing happens

to them. But what happens when one gets separated? It gets eaten up."

The crowd enthusiastically cheered another of Chávez' suggestions. "After you win the strike, everyone should go register to vote. Elect one of yourselves to be mayor," he said. "And then you can deal with the police in the next strike. . . ."

Collins and the other socialist campaigners were also impressed by this suggestion. "Working people should run the city," said Collins. "This is the theme of the socialist campaign — independent political action by and for working people."

That night a section of the Las Vegas strip was again shut down as workers and cops clashed. The confrontation took place in front of the MGM Grand Hotel.

Stagehands announced they would continue to picket the MGM Grand in response to the April 13 opening of a show using nonunion personnel. Sixty stagehands and others were arrested while a crowd of many hundreds of workers and tourists jeered the cops from across the street.

One hundred cops tried to intimidate the crowd, threatening to arrest everyone if

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Battle in British coal fields heats up

Clare Fraenzl is a working miner in the United States. She is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197 and an activist in the Coal Employment Project, an organization that helps women get and keep mining jobs.

BY CLARE FRAENZL

LONDON, England, April 17 — "The class struggle is now out in the open," Jack Collins, secretary of the Kent-area National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), told me. "Thatcher and her cabinet have declared war. We are expecting them to use whatever force is available to defeat the miners," Collins stated.

Collins was referring to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's "War Cabinet" meeting, Sunday, April 15. At that meeting, cabinet ministers discussed plans to use troops to remove 25 million tons of coal stockpiled at British tips and ports.

Seamen, truckers, longshoremen, and railroad workers have refused to load or haul coal during the miners strike.

The coal strike, now in its sixth week, has idled 80 percent of Britain's mines.

The miners are protesting plans by the National Coal Board (NCB) to close 20 mines, idling 20,000 miners, in the next year alone. Thousands of jobs have already been lost in the past year through earlier closures. The miners are demanding a halt to the closures. The miners also oppose the board's plans to sell off the remaining open mines, nationalized in 1947, to private corporate interests.

In response to Thatcher's move, the NUM announced it will expand its picketing to block shipments of fuel to nuclear and oil-fired power plants also. The shipment of coke to steel mills has already been

drastically reduced.

The battle to stop mine closures has escalated into a major confrontation between the British working class and the capitalist class, represented by Thatcher's Conservative (Tory) government.

On April 13 I visited the London strike coordination center of the NUM. The offices are donated by the agricultural workers section of the Transport and General Workers Union.

U.S. denies asylum to apartheid foe

BY ANTHONY JOSEPHSON

BALTIMORE — The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has denied a South African exile political asylum and ordered her to leave the country or face deportation proceedings.

Mankeko Mahlangu-Ngcobo, an honor student at Morgan State University and a member of the African National Congress came to the United States three years ago after fleeing South Africa. She is an active opponent of the racist white minority government that rules her homeland.

While in South Africa, she was a member of several Black liberation organizations. In 1978 she was jailed for 21 days without charges and kept in solitary confinement. Fearing for her life, Mahlangu-Ngcobo fled South Africa in 1980 and went to Botswana. She came to the United States in 1981.

The INS claims that Mahlangu-Ngcobo could return to Botswana and live safely. In fact, security agents of the Pretoria regime routinely invade Botswana and other neighboring countries to attack freedom fighters forced to flee South Africa.

The head of the household Mahlangu-Ngcobo stayed with in Botswana, Joe Qhambi, was killed by South African agents in Zimbabwe in 1981. Mahlangu-Ngcobo believes the same fate awaits her if she returns to Botswana.

Mahlangu-Ngcobo's fight to remain in this country has received widespread support. An ad hoc defense committee was formed to lead her fight for asylum.

Among the organizations that participated in an April 13 news conference were the Maryland State Teachers Association, the Baltimore City Teachers Association, the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), the American Friends Service Committee, and the Central America Solidarity Committee (CASC).

Mat Hoff of the Baltimore City Teachers Association likened apartheid in South Africa to the Jim Crow system of segregation that existed in the southern United States for many years. He said the freedom struggles of U.S. Blacks and South African Blacks are identical.

Ken Morgan, cochair of Baltimore NBIPP, said Mahlangu-Ngcobo's fight

symbolizes the liberation struggles of people in South Africa, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

Betty Langford of CASC discussed the inhuman INS treatment of Salvadoran refugees. Many Salvadorans in the United States have been returned to El Salvador, where they have been jailed and killed by the U.S.-backed dictatorship.

Mahlangu-Ngcobo's fight for asylum is finding a sympathetic ear among Baltimore-area workers. Supporters of her fight at Martin-Marietta, a large aerospace company, have circulated a defense petition, which 45 workers have signed so far.

United Auto Workers Local 738, which organizes Martin Marietta workers, passed a resolution endorsing her right to remain in this country.

Workers at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant report a similar response among steelworkers.

On April 17, 80 people picketed outside the federal building in downtown Baltimore to demand political asylum for Mahlangu Ngcobo and to express their opposition to continued U.S. support for the South African apartheid regime.