THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Coal barons' profit drive kills Pa. miner

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

PITTSBURGH — Joseph Letecki had been a coal miner for 30 years. He knew safety conditions at the 84 Complex mine were getting worse. His sister said that he would come home every day swearing not to go back. At 55, Joe was looking ahead to the time when he wouldn't have to go underground again. He didn't make it. On April 19, he became the 35th miner to die in the United States this year.

Like all the other mine operators, Bethlehem Steel, operator of the 84 Complex mine 30 miles southeast of here, is on a campaign to increase coal production. Sometimes working six days a week, the mine produces 24,000 tons of coal a day. Mine superintendents returned from West Virginia the day Joe Letecki died with plans to double production.

On any job, speed-ups, forced overtime, and back-breaking quotas lead to accidents. Safety programs are cut back and working conditions deteriorate. In the mines, this means people die — more than three times the number this year as compared to the same period in 1983.

According to United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Vice-pres. Cecil Roberts, "the situation is extremely serious. If this is allowed to continue, 150 miners will be killed on the job in the United States this year."

The alarming increase in accidents is the result of deliberate policies on the part of the mine owners. A UMWA safety official from District 5 told the *Militant* that they had been negotiating with officials at the 84 Complex mine since last August over coal-haulage rules.

The union wants the company to standardize its procedure for hauling coal. The company has been transporting coal at the same time workers are being transported in the man trips that take them in and out of the mines. According to the union, it is almost impossible for a dispatcher to control

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Britain and U.S. step up anti-Libya smear campaign

The British imperialists, backed by their allies in Washington, have launched a provocative campaign of lies and threats against Libya and its government.

For over a week, hundreds of British cops have held diplomats in the Libyan embassy in London hostage.

On April 22, Britain broke diplomatic relations with Libya in a further effort to

EDITORIAL

isolate the government of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. The Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher has also tried to pin an April 20 bombing at Heathrow Airport on Libya, despite the fact that there's not a shred of evidence to prove that charge.

And on April 23, Britain deported a Libyan student who London claimed was one of the people operating the embassy.

Washington immediately endorsed the

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British cops hold Libyans hostage in siege of embassy. London used incident as excuse to break diplomatic ties with Libya.

Solidarity with British miners grows

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

SHEFFIELD, England, April 19 — Thousands of coal miners chanting, "The miners, united, will never be defeated!" rallied outside Sheffield city hall today, awaiting the outcome of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) delegate council meeting. Conference delegates voted to give national sanction to the six-week-old British coal strike.

Miners are protesting massive mine closures ordered by the National Coal Board, which manages Britain's nationalized coal industry. The closures, aimed at making British coal more competitive on the world market, could cost one out of every three miners his job.

The strike had already shut down 80 percent of Britain's coal mines. It began as a regional strike led by miners in areas like Yorkshire who are direct targets of the mine closing plan. The strikers dispatched "flying pickets" to other mining areas. In the name of basic labor solidarity, they appealed to other miners to honor the picket lines and refuse to work in order to prevent the government from crushing the strike.

The NUM delegate council decision means the strike is now a national one. Anyone crossing a picket line now does so in opposition to a formal, democratic vote of one of the NUM's highest bodies.

NUM rally organizers invited me to address the assembled miners. I explained the conditions coal miners and other workers in the United States face: continued high unemployment, speed-up through productivity drives, concession contracts, continued attacks on safety, and massive cuts in social services.

British miners fear the plans of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party government to sell the coal industry back to private cor-

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Why CIA-backed army 'took' Nicaraguan town

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Eleven days of battle against U.S.-backed rightist forces in the eastern jungles surrounding San Juan del Norte ended April 17, when Nicaraguan soldiers pushed them back to Costa Rican territory.

Some 500 counterrevolutionaries, led by ex-Sandinista and traitor Edén Pastora, received tremendous attention from the big business–owned media when they claimed to have "taken" San Juan del Norte and began talking about the possibility of setting up a provisional government there to challenge the legitimacy of Nicaragua's popular revolutionary government.

Sandinista National Liberation Front leaders maintained throughout the attack that at no time had Pastora's forces "taken" the town.

For starters, there was nothing to "take." The town, located barely two kilometers north of Costa Rica, has been depopulated for months.

Given its proximity to armed counterrevolutionary forces operating out of Costa Rica and the fact that San Juan del Norte is surrounded by jungle, the relocation of the population had been necessary to protect the lives of the people there. The region surrounding the town is referred to by army officials as a permanent combat zone.

The aim of the counterrevolutionary operation, as government coordinator Daniel Ortega pointed out, was propagandistic. Its main goal was to create the illusion that there's a great internal rebellion inside Nicaragua at a time when world attention is focused on the criminal U.S. mining of Nicaraguan ports and Washington's refusal to accept the World Court's jurisdiction concerning its war against Nicaragua.

Ortega likened the propaganda concerning the San Juan del Norte fighting to that surrounding the 1961 U.S.-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. In both cases, the intent of the disinformation around the military attack was to distract world public attention from the undeclared acts of war by the United States. The Cuban and Nicaraguan exiles were supposedly attacking tyrannical, unpopular governments, and Washington was simply helping these "liberation fighters" regain their freedom.

In both Cuba and Nicaragua, the United States fell flat on its face. In 1961, the Cubans wiped out the invaders in 67 hours; in the Nicaraguan jungle it took a week and a half.

Pastora's forces were expelled back to their camps in Costa Rica, unable to "take" even abandoned land. Yet, in the process of forcing them back, 15 Sandinista soldiers lost their lives.

As well, other counterrevolutionaries, based in Honduras, were driven out of Sumubila, the largest of four settlements built by the revolution to protect the Miskito Indian population from constant armed attacks by these gangs.

The counterrevolutionaries, numbering 300 men, attacked Sumubila from three sides, killing seven people, including two children; wounding 14; and setting fire to the health center (with seven patients inside), an ambulance, an electricity plant, grain silos, a telecommunications center, and a cacao project employing 300 Miskitos.

A defense force of 70 — one-third of it Miskito — succeeded in repelling the invaders after a three-hour battle. Yet, as the counterrevolutionaries fled, they kidnapped 39 Miskitos (three of whom escaped). Among them was the settlement's doctor.

Defense Minister Humberto Ortega visited Sumubila April 21. He came to comfort the families, prepare them for the difficult days ahead, and promise that the revolution would rebuild everything the counterrevolutionaries had torched.

Reporters who visited the settlement that day say that while some residents' response to the heavy shelling and ruthless destruction was sheer terror, many others are talking about joining the defense effort to protect what the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution has made possible.

Mass revolt in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, April 25 — A general strike occurred here today. The strike comes after two days of rebellion against government-ordered price increases. Hundreds of people have been injured and thousands arrested. More than 45 people have been killed so far — most by the regime's police.

The rebellion began April 23 following a 24-hour strike called by business organizations and the Dominican Party of Liberation (PLD), led by ex-president Juan Bosch. The one-day strike was called to protest Pres. Salvador Jorge Blanco's order to raise prices on all imported goods by 200 percent as well as price increases on many basic foodstuffs. The austerity measures were part of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for a $599 million loan.

The general strike was called by the General Workers Federation (CGT) and four other union federations. Trade union leaders here report that virtually all workplaces and businesses were shut down and that the strike would probably continue.

Meanwhile, Julio de Peña Valdez, general secretary of the CGT, was placed under house arrest. Also placed under house arrest were several leaders of the Socialist Bloc. Narciso Isa Conde, general secretary of the Dominican Communist Party (PCD), and other leaders of the PCD were detained for questioning by the Blanco regime.

The *Militant* will have full coverage of the Dominican general strike and rebellion in its next issue.

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY CANDACE WAGNER

WEIRTON, W. Va. — It was shift change at the Weirton Steel Corp., the largest "employee-owned" company in the country.

Socialist campaigners were at the gate to sell the *Militant*, collect signatures to get socialist candidates for U.S. president and vice-president Mel Mason and Andrea González on the ballot in West Virginia, and to find out how workers here felt about the ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) they had supported last September.

Early in 1982 National Steel, the former owner, announced it would no longer make any significant investment in the Weirton mill, and a plan was developed by an investment firm for the workers to buy the plant.

Large concessions were demanded from the workers to get the necessary bank loans, including a wage cut; a six-year wage freeze; and modifications of vacation, overtime, and supplemental unemployment benefits. Steelworkers at Weirton voted overwhelmingly for the plan as the only road they saw open to save their jobs.

The socialist campaigners met many steelworkers who wanted to talk and who were interested in what the socialist campaign had to say about how to fight for jobs.

Chris Wolford, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance from Clarksburg, West Virginia, approached workers at the gate, saying, "I'm petitioning to get the Socialist Workers Party on the November ballot in West Virginia as a working-class alternative to wealthy interests."

He reported that one man stopped him after "Socialist Workers," saying, "All right, I'm all for it. It's about time for a change." While workers were signing the petition, Wolford described the coverage in the *Militant* and asked people if they were interested in buying a copy.

An older man who signed the petition knew the Socialist Workers Party from the 1940s when he was a merchant seaman in the maritime union.

When asked what he thought of the employee ownership plan he said: "It doesn't mean much; we don't own it, the bank does. They'll just use the ESOP plan as an excuse to get more concessions out of us. They're just taking my money. I'll never see it again."

He was glad to run into the *Militant* again after so many years. He bought a copy and encouraged other workers to sign the petition.

Another worker said that the only input the workers had in the employee buyout plan was assuming the massive debt left by National Steel. "We can't choose who will be in management, nor is there any guarantee that we can sell the steel we produce.

"Although ESOP is better than outright unemployment," he added, "I don't think it will work out."

Kathy Mickells, who works at a coal mine not far from Weirton, talked to a worker with eight years at the plant. He told her he was going to school to get an education because "ESOP won't work.

"I voted for the plan, because I didn't have any choice. I'd been out of work two and a half years and this was all I had. I've decided to get an education, because I don't think this will work."

Mickells explained what the socialist campaign thinks should be done about unemployment.

Working people shouldn't have to pay for the capitalists' crisis. Mason and González believe the unions should fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around. The money for these and other measures that put human needs before businessmen's profits is available — in the Pentagon's massive budget.

One of the 20 women who work at the plant signed the petition. She was particularly interested in the campaign of Joan Radin, a socialist coal miner running for U.S. Senate against John Rockefeller, IV, the present governor.

She told Mickells that a vote was coming up soon on whether or not to keep the union at Weirton. The reason for the vote was: since we own the plant, why do we need a union? "But, I feel we still need our union. We really don't own this plant," she said.

A petitioner told workers that the socialist candidates believed that the Democratic and Republican parties were run in the interests of bankers, bosses, and millionaires. One worker agreed with this and added that there was no way any of the big politicians could represent him since "they're all lawyers and businessmen anyway and as far as working . . . well, I don't think they ever get around to it."

The campaign team gathered 55 signatures and sold 9 copies of the *Militant*.

Pa. socialists challenge two-party ballot monopoly

BY JON HILLSON

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Attorneys for the western Pennsylvania Socialist Workers campaign committee filed suit in Commonwealth Court here to force the state elections board to accept the nomination papers for SWP congressional candidate Clare Fraenzl, a Pittsburgh-area coal miner.

On April 19, despite a developing statewide protest campaign, election officials kept their pledge to block the socialist campaign's access to the ballot, refusing to accept petitions bearing the names of 4,000 residents of Pennsylvania's 22nd Congressional District, where Fraenzl is running.

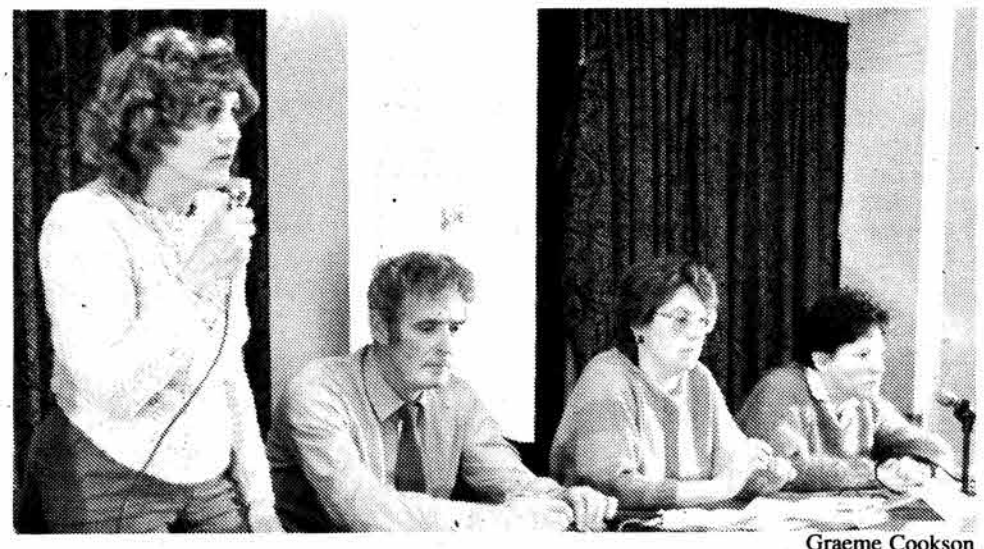
They did take, however, petitions for socialist congressional candidates Al Duncan, a Pittsburgh machinist, and Katy Karlin, a striking Philadelphia oil refinery worker.

Fraenzl, a member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), is currently covering the British coal miners strike for the *Militant*.

Fraenzl's supporters informed Washington County election officials on April 11 they had doubled petition requirements by collecting 4,000 signatures to place the socialist candidate on the ballot.

They were then informed that the petitions would not be accepted. The reason, the officials stated, was that the SWP's candidate for county commissioner, coal miner Kathy Mickells, won over 7 percent of the vote in the fall 1983 elections, topping the 5 percent requirement for ballot status.

This, in turn, placed *new* restrictions on the socialists, including the necessity to secure 200 registered SWP voters and participate in an "SWP primary" to qualify for November ballot status.



Graeme Cookson

Clare Fraenzl speaking at meeting in East London, Britain, in support of coal miners strike there. Fraenzl is a coal miner and the socialist candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania.

But all this astonishing information was simply noted in passing to campaign committee members the day *after* the primary, thus excluding them from the ballot, despite collecting 4,000 signatures.

The requirement that the SWP participate in a primary election denies the membership of the party the right to choose its own candidates. And to participate in this process, the socialists must present lists of their supporters to the government.

But numerous court rulings, including by the U.S. Supreme Court, have exempted the SWP from similar laws requiring the naming of financial contributors because of the proven record of government, including FBI, harassment of those who support the ideas of the party.

The bottom line, said socialist candidate Al Duncan, also a member of the UMWA who is running in the 14th Congressional District, is that "as our support grows, the state calls into action laws on the books specifically aimed at crippling the ability of parties like ours to challenge the capitalists in the electoral arena. And this is a big threat to all those in the union movement, the Black community, and the entire working class who are looking for new ways to fight the attacks on their rights and living standards by the Democrats and Republicans.

"We've more than demonstrated popular support for our ballot status," Duncan said, "both with our vote and by doubling legal requirements for petitioning. The state's attack on us has nothing to do with 'non-compliance' with election laws. It's a political attack, which seeks to intimidate and frustrate those who challenge the ruling rich's right to a monopoly of the ballot."

The SWP's suit in Commonwealth Court aims to compel the election commission to accept Fraenzl's nominating papers and to throw out the most restrictive aspects of the code now being applied.

Last fall, Kathy Mickells' socialist campaign won a warm hearing in Washington County and a high vote for a revolutionary working-class candidate.

Her campaign beat back a reactionary effort launched by local Democratic Party leaders to deny her ballot status.

The 3,131 votes she got in Washington County, with its big concentration of coal miners, steel, glass, and other industrial workers, sent shivers down the spines of local Democrats, who were determined to find a pretext to keep other socialists off the ballot.

The outrageous restrictions thrown at the SWP by the elections board and its local flunkies have angered defenders of democratic rights here. Among those who've already lent their name to this fight are: Harvey Adams, president of Pittsburgh NAACP; James Ferlo, board of directors of Americans for Democratic Action; Nate Gadsden, Harrisburg radio commentator; Earl Kiehl, director of District 4, United Furniture Workers of America; Priscilla Thomas, vice-chair of the Pittsburgh Consumer Party; Benjamin Ramos, chair of the Philadelphia Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Ron Weisen, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 1397.

Letters demanding Fraenzl's nomination papers be accepted should be sent to: William Davis, Secretary, Department of State, Harrisburg, Penn. 17120.

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González sees farm crisis firsthand

Socialist vice-presidential candidate tours Missouri

BY ROBERT BUSCH AND KIM KLEINMAN

ST. LOUIS — "We try to get ideas from all the working people," said American Agricultural Movement (AAM)–Grassroots national spokesperson Carlos Welty, "and this was a very productive day."

Welty was describing a day he spent touring livestock farms in Missouri with Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S vice-president.

González learned firsthand of the crisis facing working farmers and their efforts to reach out to Blacks and labor during her tour of the St. Louis area.

On April 16, González attended a protest in Columbia, Missouri, against the anti-farmer policies of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). Over 100 farmers and their allies rallied in front of FmHA offices there.

Many farmers wore paper bags over their heads for fear of retaliation from this government agency, which threatens foreclosure on many family farms.

In Missouri, 47 percent of the farmers who borrow from the FmHA are delinquent on their payments to this lender of last resort. They risk joining 200 farmers who have already lost 55,000 acres. FmHA foreclosures have netted the agency an inventory of 432 homes valued at nearly $10 million so far.

Farmers greeted González's solidarity and shared with her many personal accounts of the crisis they face. She raised with them the socialist campaign's proposals for stopping farm foreclosures: a moratorium on all debts, extending low interest loans for farm necessities, and a guaranteed income so farmers can meet the costs of production and sustain a decent living. She also explained her advocacy of a workers and farmers government, which would implement these demands and others in the interests of working people.

The highlight of González's tour here was a bi-state rally April 14 that featured the local socialist campaigns in southern Illinois and eastern Missouri.

Carlos Welty brought greetings to the rally. Welty was a leader of the initial AAM tractorcades on Washington, D.C., in 1978. In 1981 he accompanied fellow Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts when he reclaimed his soybeans from a bankrupt grain elevator. This militant action inspired many farmers. Last year Welty helped organize protests at sales of foreclosed farms in Springfield, Colorado, and Nicodemus, Kansas.

Welty sees 1984 as a pivotal year in the crisis facing family farmers across the country. He seeks to organize a broad alliance of workers and farmers to stage protests later this fall. He discussed these plans with González and her supporters.

Welty told the rally, "We have to get back to the tactics that unions and Blacks had to use. You see, Washington doesn't want you and me to get together."

The capitalist offensive against workers and farmers and the need to form alliances independent of the two capitalist parties were also discussed at the rally.

John Staggs, a member of the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA) and the Socialist Workers Party, told campaign supporters of the serious debt situation facing working farmers. "The 1982 farm debt was $220 billion. That's equal to the combined debt of Brazil and Argentina plus a big chunk of Mexico's. The interest on that debt is $23 billion a year while total farm income in 1982 was just $20 billion."

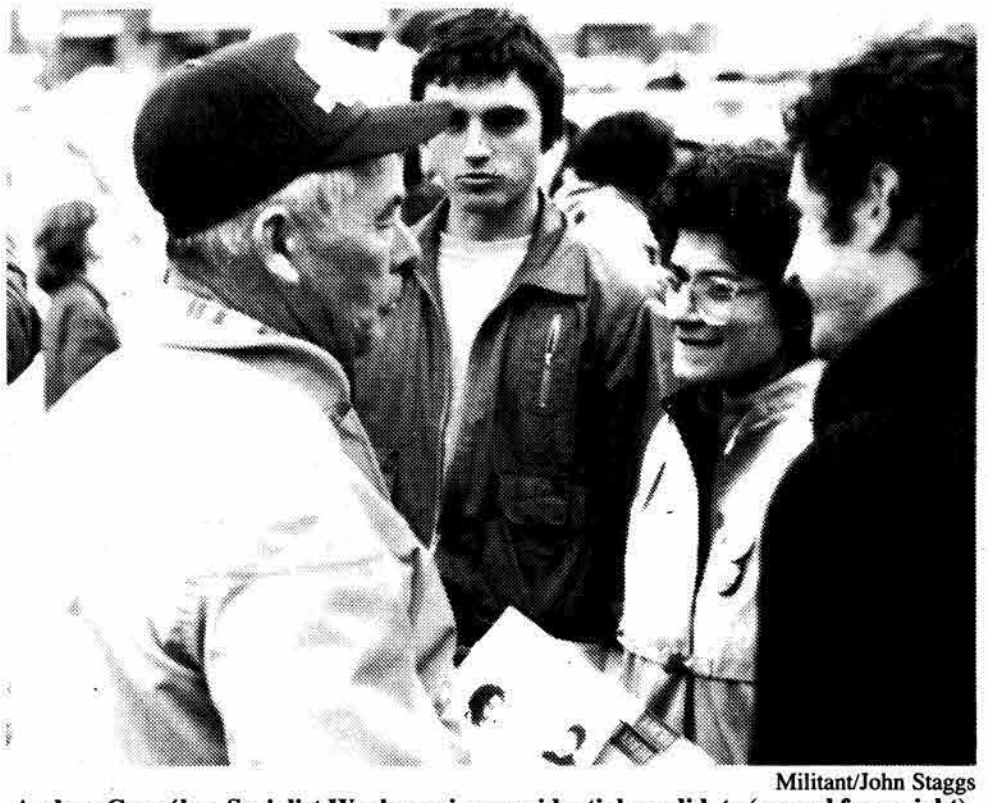
Staggs noted that farmers often hearken back to the first U.S. revolution in 1776 for the idea that their government should be of, by, and for the people. "But to get a government *by* and *for* workers and farmers," Staggs explained, "we socialists say we first need a government *of* workers and farmers."

And to get that, said Staggs, means organizing a fight to defend our rights against the employers and their two parties.

Bob Allen, a member of the United Mine Workers of America in southern Illinois, chaired the rally.

He introduced Nelson González, a steelworker from Chicago and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois.

González described the crisis facing steelworkers in the form of cutbacks, plant closings, and concession contracts. "We will use our campaign to tell all workers in Illinois that an independent, fighting alliance of workers, farmers, and the oppressed is an important step in beginning to deal with this crisis."



Militant/John Staggs

Andrea González, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate (second from right), went to a Columbia, Missouri, farm protest April 16 to discuss with working farmers the growing crisis they face and what measures a workers and farmers government would take to alleviate the plight of family farmers.

At the rally and throughout her tour, Andrea González scored the U.S. war drive against Central American workers and farmers.

She appeared on the "Bernie Hayes Show," a political radio talk show popular in the Black community.

At Webster University, González attacked the hypocrisy of congressional Democrats and Republicans who had just voted a nonbinding resolution against the mining of Nicaragua's harbors after funding such operations six months earlier.

González found Carlos Welty's response to the CIA's covert actions to be better than that of Congress. He told her, "Well, they're mining the harbors in Nicaragua. They [the Nicaraguans] must be doing something right there."

'They should let her speak,' say students

BY SCOTT BREEN

CINCINNATI — "They should let her speak," said a high school student delegate at a mock presidential convention here.

This sentiment to hear Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president, was widespread among the 600 high school students from 17 schools who attended the mock presidential convention April 9 and 10 sponsored by U.S. Rep. Thomas Luken (D-Ohio).

Unfortunately, Luken didn't see it that way. His office refused to allow González the opportunity to address the convention.

"I thought this convention was supposed to teach us everything about the elections," declared one student. "No candidate should be excluded. I'm going to talk to the rules committee."

And more than a dozen students did just that. What they got was a real lesson in the two-party system of rigging the elections and controlling the discussion leading up to the elections. Their request to give González a chance to speak was denied.

Nonetheless, several hundred campaign leaflets explaining the socialist program were eagerly snatched up by scores of students the first day.

When González and her supporters returned the second day, one student saw them coming and yelled out, "Hey, the socialists are back."

"All right!" another responded, and a group of students applauded.

As a campaign table was set up, a number of students came over and bought campaign buttons. Throughout the morning, up to 75 students were crowded around González and a big debate occurred about Washington's war in Central America.

"We have to send arms to the government of El Salvador so they can bring peace," said one student.

A Reagan delegate chimed in, "We have to because there are Soviet troops; Nicaragua and Cuba are trying to take over Central America and make it over."

"What about all the U.S. troops in Honduras," responded one.

"I don't believe Cubans are trying to take over," declared a young woman. "Even if they were, that's no reason for the U.S. to support a murderous dictator in El Salvador."

Opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America was the central theme of González's talk at a campaign reception and open house the previous night. González blasted the U.S. government for financing and organizing the mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

At the reception, Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers candidate for 1st Congressional District, reported that she and her campaign supporters filed a lawsuit March 28 against the Ohio secretary of state and Hamilton County Board of Elections.

They are asking the federal court to declare the February 23 filing deadline for independent candidates unconstitutional. Denny accused the state legislature of impeding the independent candidates' access to the ballot and limiting the election process to the two established parties.

"The Democratic and Republican parties have a long history of mining the path of third parties to the ballot. They have always acted in harmony to monopolize the electoral process and prevent working people, Blacks, women, and small farmers from breaking out of the two-party trap and establishing an independent labor party and Black party."

The U.S. Supreme Court has declared that such early filing deadlines place unconstitutional burdens, not only on the ballot access rights of independent candidates, but also on the voting rights and rights of association of their supporters.

After the Supreme Court invalidated Ohio's early filing deadline for independent presidential candidates in 1980, the Ohio legislature changed the deadline for submitting nominating petitions to 75 days prior to the general election — but retained the February 23 deadline for congressional races.

In response to the lawsuit, the Ohio Attorney General called Robert Newman, the socialists' attorney, to let him know that the state of Ohio was going to fight this lawsuit with every means at their disposal.

As a result, a Committee for Fair Ballot Access has been established to gather support for the lawsuit in this serious fight.

The committee is urging prominent individuals and organizations to send statements supporting this lawsuit to Sherrod Brown, Secretary of State, Columbus, Ohio.

In the meantime, Socialist Workers campaign supporters are preparing to petition in May to get Denny and the presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González on the Ohio ballot.

Indy socialists get good response

BY BILL WARRICK

INDIANAPOLIS — A petition drive to win ballot status for Dave Ellis, Socialist Workers candidate for 10th Congressional District here, got off to a fast start.

Socialist campaign volunteers collected 1,600 signatures in the first six days of the three-week drive; 3,500 signatures are required.

"The response of working people has been excellent," said Ellis, a 31-year-old RCA electrical worker. "One of the issues we hammer home is how the Republicans and Democrats use undemocratic election laws to try to exclude working-class candidates.

"For example," Ellis said, "the Indiana legislature recently *quadrupled* the signature requirement for independent parties. This excludes the Socialist Workers presidential ticket from the Indiana ballot for the first time in 20 years. To top it off, in Indiana they won't let you cast a write-in vote."

On Saturday, April 7th, nearly 1,000 signatures were collected. That evening, Ellis spoke at a socialist campaign forum on "Andrew Jacobs: Is he a friend of peace, equal rights, and labor?"

Jacobs, the 10th Congressional District incumbent, is a Democrat who has an undeserved reputation as an opponent of war.

Ellis subjected Jacobs' voting record to close scrutiny. "Jacobs voted for a $150 billion war budget in 1982 and a $200 billion war budget in 1983. He has consistently voted against measures to eliminate funding for MX, Pershing 2, and cruise missiles.

"He voted to cut funds for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. He even voted against a bill that would have provided a measly $5 billion for public-works jobs," Ellis declared.

One of the highlights of the first week's petitioning was the campaign's visit to Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. Antonio Jarquín, Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States, spoke on "The future of U.S.-Nicaragua relations."

Ambassador Jarquín responded to many of the lies about Nicaragua told by the U.S. government. With regard to Nicaragua's election code, Jarquín pointed out that no signatures are required to gain ballot status, all parties are guaranteed access to equal time programs on state-owned TV and radio stations, and all parties running full slates share equally from a government-established campaign fund.

The audience of 125 responded favorably to the socialist campaign: 31 people signed the ballot petition and 10 copies of the *Militant* were bought.

'Hart's for a mean lean war machine'

BY NANCY COLE

"At last, a presidential candidate is visiting Milwaukee," began an article in the April 2 *Milwaukee Journal*.

"Mel Mason, the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, is campaigning at Milwaukee's factory gates, which most presidential hopefuls have shunned in favor of New York's bright lights," it continued.

Mason's tour here April 1–3 coincided with the Democratic and Republican primary elections. Because the Democratic primary was a "beauty contest" with no effect on convention delegate selection, it brought only cancellations from Democratic candidates Walter Mondale, Gary Hart, and Jesse Jackson. All campaigned briefly here later in the week before the Democratic caucus meetings on April 7.

At a rally April 1, Mason debunked the new image of Hart as the peace candidate. To begin with, Hart is a member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, Mason said, which should make you suspicious.

"Hart says he's for a mean, lean fighting machine that could be ready to maneuver at the drop of a pin."

Despite his efforts to come across as an opponent of the U.S. war in Central America, Mason explained, Hart admits he is for a military presence in the region.

What we need instead, Mason said, is a foreign policy that rejects the idea that U.S. workers and farmers — the big majority — have any interest in fighting their brothers and sisters in Central America who are seeking justice from many of the same corporations we do battle with every day in this country.

Sharing the platform with Mason at the meeting were two recent participants in international work brigades in revolutionary Nicaragua — Dennis Kelln, SWP candidate in the April 3 special election for the 4th Congressional District, and Elaine Kinch, a leader of the Central America Solidarity Coalition in the Racine-Kenosha area.

Also speaking was Alberto de Jesús Berríos, an activist in the independence struggle in Puerto Rico who was forced to leave the island in 1980 because of FBI persecution. Since then he was jailed for nine months for refusing to testify before a grand jury supposedly investigating terrorist actions. Recently, de Jesús was convicted of misusing his Social Security number and is being sentenced on April 27.

Ann Bliss, who joined the Young Socialist Alliance after hearing Mason speak at the St. Louis rally launching his campaign in December, told the meeting why she could no longer compromise by supporting Democratic "lesser-evils." "I don't believe the big issue is to get rid of Reagan, because minus Reagan young people are still going to face the problems of unemployment, higher education inaccessibility, and the military draft."

During his tour here, Mason campaigned at the gates of the A.O. Smith plant, a manufacturer of car and truck frames organized by the Smith Steelworkers Directly Affiliated Local Union 19806.

He was also the guest at a bar reception in the garment district attended by workers from Eagle Knitting, members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 64; and from Junior House, members of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 188.

Militant/Nancy Cole

Socialist Workers presidential candidate Mel Mason (left) campaigned at A.O. Smith plant gate in Milwaukee and was guest at bar reception in garment district.

'Militant,' 'PM': socialist campaign papers

BY LEE MARTINDALE

As the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* spring sales drive takes off, socialist campaigners are taking advantage of every opportunity to introduce working people to the political program of Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González by distributing these two campaign newspapers.

The goal of the eight-week effort is to sell 35–40,000 copies of the *Militant* and *PM*. The accompanying scoreboard reports the first week's sales.

Supporters of the socialist campaign aim to discuss with working people the real problems we're facing and the socialist strategy for solving them.

At a recent pro-Jesse Jackson rally in Harlem, for example, Mason and González supporters set up a table with literature on the Grenada revolution. Participants bought 35 *Militant*s and 5 copies of the *Young Socialist*, the newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance, a national youth organization that is organizing support for the Mason-González ticket. Campaign supporters also handed out 1,000 campaign leaflets and spent the afternoon talking to people interested in the Grenada and Cuban revolutions. Five copies of the Pathfinder Press book about the Grenada revolution, *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, and four *Militant* subscriptions were sold at the literature table.

The campaigners reported that while most of the people they talked to supported the Jackson campaign, they were interested in and friendly toward the socialist ticket, and many wanted more information.

Campaigners in Cleveland had a similar experience at a rally of 6,000 for Jackson. They report that a number of the people they spoke with were not necessarily committed to the Jackson campaign, but were going to the rally to check it out. Forty-two of them bought copies of the *Militant* so they could find out about the socialist campaign also.

In Albany, socialists took the campaign's opposition to the U.S. war against Nicaragua to a town meeting addressed by U.S. Rep. Samuel Stratton. Stratton is a Democrat and a strong supporter of Washington's war in Central America. Fifteen copies of the *Militant* were sold at the meeting.

The socialist campaign has also gotten a good response to its condemnation of right-wing violence directed at Blacks, Latinos, and political activists who oppose the government's policies. Last week's *Militant* featured a statement by North Carolina Socialist Workers senatorial candidate Kate Daher condemning the acquittal of Ku Klux Klan and Nazi party members who shot down civil rights activists in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1979. In Newport News, Virginia, 13 copies of this issue were sold at the gate of the giant United Steelworkers–organized Tenneco shipyard.

The *Militant*'s coverage of this travesty of justice also touched a chord among Chicanos in Houston, themselves frequent victims of cop and right-wing terror. Salespeople in Houston report that the response to this story was one of the factors that accounted for their sales of nearly 100 papers.

A team of campaigners from San Diego went to the border town of San Ysidro. They discovered that the grocery store where they were selling had been raided recently by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the community was outraged by the attack. Sixteen shoppers bought copies of *PM*, which contained an article exposing the anti-immigrant Roybal bill, which is now before Congress.

These kinds of discussions about the real issues facing working people are also key to winning new *Militant* and *PM* readers while Mason-González supporters petition to get on the ballot. This was confirmed by participants in the recently completed effort to collect more than 13,000 signatures in West Virginia.

A campaigner from Charleston explained that they learned how to introduce the *Militant* to people in the course of the petitioning drive. Team members met in the evenings to compare notes on the day's petitioning and to discuss the issues that were on the minds of the workers they'd talked with.

Earl Christy explains, "The more I talked politics with people, especially about the war in Central America, the more I sold." One hundred and thirty-five *Militant*s and five subscriptions were sold in the course of the petitioning in Charleston, and the rate of sales climbed steadily as the petitioning drive went on.

In Seattle, petitioning to put the socialist candidates on the ballot began April 21. Seventy-three papers were sold in the course of the day. The Seattle sales coordinator reports that their experience using the *Militant* and *PM* to introduce people to the socialist candidates has helped boost their sales during the petitioning drive. They sold an average of one paper to every seven people who signed their petitions.

While in some areas of the country campaign supporters are still getting organized to launch the sales effort, it's clear that we're off to a good start.

In the remaining weeks of the drive, we'll meet thousands more who want to discuss the ideas of the socialist campaign. As a result of these discussions, many will be won to support the campaign and some will want to become active in the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party.

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Totals as of Militant issue #14, PM issue #7)

Area	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold	Total Goal/Sold	%
Milwaukee	800/225	160/25	960/250	26
Seattle	760/162	40/5	800/167	21
Newport News, Va.	400/78	0/0	400/78	20
Toledo	800/150	40/0	840/150	18
Philadelphia	640/116	160/29	800/145	18
Denver	800/143	56/8	856/151	18
St. Paul, Minn.	1,120/199	80/9	1,200/208	17
Seaside, Calif.	320/64	200/22	520/86	17
Louisville	450/77	0/0	450/77	17
Los Angeles	840/171	880/115	1,720/286	17
Dallas	400/48	200/51	600/99	17
Greensboro, N.C.	360/58	0/0	360/58	16
Schenectady, N.Y.	704/119	56/3	760/122	16
Albuquerque	480/82	120/13	600/95	16
Chicago	900/161	300/16	1,200/177	15
Birmingham	600/90	0/0	600/90	15
San Jose	480/60	80/20	560/80	14
Phoenix	600/80	320/43	920/123	13
Virginia, Minn.	500/64	0/0	500/64	13
Cleveland	675/93	70/3	745/96	13
Baltimore	800/107	0/0	800/107	13
Oakland	800/92	120/17	920/109	12
Houston	555/64	195/28	750/92	12
San Francisco	755/93	325/28	1,080/121	11
San Diego	375/46	125/10	500/56	11
New Orleans	720/83	80/8	800/91	11
Washington, D.C.	515/57	105/7	620/64	10
Portland	320/47	160/0	480/47	10
Miami	720/75	80/8	800/83	10
Detroit	1,040/100	40/0	1,080/100	9
Cincinnati	600/56	0/0	600/56	9
Atlanta	760/73	40/0	800/73	9
Morgantown, W. Va.	520/37	0/0	520/37	7
Kansas City	650/46	25/1	675/47	7
Charleston, W. Va.	450/33	0/0	450/33	7
Salt Lake City	400/24	40/3	440/27	6
Price, Utah	336/22	24/0	360/22	6
Boston	640/34	160/2	800/36	5
Pittsburgh	850/25	0/0	850/25	3
Indianapolis	760/23	0/0	760/23	3
St. Louis	*/107	*/0	*/107	0
Newark	*/60	*/9	*/69	0
New York	*/35	*/6	*/41	0
Total sold	**3,579**	**489**	**4,068**	

*Goal not yet adopted

Revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean

Don't go looking in the capitalist press for the truth about Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada. It isn't there. It is, however, in the *Militant*. See the ad on page 2 for subscription rates.

L.A. unionists aid striking Texaco workers

BY HALKET ALLEN

LOS ANGELES — Texaco refinery workers here have been out on strike for eight weeks. We are members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 1-128. We were forced out over company attacks on seniority rights, Texaco's demand for a two-tier wage system and a 42-hour week, and a total list of 21 takeaway items.

Wage increases are not the key issue. Texaco has agreed to the settlement Gulf Oil made earlier with OCAW granting a small wage increase of 20 cents the first year and 35 cents the second year.

Texaco had tried to break Local 1-128 before the negotiations even began by rigging a decertification drive at the Sulphur plant, a small unit that is close to the main Texaco refinery here. The company transferred in workers who it hoped would be more conservative. Most of these workers came from refineries that Texaco had shut down in the Midwest. Texaco carefully screened these workers before it asked them to transfer to Los Angeles.

The workers at the Sulphur plant organized discussions and voted to stay with the union in November. This was a victory and it opened the eyes of the refinery workers to the kind of fight that would be necessary to win a contract.

Unlike other oil companies, Texaco refused to extend the contract during negotiations. The union was forced to strike to protect our working conditions. We walked out February 24.

For the first time in the memory of workers here, Texaco has solicited scabs to cross the picket line. The plant manager sent a letter to each striker welcoming us to come in and work "while negotiations continue."

Management has stated that it plans to lay off 80 workers, to contract out union jobs to nonunion contractors, and to lay off operators during times that their units are down for repairs (called "turn around").

A letter from Texaco has also threatened that the expiration date of the contract would be two years from the date of ratification, which would mean that we would have a different contract date from the rest of the oil industry. The letter also stated that the union would have to conduct a new signature drive to win back the union dues check-off.

Texaco has hired process servers to have all the strikers served with a court injunction. These were delivered to workers at their homes. This injunction prohibits more than two pickets at all but the front gate, where four are allowed. The injunction not only covers OCAW union members, but other strike supporters as well.

This injunction makes our strike appear smaller and weaker than it really is and limits our ability to rally large numbers of workers at the worksite.

We have been fighting back with round-the-clock picketing, seven days a week. The union has been setting up picket lines at Texaco-owned gas stations to inform people about the strike and to ask them not to buy Texaco products.

When Texaco announced it was planning a grand opening of one of its new gas stations featuring race car driver Tom Sneva, we picketed the station and blocked the view of the race car with our picket signs.

There has been a lot of leafleting about the strike at shopping malls and the parking lots of factories in the area. The McDonnell Douglas employee parking lot was leafleted several times, and a striker spoke before the United Auto Workers local there.

The OCAW Texaco Unit has sent speakers to union meetings to ask for support. There has been a good response to this appeal. The Chevron unit of OCAW Local 1-547 passed the hat and collected $188 at its meeting and pledged to hold a collection at the plant gate every payday for food and money.

Steelworkers have donated enough food to feed 450 families for a week. The ARCO refinery unit OCAW local voted to raise its dues by $5 a member and donate it to the strike. Many refineries are holding collections at the gates to help us. The food truck that serves the refinery is donating sandwiches to the picket line. Several retired oil workers have helped staff the strike office.

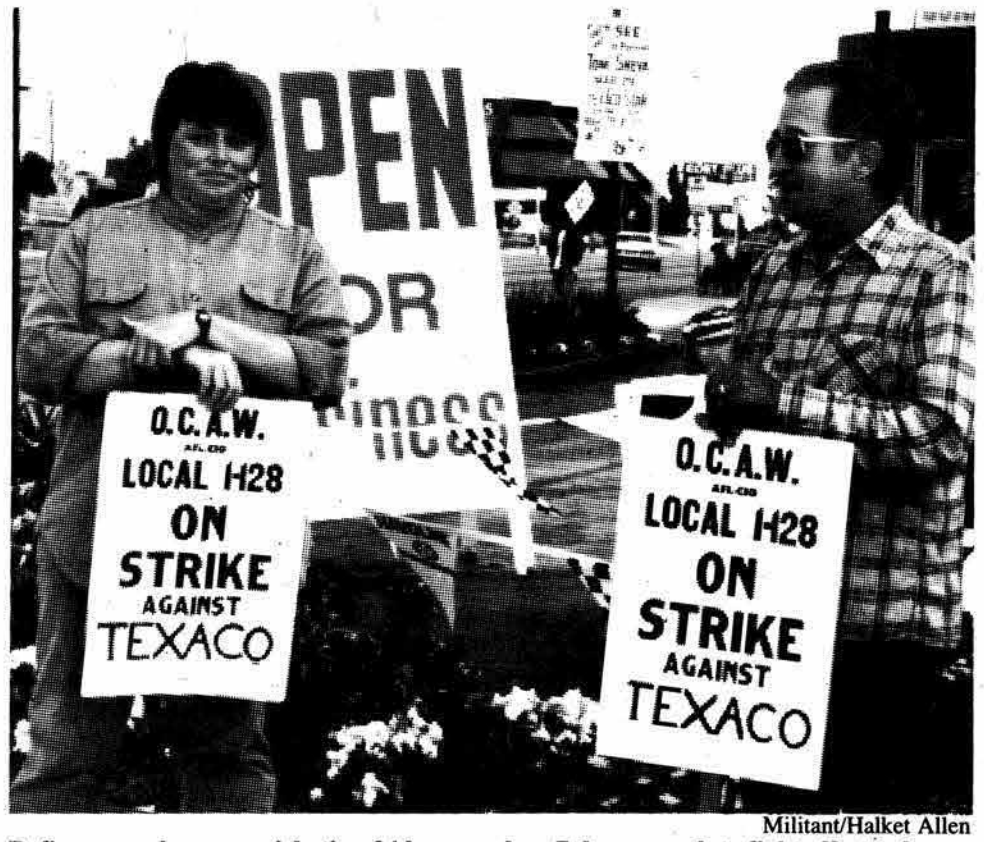
The Texaco strikers have also participated in solidarity rallies for striking Linwood, California, teachers and Las Vegas hotel workers.

In an attempt to break the press blackout, the union rented an airplane to fly over Long Beach during the Grand Prix race with a banner reading "Boycott Texaco products, Texaco unfair."

On April 21, 400 unionists took part in a solidarity demonstration called by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor in front of the Texaco Building in downtown Los Angeles. Participants included members of shipbuilders unions, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, Teamsters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Service Employees International Union, and teachers.

Union solidarity is key in our struggle against Texaco.

Halket Allen is a member of OCAW Local 1-128.



Militant/Halket Allen

Refinery workers are picketing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to fight effects of company-inspired court injunction limiting number of pickets. These Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union members have been on strike for eight weeks against company attempts to smash their union.

Union-busting attack on UAW in Toledo

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

TOLEDO, Ohio — The United Auto Workers (UAW) here has been dealt a severe blow by the union-busting moves of AP Parts Co., a major muffler manufacturer. Under the threat of "moving South," to their more profitable nonunion North Carolina plant, management has gone all out to break the Local 14 UAW unit that organizes AP Parts workers.

To set the tone for the negotiations, AP Parts bought a full page ad in the Toledo *Blade*. In it they said they were "committed to Toledo," but something drastic would have to be done to cut labor costs.

Early in the contract negotiations it became clear that AP Parts was out to break the union completely, not just extract a few concessions. They hired a notorious strikebreaking firm, Nuckols, Inc., and erected a high fence topped with barbed wire around the plant and a guard tower. Management has demanded massive concessions.

When UAW members overwhelmingly rejected the company's offer on March 5, the company *implemented their proposals anyway*, making it virtually a nonunion shop. Wages were immediately slashed by $5.84 per hour. Layoffs began that soon totaled more than 140. Seniority rights were broken, as were job descriptions.

The company started issuing written warnings and suspended more than 100 workers, with 60 on disciplinary leave at any one time in March. Workers were disciplined for smoking and not working hard enough.

Workers' response was to proudly wear their union buttons and pin their discipline notices to their hats.

UAW officials from the start made the big error of volunteering 13 pages of concessions, thus putting the union on the defensive and giving credence to the company's lies of "unprofitability due to high labor costs." The union officials filed "unfair labor practice" charges before the National Labor Relations Board.

UAW officials put forward this legal action and their support for Walter Mondale as the way to fight the union-busting. Many workers are realizing, however, that this is hardly a fightback. The workers have tried to oppose the company's moves in the plant, most recently on April 20 by defiantly taking the Friday holiday off despite the company takeback of this paid holiday.

This assault on the UAW has big political implications. AP Parts chose not to move out of town but to stay, try to break the union, and create a nonunion shop in the North near the big auto assembly plants.

In their union-busting drive, they have the total support of Toledo's rulers, the Toledo *Blade*, and the UAW's so-called "friends of labor" in government. The auto bosses have their eyes on the upcoming contracts at GM, Ford, and Jeep, and a defeat for the UAW at AP Parts will set back the potentially strong 30,000-member UAW in this city.

The wives of AP Parts workers (through a women's auxiliary) have organized two successful demonstrations against the company's union-busting (see article on this page).

The greatest support for the embattled UAW has come from the ranks and leadership of striking Sun Oil workers, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 7-912. By building broad support for their own strike, the oil workers have provided an example to all of labor.

The April 28 "Labor solidarity demonstration with striking Sun Oil workers" has become a real pole of attraction to the UAW and other embattled unionists around the city. This is especially true of AP Parts workers who have gone to the OCAW union hall and joined their picket lines.

OCAW members have joined with UAW members at the major auto firms to do early morning plant-gate leafleting for the demonstration. Union stewards and committeepeople in many plants are also helping to build the rally.

In addition to the distribution of a union-produced button to support AP Parts workers, rank-and-file members of the UAW have taken up the OCAW initiative. The AFL-CIO Central Labor Council has endorsed the rally. Rally speakers include union officials from OCAW, UAW, Teamsters, and the building trades, as well as leaders of the NAACP, National Organization for Women, Coalition of Labor Union Women, and Farm Labor Organizing Committee. Although invited, Democratic "friends of labor" Marcy Kaptur and Howard Metzenbaum have refused to speak or to support the strike.

Auto and oil workers supporting Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers party candidate for 9th Congressional District — running against Kaptur — have been actively building the demonstration and pointing out the need for similar labor solidarity with AP Parts workers. The *Militant* has been eagerly received by AP Parts workers.

Lariscy, a Local 12 UAW member at Jeep, said, "The fired and suspended workers should be rehired now with full back pay and all takeaways must be returned. AP Parts must remain a union shop. All labor, civil rights, and women's organizations should stand solidly behind our brothers and sisters at AP Parts."

Mark Friedman is a member of UAW Local 12 at Jeep and is the SWP candidate for Ohio State House of Representatives.

Women's auxiliary rallies support

BY TOMMYE WIESE

TOLEDO, Ohio — On April 19, about 150 supporters of AP Parts employees participated in demonstrations at both the company's downtown office building and at the main plant.

The picket lines, organized by the Women's Auxiliary of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 14, were joined by 30 members and officers of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 7-912 who are currently on strike against Sun Oil Co. Also on hand were several members of other UAW units.

Some of the women were joined by their husbands who have been fired by AP for trumped-up "rule infractions."

AP workers have wide support among working people in Toledo because of the company's ruthless tactics.

One of the organizers of the demonstrations, whose husband is still working, said that conditions inside the plant are not much better than those in a prison camp.

The workers are watched constantly. Foremen are often instructed to write disciplinary "blue slips" on everyone in their department for any reason they can come up with. Workers are forced to ask permission to go to the bathroom.

The demonstrators sang "Solidarity Forever" and chanted "We need a contract" and "Nuckols Go Home," referring to the union-busting firm hired by AP Parts. They waved picket signs and clenched fists for the benefit of the Nuckols camera crews, who photographed every minute of both demonstrations.

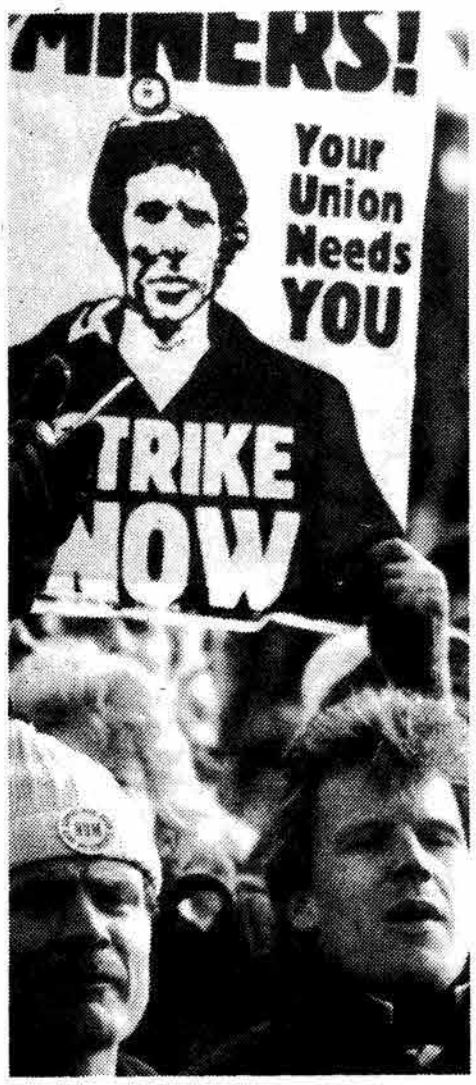
At the downtown demonstration, union truck drivers and city employees honked their horns and waved to indicate their support. The picket line at the plant later that day was marked by an almost constant sound of the car horns of AP workers going in and out of the plant.

The organizers of these demonstrations, as well as the membership and leadership of UAW Local 14, are in full support of the April 28 labor solidarity rally planned by the striking OCAW local. Ten thousand rally leaflets have been distributed.

Tommye Wiese is a member of OCAW Local 7-912.

Subscribe to the Militant

Solidarity grows with British miners



Continued from front page

porations (reprivatization). Many are familiar with the abysmal working conditions in privately owned U.S. mines. They know that reprivatization would undermine their own working conditions, which are superior to those in the United States.

I told the miners that the U.S. news media has blacked out information about their strike. "The British working class and its Labor Party activists have set a shining example of solidarity," I said. "The kind of solidarity we coal miners in the United States will need to fight for a no-concession contract next fall."

Solidarity strike May 1

British unions representing truckers, longshoremen, seamen, and railroad workers have joined with the NUM to prevent the movement of scab coal. The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) is organizing a one-day solidarity strike May 1. Other unions are collecting funds, organizing demonstrations, and conducting work stoppages to show their support.

I explained how U.S. capitalists fear this example of working-class solidarity.

Like U.S. workers, British workers are bombarded with propaganda blaming their problems on foreign workers and foreign imports. "Our problems are the same," I said. "That is because our enemy is the same. It is the international capitalist system. In each country, the capitalist class tries to turn us against each other. It tries to convince us to send our young men to fight against other workers, whether that be in Northern Ireland, the Malvinas [Falklands], Lebanon, El Salvador, or Nicaragua."

I described my visit to Maritime House, the headquarters of the National Union of Seamen (NUS). There, NUM and NUS volunteers coordinate picketing operations, which have closed all major British ports to scab coal. The Thatcher government is trying to import coal to break the strike. French, Belgian, Swedish, Spanish, German, and Australian workers have responded by refusing to handle any coal bound for Britain.

"This kind of solidarity," I said, "gives the lie to the idea that we cannot join together in common struggle. On the contrary, it proves that we can and must unite to build a new world, a world based on international cooperation between workers."

U.S. miner welcomed

The eagerness of British coal miners to meet a U.S. coal miner is overwhelming. Speaking invitations have been too numerous to fulfill.

Many miners have seen the film *Harlan County, USA*, the story of Kentucky miners' bitter battle to win a United Mine Workers contract. Ian MacGregor, current chairman of the British National Coal Board, was an official in the firm that owned the Brookside, Kentucky, mine during that 1973 strike. One miner was killed by armed company thugs in the course of that struggle.

Over 1,000 NUM pickets have been arrested by police since the strike here began. Many have been beaten. Striking coal towns have been surrounded to prevent miners from participating in picket activities. The Thatcher government is now threatening to use troops to move coal. Miners are interested in how their U.S. counterparts defend themselves against government violence during strikes as they prepare to meet a similar challenge.

The Nottinghamshire area has been the scene of some of the fiercest confrontations with police. It is also an area where the strike is weaker than elsewhere.

This is because incentive pay plans that yield considerably higher wages for many Nottinghamshire miners have divided the union. Moreover, most of the mines in this area are not targeted for closure. Thus some two-thirds of the district's 36,000 miners have refused to honor the picket lines and join the strike. Police have been called in to enforce the "right to work" for these miners.

The divisions here are bitter. Father has been pitted against son and whole communities have been divided into opposing hostile camps.

I spoke at a Nottingham meeting sponsored by the British weekly newspaper *Socialist Action* and attended by 40 people, mostly coal miners. Dick Hall, strike committeeman at the Warsop Main Mine, chaired the meeting. He drew a parallel between the use of British troops in Ireland and the tactics used against striking miners. He also pointed out that for years Britain's Black community has suffered the same civil rights violations and police brutality miners are now experiencing.

Young miners take lead

Young miners have led the struggle to call their brothers out in support of the national strike. Many picket 18 hours a day. This has generated a profound discussion within the NUM about the importance of youth to their strike. Many of these young miners are attending an April 21 conference of Britain's Young Socialists, the youth group of Britain's Labor Party.

Although there are no women coal miners in Britain, women have played a key role in the strike. Miners have taken me to women's support committee meetings organized by their wives. Some of the women participate in picketing.

Those who work organize solidarity within their own unions. Others staff soup kitchens for pickets. At public meetings and informal discussions, miners continually emphasize the importance of women's support groups in strengthening and unifying their struggle.

Labor solidarity growing

The coal strike has also galvanized the entire labor movement. Saturday, April 14, I traveled with a delegation of 500 London trade unionists, visiting Kent area mines. The unionists rode on 10 buses and brought both money and food to the strikers. The three-hour trip brought unionists together from many industries to discuss how they could organize more support for miners from their unions.

At another northwest London meeting sponsored by *Socialist Action*, I spoke to 50 people. Most of them were railroaders, miners, and other trade unionists. An intense discussion took place about the weaknesses of much of the current leadership in Britain's labor movement in fully backing the strike.

Paula Frampton, the first railroader in her yard to refuse to move coal, described how a new militant leadership is being thrown up as workers organize themselves to support the miners.

What kind of Labor Party?

British workers have an important political edge over workers in the United States, where the only political parties are those of the employers — the Democrats and Republicans. British workers have a labor party based on their unions.

The Labor Party has already played an important part in mobilizing support for the miners strike. Labor Party activists have collected food and money for the strikers. Some Labor Party Members of Parliament have challenged Thatcher's union-busting policies.

But the British Labor Party is by no means doing everything that is needed to help win this strike. As in many of the unions, there is a big leadership problem. This, too, is the subject of intense debate among workers here.

Some Labor Party officials have joined Thatcher and the Coal Board in attacking the NUM because it has not held a national referendum on the strike.

NUM leaders answer that, in addition to votes that have been held on the district level, 80 percent of the union has already voted with its feet. These leaders believe that a referendum at this time would only weaken the strike's momentum and make it easier for the government to break the strike and impose its closure plans.

However, using this new-found concern for "democracy" as a pretext, some Labor Party leaders have openly collaborated with the Conservative government against the miners.

NUM Pres. Arthur Scargill explained that workers need a labor party "which would support the interests of the working class as loyally as the Tory [Conservative] government represents the interests of big business."

Scargill made this point as he announced the results of the NUM delegate council meeting. "This means an all-out war with the Coal Board and the Tory government," Scargill told cheering miners.

The NUM's decision means that those miners who continue to refuse to honor the strike now can be suspended from the NUM. A big test is expected on Tuesday, April 24, when the Coal Board will try to reopen mines after the Easter weekend break.

U.S., British miners support each other

Following the delegate council meeting, I was able to talk with Brother Scargill. He stressed the importance of U.S. and British miners learning about each other's struggles and lending support to each other wherever possible.

That message was reemphasized to me later that evening by striking miners at the Hatfield Miners Club in Doncaster. Over 200 miners and their wives were gathered to celebrate the results of the delegate convention. "Here we go! Here we go!" they chanted, referring to the call for a national strike.

I told these miners of the enthusiasm their strike had generated in my mine and about our upcoming fight for a no-concession contract in the United States. The building shook with a resounding roar as miners waved banners reading "No surrender" and shouted "American miners, we will support you evermore!" and "The miners, united, will never be defeated!"

Coal barons' profit drive kills Pa. miner

Continued from front page

the traffic at the mine because of this company policy.

But Bethlehem refused to budge. The company was warned by the safety committee that someone was going to get hurt. The next day, Joe Letecki was killed by a "motor" — the vehicles that haul coal — that pinned him to the wall and crushed him.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is the government agency responsible for enforcing mine safety. Kipp Dawson, a UMWA member at the 84 Complex, explained to the *Militant* what happened during a recent inspection.

"I barely missed being buried in a roof fall a few weeks ago. A few days later, one of the foremen was also nearly killed. The machine he was working on was buried so deep, it took two shifts to dig it out.

"The day after that accident, the state MSHA inspector came out. This government official, sworn to uphold mine safety laws, ignored the evidence of illegal mining that had led to those roof falls. Instead, he wrote the workers up for installing better seats on the mining equipment!"

MSHA is notorious for its low fines, usually $20, and its lack of enforcement. On February 15, an explosion occurred at the Greenwich Collieries mines in Commodore, Pennsylvania. Three miners were killed and four others seriously injured. This mine had been cited for more than 400 violations involving ventilation and combustible materials and had received 34 citations for not conducting proper pre-shift inspection.

Despite repeated violations, MSHA never assessed a fine greater than $180 against the company.

Ken Smith, chairman of the UMWA Local 1609 safety committee at Greenwich, said, "their safety program looks good on paper, but when you get underground it's a different story.

"Everything they do has one purpose — increasing production — even if it means cutting corners on safety."

James Nadolsky was badly burned in the Greenwich mine explosion. Despite this, he says that he will definitely return to work in the mines. With unemployment at 48 percent among miners in western Pennsylvania, most have no choice.

All over the country, miners are scheduled to work overtime while thousands of laid-off UMWA members remain out of work. The mine owners use threats of shutdowns and more layoffs to pressure workers to increase production. It is more profitable for them to squeeze miners currently working than to recall those laid off.

At the 84 Complex mine, cost cutting has led to deterioration of the cars and tracks used to haul the coal. This has resulted in two major accidents with serious injuries. Instead of fixing the cars, the company has threatened to fire miners involved in the accidents. The miners are again being blamed for the company's negligence.

UMWA members throughout the area are discussing what can be done to turn back the company offensive against safety. One safety committee member suggested that the international UMWA invoke a 10-day memorial period provided in the contract to draw attention to the deaths resulting from worsening conditions.

Dawson told the *Militant* that the international UMWA has launched a major campaign to improve safety on the job. "Our president, Rich Trumka, sent out a letter to all the safety committees detailing what union members should do. He pointed out that we can't rely on the government or companies to protect our lives."

The week that Joe Letecki died, four miners were trapped in a roof fall at the Jones and Laughlin Nemacolin mine, 35 miles away. They lived to talk about the horrifying experience of being buried alive. Most don't.

Roof falls, machinery accidents, electrocutions, and explosions are listed as the cause of the fatal accidents in the mines this year. But the real cause is the unlimited greed of the mine owners and a government which does nothing to protect the lives and health of workers.

On April 23, negotiations opened between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association for a new three-year contract. Uppermost in the minds of the union officials and union members is safety in the mines. The UMWA has vowed to fight for better conditions and enforcement of safety regulations in the contract. This is the most fitting memorial to the miners who have been killed on the job.

International Socialist Review

Supplement to the Militant May 1984

'We will go forward — on our feet, not on our knees'

Speech by leader of Grenada revolution

The following are major excerpts from a speech by Kenrick Radix, a leader of the Grenada revolution, to a crowd of 500 in New York City on Feb. 26, 1984.

Radix was a founding leader of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), the party that led the overthrow of Grenadian dictator Eric Gairy on March 13, 1979. After toppling Gairy, the Grenadian workers and farmers established a People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) headed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, the central leader of the NJM. Radix served in numerous positions in the PRG over the next four and a half years, including as ambassador to the United States and United Nations; attorney general; minister of legal affairs; and minister of agroindustry and industrial development.

In his speech, Radix describes the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution and the efforts of the U.S. government to destroy those accomplishments through its invasion and occupation of the predominantly Black, Caribbean island.

He also explains how the way was paved for the U.S. invasion through a betrayal of the revolution by a grouping in the NJM led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. On Oct. 12, 1983, the Coard forces carried out a coup against the Bishop-led revolutionary government. Bishop was then placed under house arrest. On October 19, a mass uprising on the island freed Bishop. The Coard grouping gave orders to the army to fire on the demonstrators. Bishop and other leaders of the revolution were taken away and murdered. Coard and his backers set up a short-lived government called the Revolutionary Military Council. On October 25, the United States invaded Grenada.

Radix is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Maurice Bishop and Martyrs of October 19, 1983, Foundation in Grenada. His speech was transcribed and edited by the *Militant*.

I think the audience today is composed of many citizens of the United States and to them I bring the greetings of the people of Grenada and the New Jewel Movement.

I think that all of you have had admiration for the Grenadian people, who endured centuries of colonialism, centuries of the whip, of the master, having ancestors who were transported in the galleys of those ships that wrecked our lives.

We are sons and daughters of those slaves. We are a people who are not necessarily angry, but we demand justice and compensation for that exploitation. And we are a people who were brave enough and bold enough and who have produced leaders in our country. We had people like Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler and a fellow called Julien Fedon who, in the 1700s, led a revolution that it took imperialism to defeat.[1] We have produced people like Malcolm X here in the United States — a leader of Grenadian extraction. We are the descendents of such people.

Grenada not for sale

We are a small and brave country in the face of tremendous pressure, in the face of tremendous provocation, in the face of a hostile environment created by the government of the United States. In the declaration of our revolution, the first thing our prime minister said was 'Grenada is not for sale." And when we said that Grenada was not for sale, we meant that the Grenadian people were going to chart their course and chart their destiny as they saw fit, because we had had enough instruction.

We had the instructions of the slave owners. We had the instructions of the British colonial empire. We had in the latter days the instructions and magic of Dr. Gairy, the UFOlogist, who inflicted tremendous suffering on the Grenadian people.

And so, in that spirit of maturity and independence, sisters and brothers, the New Jewel Movement was formed in 1973 with the express purpose of seeking to transform the legacy that had been imposed on us and to create in the country a new and just society for its people. The revolution was gotten at great sacrifice. Reference has already been made to the fact of the Gairy brutality and terrorism against the people, of which the New Jewel Movement paid the highest price for freedom. Because many of our people were shot at, many of our people were murdered, many of our people disappeared, and we stood alone in naked defense of the Grenadian masses. When the revolution came, the Grenadian masses stood to a man, and to a woman, on the side of the New Jewel Movement.

We have been criticized by many so-called democrats who said that under the revolutionary government we did not have democracy because we did not have a parliament. That we had no democracy in our country because we did not ape and imitate other countries where, in the hot tropical sun, the Speaker of the House would have a

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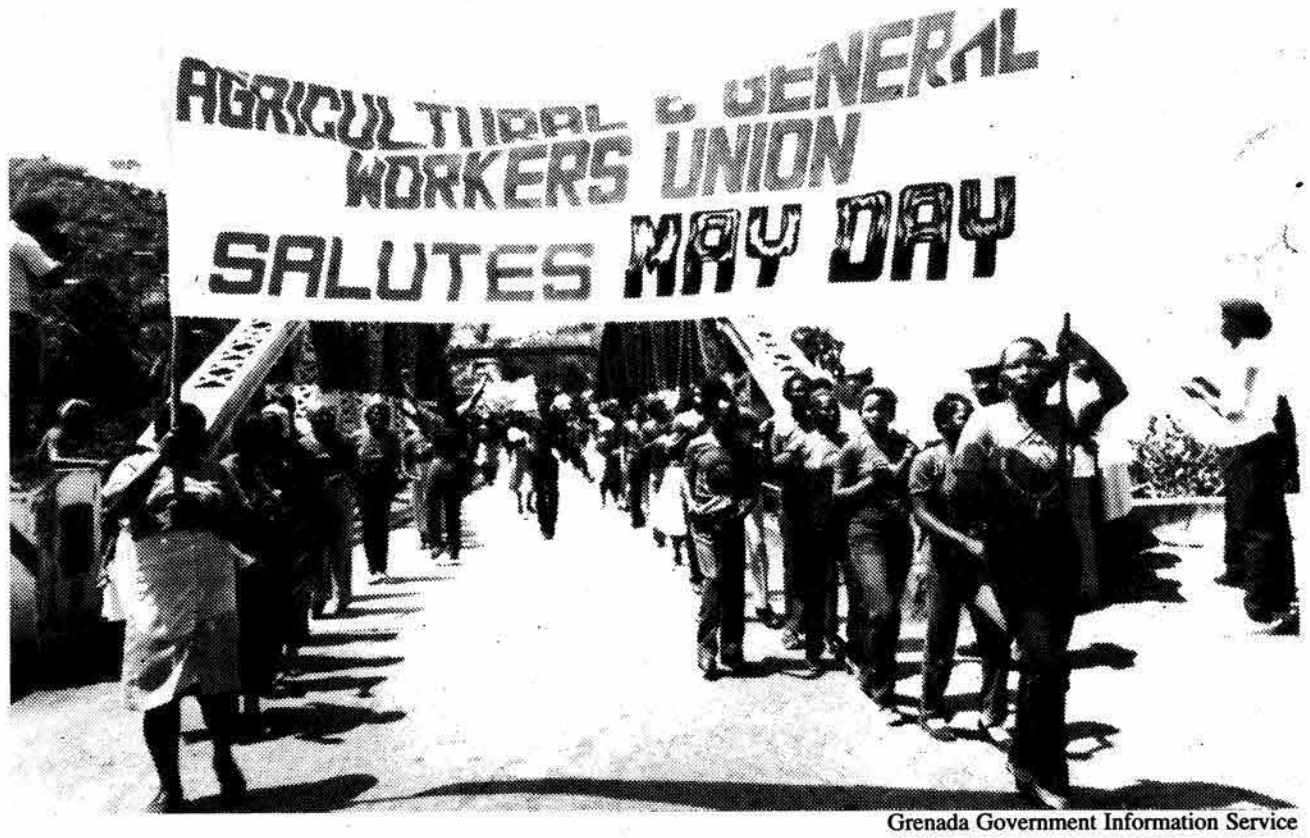


Grenada Government Information Service

Top, May Day 1983 demonstration in Grenada. Bottom, Oct. 15, 1983, demonstration against arrest of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Kenrick Radix, center, led demonstration. "The people are the base of power, not the army or the party," he explains.

1. Julien Fedon led an uprising against British colonial rule of Grenada at the end of the 18th century. Fedon's troops, comprised in large part of slaves, battled Britain for a year and a half, but were finally crushed in 1796.

Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler was a Grenadian who migrated to the Caribbean island of Trinidad in the 1930s. There he became a leader of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union. He led the Trinidadian workers in major struggles against colonial rule and for better living standards.

Continued from preceding page
powdered wig on his head. Therefore, when we had "democracy" we had Gairyism and the death of the people. But when we had revolution, for which our people were prepared to put their lives on the line day in and day out, we were not "democratic."

To me, the highest democracy is a willingness to give one's life in the service of the nation. That is democracy and we have exhibited that peerless characteristic over the years. It matters not how long you live. It matters not what the price is, because the highest injunction that any person can have is to live in such a way as to make a contribution to the society and its development. To help transform it from a society of beggars into a society of independent people who can look the world in the face. We attempted to do such a thing.

New dignity for people

Perhaps the most fundamental achievement of the revolution was in providing a new dignity for our people. Even the children began to flower with confidence. Our goal was that the creative powers and energies of our people should transform the society in terms of culture, dance, and poetry of every sort.

We must understand clearly what the example of the Grenada revolution was. Far from people being the objects of power and the objects of authority, they were the makers of history and the subjects of power. The people of our country participated in parish councils and zonal councils in which the political leadership of the country had, in the words of the prime minister, to be subject to accountability.

Fundamental progress was made in the area of health, for example. In cooperation with the government of Cuba, medical specialists of high competence in all fields provided extraordinary and unprecedented medical care to all the people — as a right and not a privilege.

I believe that our medical services, if you take a per capita approach, were even superior to this wealthy county here. We had free medical and dental care — I hear you have to be insured here before you can have that. And if you are not rich enough, you might die on the streets of cold. But, anyway, I don't live here and I think you have to struggle here for what you want.

Education as a right

We developed programs for the people in terms of the literacy campaign. The slogan of that literacy program was "It takes you from where you are to where you want to be." That meant that the objective of the program was to enable every person in the country to become literate up to the seventh standard.

Why was literacy important to the revolution? Because we rejected the notion that there must be a surplus labor force, which is to be used at the whim and fancy of the employer. Because of our accelerated development programs we needed to produce rapidly all types of specialist skills within our people — to make them familiar with science and technology even at its simplest level. We also needed to train all the teachers in the schools to make education really democratic. So all the teachers who were unskilled were being trained in a three- or four-year program. We also saw the need to make education the tool for development. In that regard, we abolished fee-paying for the secondary schools.

Now I hear people are saying that our education program was not so beneficial.

If our education policy was so deficient, why is it that in the past there were just about 900 students going to secondary school at government expense, whereas today, because of the revolution, the secondary school population has jumped up to over 3,358 students going to school?

That is a fundamental development that no government will be able to destroy.

I also hear they are attacking our education policy. But if the truth be known, before the revolution there were only six students whom the government was paying for at universities abroad.

When we came in, we made education the pillar of our policies. Today there are over 350 students at universities abroad, studying medicine, dentistry, or whatever, to develop their country upon their return. The people are the first pillar of development, and that was the thrust of the revolution. The program of our government meant that we identified tourism as perhaps the quickest money earner to enable us to transform the society. In that regard, as early as 1973 we produced a manifesto that called for the development of tourism. And one of the first things we did as a government was to fulfill a dream of 40 years in our country. We set up an international airport.

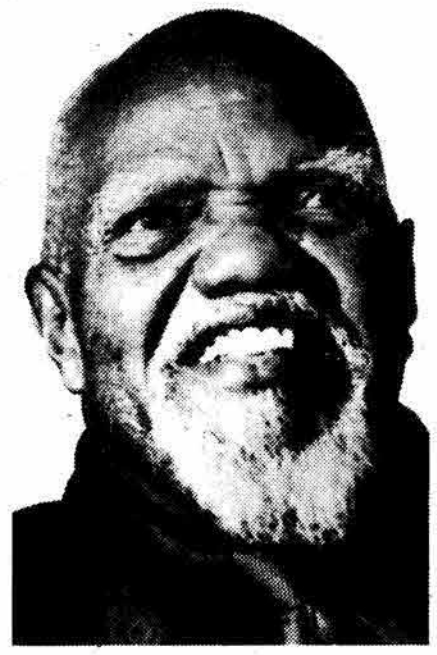
Now, when I came here as ambassador to the United States, one of the first people we asked for assistance was the government of the United States. The government of the United States did not provide that assistance, but other countries contributed generously to our development.

So we started to build this airport. All of a sudden this airport became a "Soviet-Cuban expansionist facility" in which Backfire bombers and MIGs and all of these sorts of things were to land.

Exemplary solidarity from Cuba

The Cubans were building the airport with us, it is true. They provided international solidarity of an exemplary and generous character to our country and our revolution. The assistance they gave amounted in per capita terms to $500 for each and every Grenadian. That was the level of their cooperation.

The Cubans were prepared with their lives to exhibit even higher cooperation, to sacrifice and mingle their blood with the blood of the Grenadian people when the U.S. invasion came. It is ironic that the first people to bring in C-141s and C-130 Hercules were from the United States, which flew into our airport and turned our civilian facility into a military one.



Michelle Gibbs

Malcolm X, "Buzz" Butler, Julien Fedon. Grenadians "are a people who have produced leaders in our country."

The unemployment situation in the country went from 50 percent under the Gairy dictatorship to 12.4 percent in 1983. We had hoped that by 1987 we would have become the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean to have zero unemployment. It was as dramatic as that.

Now I think I need also to address the question about the "violation of human rights" and the propaganda around it. How we "detained people without due process of law." How certain people in Grenada were subject to "torture." And how the people of Grenada were "deprived of the electoral process."

First of all, let me say that within Grenada the people of the country had a new democracy and that the democracy renewed itself every day and every week. And if we conducted a poll among the people, undoubtedly the people would have supported us. The revolution was institutionalizing itself and the first sitting of our electoral commission was due on Oct. 26, 1983.

Whereas countries around the region that are surrogates of imperial powers said Grenada was violating human rights, in one Caribbean country in 1980 — one that had a constitution, one that had elections, one that had voting and all these sorts of things — over 468 people were shot in the streets either resisting arrest, escaping from the police, or involved in a shoot-out with the police.[2]

In Grenada we didn't have anybody killed by the police during the whole period of the revolution — because the first right of our people is the right to life itself.

A tragedy of epic proportions

I wish to go on now to the events that caused all the pain and suffering around the world. A tragedy of epic proportions that frustrated the direction, hope, and promise which was afforded by the Grenadian revolution, the friends of Grenada, and the free peoples of the world.

In 1973 when the New Jewel Movement was formed, we developed a collective leadership, and this leadership was, in fact, to offset the Gairy dictatorship, which had one-man rule. Over the years we had a close working relationship one with another.

In 1975 Bernard Coard, who became deputy prime minister, came to Grenada shortly before the elections. As a good friend of Maurice Bishop, or so he thought, he joined the party. But before doing so he had a study group consisting mostly of school boys whom he tutored in political thought and "Marxist-Leninist" ideas. They wanted the party to publicly declare itself a Marxist-Leninist one at the time, which was refused. So they dissolved themselves and joined the party.

In joining the party they worked hard, ably, and for long hours and, in fact, contributed a lot to the development and maturity and success of the Grenada revolution. Many of them had been placed in very key and strategic areas within the military. They joined the military and were, in fact, in the most part, officer corps of the armed forces. They were also able to join the Central Committee.

That having taken place during the period of about

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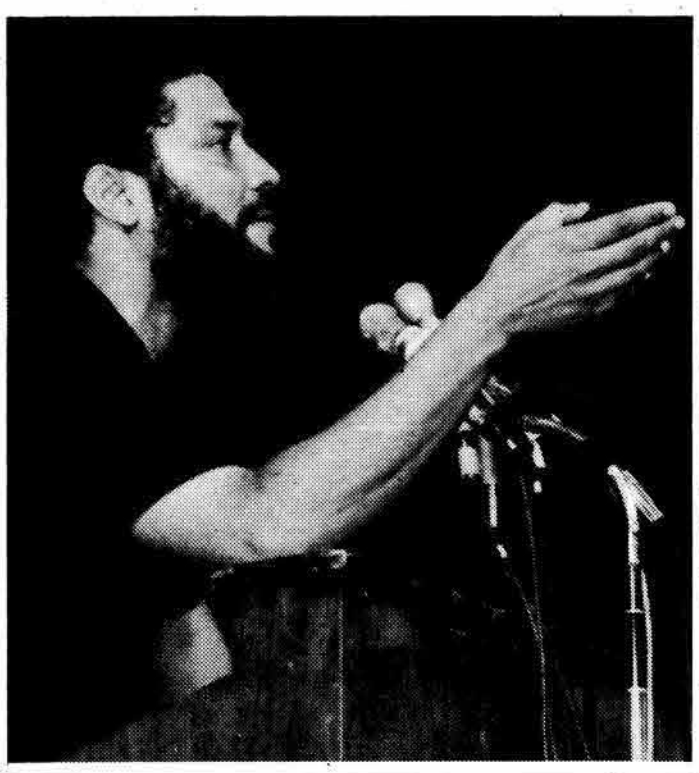
2. Radix is referring here to Jamaica. In 1980, the U.S. government instigated a wave of violence against Jamaican working people as part of a destabilization campaign against the government of Prime Minister Michael Manley, who was up for reelection. Washington succeeded in ensuring the election of Edward Seaga, who immediately began strengthening ties with U.S. imperialism and reversing gains made by the island's working people under Manley's regime.



Maurice Bishop Speaks

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

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

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How Kampuchea gov't is rebuilding economy

BY STEVE CLARK AND DIANE WANG

PHNOM PENH, Kampuchea — "Frankly speaking, this year we will need 300,000 tons of rice. I have already met with the United Nations representative to discuss this problem," Chea Soth told us in a March interview. Chea Soth is deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, as well as its minister of economic planning.

For the first time in more than a decade, Kampuchea produced almost enough rice to feed its own population last year. This marked a major step toward recovering from the famine of 1979–1980, the forced labor and starvation under Pol Pot from 1975–1979, and the devastation caused by U.S. bombing in the early 1970s.

"This year we not only had a drought, but four provinces were also flooded," Soth explained. A drought during the first two months of the monsoon season last spring delayed planting and killed work animals. Three typhoons followed in October, destroying one-tenth of the total planted area. The flood especially hurt Battambang and other northwestern provinces, normally the most fertile and productive region of the country. Now Kampuchea is suffering the hottest dry season in 40 years.

The disastrous weather, combined with a severe shortage of pesticides and fertilizer, has resulted in a projected 300,000-ton shortage in this year's rice harvest. This is equivalent to three months' food supply for the country.

There is still rice in Phnom Penh's markets now, and the riverside market in the provincial capital of Kompong Chhnang that we visited had plenty of rice, vegetables, and fish. But shortages should appear by summer, following the end of the dry season harvest.

The danger is not only a reduced food supply. Peasants may have to resort to using valuable seed rice for food and have nothing to plant for next year's crop.

"Even when we have enough rice, our children fall below international standards for height and weight," Dr. Ang Saroun of the Department for the Protection of Mothers and Infants told us. One out of four children in Kampuchea still suffers some degree of malnutrition. "If there is a shortfall in rice this year, the children's development will fall even further behind," she said.

According to Dr. Saroun, the malnutrition of the 1975–1980 period will leave a lasting mark on that generation of Kampuchean children. "We are not at all confident about the future of those children," she said.

Adults, too, are affected. In Kampuchea the daily caloric intake is only one-half that of the world average.

Overcoming 1970s devastation

The hunger from 1975–1979 was not due to weather, but to the murderous regime of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. Kampuchea's entire population was forced into virtual slave labor camps where everyone worked 15-hour days or longer. Millions were evacuated from their villages and cities to distant parts of the country. Kampucheans told us how whole work brigades often shared only one tin of rice per day, and how they ate leaves and insects to survive. The government estimates that 3 million people died of starvation, lack of medical care, or execution in those years.

In 1979, when Pol Pot was finally driven out of the country with the aid of Vietnam, Khmer Rouge forces burned one-fourth of the rice stock and slaughtered one-third of the draft animals as they retreated to Thailand. The entire population roamed the countryside in search of their home villages and families. No rice was planted, and people ate whatever was on hand, the seed rice for next year's crop.

Only international aid saved Kampuchea from famine that year. The initial aid came from Vietnam, itself suffering from several consecutive drought years, and from the Soviet Union. Only after the Kampuchean and Vietnamese governments and their supporters succeeded in focusing world attention on the suffering in Kampuchea did international relief agencies, the United Nations, and even the U.S. government finally contribute emergency food aid.

The forced labor and starvation of the Pol Pot years were the culmination of years of misery. Previously, from 1970 to 1975, U.S. carpet bombing had driven peasants off the land. The U.S. government dropped half a million tons of bombs on Kampuchea, a country the size of Missouri.

Even before that, in the relatively more peaceful years of the 1960s when Kampuchea, then called Cambodia, was exporting 390,000 tons of rice per year, cultivation was done largely with manual labor and a minimum of fertilizer and irrigation. Peasants were usually in serious debt.

"Our regime started from scratch, from ground zero," Deputy Prime Minister Soth emphasized. "Actually we can only date our own progress and development from 1980. In 1979 and 1980 we were living only on international relief. It is since 1980 that we have been able to plan and the people have been able to work."

Militant/Diane Wang

Chea Soth, minister of economic planning and deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The achievement has been considerable. Last year Kampuchea was able to put more than 3.7 million acres under rice cultivation. While this is twice the area cultivated in 1979, it is still far short of the acreage in production prior to 1970. Soth told us that the current acreage is about half the land the government estimates is potentially cultivatable in Kampuchea.

While the country still has less cattle than in the 1960s, it has 150 percent more than in 1979. In addition, Kampuchea is expanding the use of tractors, especially in the most fertile regions such as Battambang province.

Last year Kampuchea produced twice as many vegetables and three times as much sugar as five years ago. There was more than 5 times as much poultry raised and 19 times as many pigs, compared to 1979.

Of course, these impressive figures do not change the fact that Kampuchea remains desperately poor. Even if five times as many chickens were raised last year, that was only enough to provide one a year for every two people in the country.

"Most of the peasants are now living on a subsistence level," Soth said. "The difficulties are in the provinces that are isolated, especially in the mountains and forests of the northeast region." For most of the country the peasants have at least the minimum requirements. In the cities the government was able to substantially increase workers' wages last fall so that they too could improve their diet.

It is this fragile subsistence, recovered by Kampuchea since 1979–1980, that is threatened by the 300,000-ton shortage in this year's rice harvest.

How Kampuchean people achieved this much

Kampuchea had to completely reorganize agricultural production once people had returned to their homes in 1980. "As people returned to their villages, they had nothing. They, too, had to start from zero," Soth recalled. Families returned to land that they called home. But the houses had been knocked down, the tools scattered, the animals slaughtered, and the seed rice destroyed or eaten. International aid distributed by the state had to provide all the basic materials.

Especially because the people were weakened by hunger and the traumas of the Khmer Rouge experience, there was not even enough human labor power. Men had traditionally done the plowing and heavier tasks, but a disproportionate number of men had died or been killed under Pol Pot.

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Militant/Diane Wang

Rice is still plentiful in Phnom Penh and the riverside market at Kompong Chhnang, above, but shortages will appear in a few months because of drought and floods.

Militant/Diane Wang

Kampuchea has fewer draft animals than in the 1960s and few tractors. Irrigation and other farm work are done by hand.

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Agriculture was reorganized into *khrom samaki*, "solidarity groups" of 12 to 15 families. These solidarity groups vary in the level of cooperation and organization. Some carry out most of the work collectively; others merely share tools and animals among the individual families.

In many khrom samaki the families cultivate small plots of their own, though all land in Kampuchea belongs to the state. The state distributes seed and fertilizer through the solidarity group; the group shares animals and tools that are often individually owned.

The shortfall in this year's harvest is especially serious because agriculture is the central means for developing Kampuchea's economy.

"If we can grow enough rice, the goals we have projected, we will achieve our primary goal. Industry is a secondary objective," Soth said.

"If you review our history," Soth explained, "you will find that our people always grew rice as their means of living. During the Sihanouk regime in the 1960s the export of rice reached almost a half million tons." Kampuchea used to export more rice than it will fall short of in this year's harvest. If Kampuchea can reach even the 1960s levels of production and export, it can trade on the world market for other commodities that people need.

Unlike in the Sihanouk years, the export revenue will not go to a handful of wealthy families, while peasants live in debt. It will meet peoples' needs.

Kampuchea has remarkably fertile land and many natural resources. In addition to rice, the country produces rubber, timber, and cotton for export.

In addition to its agriculture, the country is reviving a fishing industry. Kampuchea's Tonle Sap is one of the largest and best stocked fresh water lakes in the world. Traditionally fish provided the main protein for Kampuchea's diet. During the Pol Pot years, however, fishermen were largely evacuated to the agricultural slave labor camps. The ethnic Vietnamese and Cham peoples, who were the main fishing communities, were persecuted and massacred.

In the last five years Kampuchea has increased its fish catch from Tonle Sap and rivers almost fourfold.

"But we still lack the equipment, boats, canoes, and other material that are needed for fishing," Soth said.

Moreover, "Nowadays we can only carry out fishing in our fresh water," he said. "We lack equipment for saltwater fishing."

While encouraging the fishing industry, Kampuchea also has introduced conservation measures to ensure its future supplies. This is especially important now, while the country is trying to train technicians who can tackle problems of breeding and development. Fishing is allowed only on the tributaries, not the main branch, of the Tonle Sap River. Some forests and swamps surrounding known fish spawning areas cannot be cleared, and use of electric shock to catch fish is forbidden.

Despite the central focus on agriculture, Kampuchea has begun to revive some of the industrial capacity that was abandoned and destroyed in the Pol Pot years.

Industrial recovery

Throughout the country there are about 60 factories and light-industry shops producing textiles, metal goods, jute sacks, processed agricultural products, and needed chemicals. In Phnom Penh, where most of the industry is centered, there are nine textile mills and a bottling factory. In addition, workshops provide such daily necessities as pots and pans, which sometimes are melted down from old U.S. bomb debris.

Throughout Kampuchea there are about 30,000 industrial workers, and some 135,000 other wage workers in government offices and other jobs.

Living conditions are more difficult in the cities than in the countryside. But workers are granted a rice ration of 35 to 63 pounds of rice a month, depending on how heavy their work is. Workers can buy that rationed amount for about 2 riel per pound. Since the wage hike last year, most workers get about 140 to 200 riel per month. Prices give an idea of what this wage equals. On Phnom Penh's market chicken costs about 12 riel per pound. Shirts are 500 riel, cloth 35 riel per yard. Imported cigarettes are 40 riel a pack.

Workers are so poor that the country has not yet instituted rent payments. All housing in the city is state property. "We may consider housing rent later," Soth said. "But if we were to take rent now it would seriously affect the living conditions of the workers." This year the government began to collect small fees for water and electricity.

The difficulties in reviving industry are enormous. "During the Pol Pot regime the factories manufactured nothing. All the equipment was left to rust," Soth said. "Now that we have put the factories back in order, we are in need of spare parts. But we can exchange and get parts from very few countries.

A visit to farm and fishing solidarity groups

BY DIANE WANG

KOMPONG CHHNANG, Kampuchea — "If you compare life today to the time of Pol Pot, it's the difference between sky and earth," Kong Sann said.

We were sitting in the shade of a thatched lean-to in a rice paddy just outside this provincial capital. People had taken a break from transplanting rice seedlings to tell *Militant* correspondents Steve Clark and myself about their *khrom samaki*, solidarity group. Twelve to 15 families join together in these agricultural cooperatives to share tools and animals and to help each other tend the fields.

After their four years under the Pol Pot regime — when the entire population was herded at gunpoint into collective labor camps to produce rice — how did the peasants feel about the khrom samaki? We asked if there had been any suspicion or resentment when the new People's Republic of Kampuchea proposed these cooperative farming teams.

'We started from scratch'

Kong Sann, the elected leader of this group, had been driven from his home in this area by the Pol Pot forces and sent to Pursat Province; he had lost three brothers and two nephews. Yann Vorn, the woman sitting next to him, had lost six children during those years.

"No, after liberation we didn't hesitate to join the khrom samaki," Sann answered. "When we came back here, we had only our bare hands, nothing else. We were starting from scratch, so it made sense to join together this way."

The solidarity groups are allotted land by the district administration. In this area the amount of land that can be cultivated varies from the dry season to the wet season, depending on how high the waters of Tonle Sap lake have risen. This khrom samaki farms two to eight acres, depending on the season.

There are 14 families in this group, 73 people. Of these, only 10 are able to do a full day's work in the fields. The others are too old, too ill, or too young for heavy work. This is typical throughout Kampuchea, especially following the exhaustion and starvation of the Pol Pot years. The khrom samaki are a way to take care of those who could not work and survive on their own.

The children tend the water lilies, which the group raises as a subsidiary crop. The seeds are a main ingredient of a popular pastry here. The children we met told us they are 13 and 14 years old. Since severe malnutrition between 1975 and 1980 has stunted their growth, they look much younger, some as young as seven- or eight-year olds.

Experimentation with seeds

The rice fields are a patchwork of small plots divided by earthen dikes. Water is scooped from canals to the fields by various wooden pumps or buckets for irrigation. This particular rice paddy was a bright green in the midst of a dry, brown field. Most of the dry season rice had been harvested, and the wet season crop won't be planted for some time. On this plot, however, the khrom samaki was experimenting with an extra, third crop, using special seed and new scientific farming methods.

Traditionally Kampuchean peasants used a variety of rice seeds. Some did better in the dry season, some in the wet season. Sometimes peasants planted a mixture to ensure at least some production whatever the weather conditions.

Now the government is trying to provide higher-yield varieties. Here and in other khrom samaki we found the farmers experimenting with IR-36, a hybrid developed in the Philippines. With proper fertilizer and adequate irrigation, this high-yield strain should be able to produce several times the typical Kampuchean harvest.

"This year we've had some problems," Sann told us. "The rains came two months late, and we couldn't get enough fertilizer." They also had trouble with pests. The low level of aid from capitalist countries makes it very difficult for Kampuchea to obtain enough fertilizer and pesticides. What supplies the country does get are distri-

Militant/Diane Wang

Members of the solidarity group outside Kompong Chhnang. Kong Sann, leader of the group, is in center with Yann Vorn behind to his left.

"For instance," Soth continued, "some of our textile factories are full of machinery manufactured in China. Now that China is attacking Kampuchea as an enemy, even if we had the money they wouldn't sell us spare parts."

Instead, the machinery is patched together with bits and pieces and ingenuity. At the Phnom Penh Textile Mill No. 2, which we visited, for example, equipment designed to deal with synthetic fibers had been adapted to use plain cotton. A Kampuchean exhibit proudly displayed a railway switch that had been designed and handmade.

Raw materials, too, are scarce. The bottling factory sterilizes and uses whatever bottles have been collected from the pre–Pol Pot days.

Throughout the country there is a severe energy shortage, also. Even if factories have raw materials, workers can often only work five out of the eight-hour shifts before there is a black-out stopping production.

Kampuchea is dealing with these problems step by step. It is working to restore a hydroelectric station in Kiriom and building another in Prek Thnot.

"For the first two years after 1980, famine was the urgent problem that had to be dealt with, so we could not repair the factories. It is only in the last three years that we have begun to rebuild," Soth explained.

But now, even as evaluated by international aid agencies that are not friendly to Kampuchea, the country has begun a rapid development.

Despite all the obstacles, Kampuchea is already making social and economic progress and raising living standards throughout the country. Much more could be achieved, however, were it not for the terror raids by Pol Pot and other right-wing forces along the Thai border and the lack of international aid by most countries other than the workers states.

Significance of Pol Pot in UN

The U.S. government is determined to punish the Indochinese people for fighting back against imperialism. Washington is a major supporter of Pol Pot and the coalition of right-wing forces who are currently recognized as the "official" government of Kampuchea.

Official recognition means much more than diplomatic symbolism. Because Pol Pot's thugs and his cronies remain the government seated in the United Nations, most international aid is sent to the right-wing forces in the guise of aid to refugee camps on the Thai border. In addition to UN aid, some 140 international agencies direct assistance to those camps. Much of that aid goes to the Pol Pot armed terror groups.

By contrast, only 30 international agencies from capitalist countries maintain programs inside Kampuchea. The U.S. government applies the "Trade with the Enemy Act" to prohibit aid shipments from U.S.-based private agencies. Last year Washington even tried to prevent U.S. school children from sending pencils and notebooks to Kampuchea.

Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other workers states now provide nearly all the agricultural, medical, and technical aid Kampuchea receives.

Kampuchea will survive despite Washington's proclaimed effort to "punish" the workers and farmers of Kampuchea and Vietnam for making their revolutions. Working people in the United States have every interest in helping them in the reconstruction of Kampuchea.

This article is based on an interview with Kampuchea's Deputy Prime Minister Chea Soth. The full interview will appear in the May 14 issue of Intercontinental Press, *available for $1.25 by writing to Intercontinental Press, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.*

Militant/Diane Wang

Kampuchea's industry must overcome shortages in raw materials, energy, and experience. Bottling factory sterilizes and uses whatever bottles it can collect.

n Kampuchea

buted through the khrom samaki.

Once the harvest is gathered, the khrom samaki decides how to divide it. Here the group first divides the crop among the families, making sure that older people and children are also fed. The rest of the crop is sold.

The solidarity groups can sell on the free market or to the state. There has been no tax until now. This year the government has asked for a voluntary national contribution, based upon the amount of rice harvested. "If we do not have enough, the government does not insist we pay. And the rice we do give as tax will be used for a seed bank for the next crop," Sann told us.

Fishing cooperation

The next day we went two hours up the river to a fishing khrom samaki called Stung Chrouv ("Deep Stream" in English). It fishes along five and a half miles of a branch of Tonle Sap River.

Continued on ISR/8

Militant/Diane Wang

Women process fish into traditional Kampuchean fish paste.

'What do farmers in the U.S. do?'

KOMPONG CHHNANG, Kampuchea — Chou Noeun had come with us to visit the *khrom samaki* (solidarity group) since she is the deputy agriculture director in this province.

A quiet woman in her late 30s, Noeun had studied at the Prek Leap agriculture school and had been working in Phnom Penh before 1975. Under the brutal Pol Pot regime, she had been sent to a labor camp in Battambang. She had lost her husband and three children, as well as a brother and sister. She and her mother, the two survivors, live alone.

Returning from the trip to visit the fishing solidarity group, we sat together in the boat. I was eager to ask her about women in Kampuchea. "The government has given full rights to women, based on the principle of equality between men and women," Noeun told me. "But much depends on competence and training. I had training, so I became the deputy director here. A lot of women are joining the work of the government," she explained.

Noeun was far more interested in questioning me about her own field of interest, agriculture. What kind of crops do you grow in the United States? How many crops do you raise each year?

"Do you use machinery or animals? What kind of machinery do you have?" she asked. In Kampuchea most work is done by human labor. There are still far fewer draft animals than there were in the 1960s. The 200 tractors donated by the Soviet Union have been sent to the most fertile regions, such as Battambang province.

I explained that in the United States most work is done by machinery, although some important crops are still harvested by hand.

Where do farmers get the machinery? she asked. We had recently visited a solidarity group where 14 families were farming two acres of land. It was hard to explain that in the United States even small family farms are many times that size, so farmers must make huge investments in machinery, fuel, fertilizer, seed, and often irrigation equipment.

My attempt to explain this led to a description of the problems U.S. farmers face as banks foreclose on mortgages.

"What do your farmers do? If farmers can't get tools, don't the neighbors help?" Noeun asked, somewhat shocked. "That's what our khrom samaki are for."

I told her how farmers in the United States are trying to help each other fight foreclosures and to demand government help. They have organized solidarity actions and organizations to carry out the fight, but have nothing like the khrom samaki. There are farmer cooperatives that were originally set up by farmers to purchase seed, fertilizer, electricity, etc., more cheaply and to market their goods. But these have for the most part been taken over by food monopolies and banks.

"But then, doesn't your government help the farmers?" she pressed. "Our government distributes the equipment and seed. Your government should at least give the farmers cheap loans if the banks won't help them."

But in the United States the government is run by a small handful of families who also run the banks, I tried to explain.

What a striking contrast between Kampuchea and the United States! In the United States we have tractors and combines, irrigation pumps, the latest fertilizers and hybrid seeds. Kampuchea has none of these. All it has is a government that is on the side of its farmers. Wouldn't U.S. farmers give a lot for just that? **— D.W.**

Militant/Diane Wang

Chou Noeun, deputy director of agriculture for Kompong Chhnang province.

Continued from ISR/2

1981, in 1982 certain activities could be seen. Bernard Coard was working overtime to develop a polarization within the Central Committee of the party. In 1982 attempts were being made to remove from the Central Committee four founding members of the party who were classified as not being "sufficiently revolutionary," so Bernard Coard could obtain a plurality within the party. One member was removed from the Central Committee in 1982[3] — and the process of getting a majority of people who supported Coard on the Central Committee into positions of responsibility continued.

Coard also resigned from the Central Committee in 1982. In 1983, his people on the Central Committee wanted his return, and they proposed a question of joint leadership of the party, claiming that Bishop had the support of the people — undoubtedly — and also was full of prestige internationally, while Coard was an outstanding organizer, an outstanding ideologue, an outstanding everything else. And in that scenario, joint leadership was to be the creative method of joining the strengths of these two leaders.

For the first time within the Central Committee of the party, voting was introduced. A pro-Coard majority was engineered by the removal of certain elements from the Central Committee. That being the case, a series of events then started. Party members who were members of the Central Committee and in the army at the same time began certain preparations for a military coup. And in that scenario Maurice Bishop was placed under house arrest.

The people of Grenada were not aware of these developments, though they had suspicions for a number of years that this group intended to try to seize power for themselves. Maurice Bishop was a man and a leader who devoted so much time and so much energy to the revolutionary task of building Grenada. In fact, if anything, he neglected to observe in a methodological way the power ascendency and the attempt at power-grabbing by Bernard Coard.

I would say that I have on many occasions, together with others, identified the problem. But, you know, Maurice would say you worry too much. You don't understand the balance of forces, he said, and the real politics. What did he mean by that? By that he knew that the people respected and loved him. By that he knew he was the spokesman for the power of the dispossessed, and that, in the final analysis, the masses of the people were the decisive element because he loved the people and the people loved him too.

Masses demonstrate for Bishop

As things developed I broke the news to the people that Bishop was placed under house arrest. I resigned immediately from the government. We had a demonstration on Saturday, October 15, in St. George's. Having led that demonstration in St. George's — in which the people said in a united way that they did not support Bernard Coard and his clique — I was arrested by the army and put in jail for being a counterrevolutionist.

A number of other people who had historically supported the New Jewel Movement were also being rounded up and detained at Richmond Hill and various parts of the country. Demonstrations took place islandwide. Thousands and thousands of people participated, calling for the release of Bishop. Later, on Wednesday morning, October 19, thousands of people, 30,000 of them, came into St. George's.

Bernard Coard's clique rejected warnings by Cuban leader Fidel Castro. "They said he had made himself a god in Cuba and we would have no gods in Grenada."

Led by Unison Whiteman, they released Bishop from house arrest. Later that day, three armored personnel carriers went to Ft. Rupert — where Bishop was intending to address the nation and the world — and opened fire. There was a military exchange of fire and several people were murdered.

But Bishop and other comrades remained alive. About half an hour or 20 minutes later they were escorted from the building into the inner courtyard, and there they were put against the wall and cinderized with bullets.

Those are the facts, and the facts are also that Bernard Coard pretended to resign the week these events took place. His minister of national mobilization, Selwyn Strachan, had gone into St. George's to get some workers to print some anti-Bishop propaganda blaming him for the condition of the roads, the electric plant, the women's work, the youth work — everything that was wrong was the responsibility of Bishop. But the workers refused to print it and ran him out of town, but not before he said that Bernard Coard was "the new prime minister."

Coard was guiding hand

Thereafter there was an announcement that Bernard Coard had resigned. But you see, Bernard Coard, though he said he resigned, remained at all material times the guiding hand to the destructive forces that were to culminate in the events of October 19. Upon the imprisonment of Bishop, Coard was chairman of the Central Committee. We do know that the Central Committee issued the order for the military to go into action and to exterminate the greatest leader we have had in Grenada, and I dare say in some respects, in the Caribbean — the spokesman for the Third World. He was eradicated by the guns of the Coard antipeople dictatorship.

Why do I say that Coard's elements were antidemocratic? They went to the airport site where we had something like 500 workers, telling them that Bishop was a "dictator" and Bishop was responsible for everything. And the people said, you know, if Bishop has all those faults — our people are very loyal — we like him still. But more important, they said to bring Bishop down to see the people. They never brought Bishop down.

When Strachan goes into town and is told by the workers that they don't support this thing, and they chase him out of town, the Coard elements, they didn't stop to think for a moment. When 30,000 people come into the town, releasing Bishop from custody, they didn't think anything about it.

Fidel Castro sent a telegram to the Central Committee saying to them that he is respecting the independence of the New Jewel Movement, that he would not interfere with the internal affairs of the party and people of Grenada. Castro said that in his opinion it be wrong to remove Bishop from the leadership of the party and the country, and that, in any event, whatever they did, he thought they should exhibit generosity and understanding. If they continued with the division, it would lay the basis for the invasion of the country and the collapse of the revolution.

In reponse, these great ideologues, scientific thinkers, endowed with the greatest reason in their heads, made a very puerile statement, namely, that Fidel Castro had made himself a god in Cuba and they would have no gods in Grenada. Not only did they reject the generosity of the same man who defended and helped so fundamentally the Grenada revolution, but they also at that time ringed the Cuban construction workers at the international airport with elements of the army.

Lo and behold, after the brutal murders, and with the invasion looming on the horizon, they pleaded: "Dear Fidel, please send down some weapons and reinforcements." They imprisoned the Grenadians for four days, 24 hours a day. But then, in the next few days, they said, "Come out! Come out! The enemy is coming." The people you lock up and threaten to shoot on sight are the same people you are calling out to defend you a few days later! It's the same Cubans you're calling to help you a few days later. Therefore we must understand the political infancy and sterility of those people who claim to be revolutionaries.

A cold, calculating operation

Bernard Coard planned the sequence of events over years. It was a cold, calculating operation, convincing young people that the leadership of the party historically was petty bourgeois, right opportunist, while he alone was able to provide the leadership necessary for the fundamental transformation of the society. And, of course, many young people without experience were misled by him. They followed him because he was a teacher and he was an "ideologue."

We have to understand why it is that the forces that invaded Grenada on October 25 received the welcome of the Grenadian people.

The first law of the Grenada revolution was that the army will never shoot on the people of the country. And our people were confident about that. And while Maurice Bishop lived, the army never did shoot on the people.

That is the qualitative difference. The Coard elements broke the first rule of the revolution. They killed all the popular leaders, people who struggled with the masses for years, Comrade leader Bishop, Comrade Unison Whiteman, Comrade Norris Bain, Comrade Jackie Creft, Comrade Fitzroy Bain, Comrade Vincent Noel, all killed to produce a sort of one-man, one-voice mentality, a type of Pol Pot scenario.

They broke another rule of the revolution when they imposed this curfew on the Grenadian masses — for four days "shoot on sight." And therefore they terrorized our people in an unprecedented way, so that even if people had come from outer space they would have been welcomed.

A vulgar solution

But the invasion of Grenada by the armed forces of the United States was a vulgar solution to a political problem. Whenever there are difficulties internationally, there are things called good offices and mediation. Good offices and mediation were not tried in the Grenada experience. What they reserve for themselves they do not apply to others.

We have to understand the background of the hostility — that there were military preparations for years. Ocean Venture '81, Big Red, or whatever it is, thousands of planes flying up and down all over the Caribbean. They say you have budget deficits. Well it goes up in gas, flying all over the Caribbean showing the flag.

In 1980 there was a secret meeting in London which representatives of the British, United States, France, and Holland attended. And there was a concern that with the independence of English-speaking countries in the Caribbean there would be what they called a vacuum developing. And into this vacuum the "enemies of the people of the world," namely the Soviet Union and Cuba, were going to extend their hegemony. They decided, first of all, to establish a coast guard for the Organization of East Caribbean States and to use Barbados as the base.

So the preparations were there all along. What about the storage capacities, the extra fuel supplies that had been installed in Barbados? What about the question of the frequent visits of American personnel into Barbados, Vice-pres. George Bush? Why was it that Gairy said in Barbados in August 1983 that the Grenada revolution would not be in force in October of 1983? We have to surmise and conclude that Barbados was the point for penetration and the overthrow of the Grenada revolution.

We see that while the CARICOM,[4] headed by George Chambers of Trinidad, was trying to find a peaceful solution, respecting the principle of nonintervention in the

3. The Central Committee member removed in 1982 was Radix, who remained a minister in the government.

4. CARICOM stands for Caribbean Community, a body made up of the governments of the English-speaking Caribbean islands. Its main function is to negotiate common trade and tariff policies among these nations.

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internal affairs of states, Tom Adams, prime minister of Barbados, and Edward Seaga, prime minister of Jamaica, were meeting and planning for the invasion of Grenada.

As early as Oct. 14, 1983, when Comrade Unison Whiteman was returning to Grenada from the United Nations, Tom Adams told him he could have political asylum in Barbados.

So we have to understand clearly that they had fanned the flames of the divisions within the Central Committee, and that they had information and promoted the divisions that led to the final catastrophe which fell upon us.

Threat to U.S. security?

There has been loads of propaganda about how the Grenada revolution was a threat to the United States' security. We didn't have one bomber. We didn't have one airplane. We didn't even have one good gunboat. We had an army of 600. But we were called a threat to the United States.

We were called a security threat to the other islands of the Caribbean when we've never exported our revolution. Revolution, you know, is not like Coca-Cola. You have to have the repression and the conditions necessary to build your own revolution. Nobody can ever export revolution to you.

What about all the propaganda about the amount of weapons and guns they found in Grenada? I think it was 6,000 guns. Well, if you take the size of Grenada and you take an equal size here in the United States, they have a thousand times more guns than we had guns. And we are an independent country. And therefore why is it that they can have guns and we cannot? Is it because we poor, we small, and we Black?

No way, brother!

I dare say it is true that if Bishop lived the Grenada revolution also would have continued to survive. Because the people would have defended the country — men, women, and children, too. That's a fact.

And so they fanned the flames of the division. They kept the press out, as you know, for the first two or three days of the invasion. And during this time they had — it was almost like a movie — planes zooming up there, helicopters buzzing around there, going supersonic on air display. And some of them were falling too. You were assured that the Cubans were doing all the fighting in Grenada, that if you looked under every leaf, every stone, and every tree, you found a Cuban. The reality of the situation was that the Cubans fought only in the area of the airport where they lived and they worked. And that the other military operations, which lasted for six or seven days, were carried out by Grenadians who were defending the honor of their country.

The members of the Revolutionary Military Council — who committed these horrendous murders for which they must pay, who claimed that they had ushered in the revolutionary transformation and had at last achieved a working-class society — not one of them died in the struggle that they were supposedly leading. They were traitors to the revolution and they deserve revolutionary justice for their treason.

Neocolonial administration

And so, today we are an occuppied country with a neocolonial administration. This administration expelled the Cubans with whom the Grenadians have absolutely no problem and whom the Grenadians salute for their revolutionary support throughout the period of our revolution and afterwards.

They also threw out of the country the Libyans with whom we had no problem but got assistance — although they are supposed to be the number one terrorist country in the world. We have no problems with them.

We have no problems with the Soviets who were helping us with our construction also. They threw them out, too.

They threw out — would you believe it? — all the doctors, whether they came from Cuba or from Western European countries such as Germany, Sweden, and so on. Forty-eight hours to leave.

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***Intercontinental Press* is an invaluable source for following the ongoing discussion around events in Grenada. Recently, *IP* has published interviews with Don Rojas, press secretary to murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop (Dec. 26, 1983); and with George Louison (April 16, 1984), and Kenrick Radix (April 30, 1984), leaders of the New Jewel Movement.**

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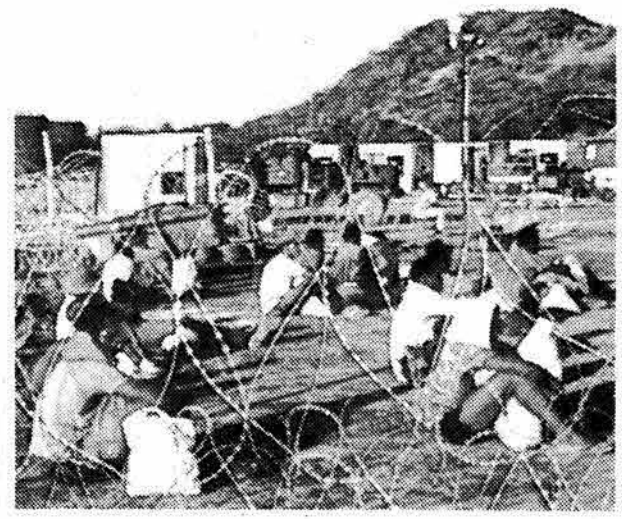

Nurse surveys hospital that was bombed by U.S. invasion forces, who rounded up 3,000 Grenadians. Many were kept in internment camps, "questioned" and arrested again later. "We are now an occupied country, with a neocolonial administration.... They threw out all the doctors."

The Caribbean teachers and technicians we had in the country — they also threw them out.

They threw out of Grenada and froze the funds for our Agency for Rural Transformation. They closed down the National Cooperative Development Agency by freezing its funds. They collapsed the women's work.

The Americans raided all the New Jewel Movement offices and got all the information about all the revolutionaries in the country. They have a directory of names. All people who are sympathetic to the revolution are being sent home with pay, and sometimes without. As a result of the invasion, unemployment has, in fact, increased again. All over the city you can see young men with their feet against the buildings whiling away their time just as you did see in Gairy days.

So what we have to understand in reality is that the American government is in full control of Grenada. They imprisoned and detained over 3,000 people in Grenada, tying their hands up like in the Wild West. Blindfolding them, putting them to lie down on the ground. I have been informed some people were also beaten by the interrogators. Things that are unacceptable and violations of human rights, things they couldn't get away with here in the United States, they practice down there in Grenada.

Unemployment soars

With the restoration of so-called democracy we have the highest unemployment that we've had for years. With the restoration of democracy, people no longer have the right to good health care. With the restoration of democracy, people do not have as many teachers as we had in the schools. With the restoration of democracy, the housing program that we were pursuing for the workers has collapsed.

Now there is an official silence in the country about the revolution.

The authorities have the bodies, or the remnants of the bodies, of those comrades who were executed. One of the things that we are trying to do is to get the bodies, to give them a respectful interment in accord with the traditions of our country, because we honor the dead in our country.

Memorial foundation

In order to keep the spirit of the revolution alive, we have established a memorial foundation in honor of all the revolutionaries who gave their lives for the people. It must not be forgotten that they did not die by accident, but they died for the principle of the people's participation, people's politics, the principle that the people are the base of the power, not the army or the party, the people are the base of the power.

And this foundation will establish a monument suitably carved, as well as setting up a fund to care for the children and other dependents of these comrades who gave their lives. We will also establish an educational component because, make no mistake about it, now with the return of "democracy," poor people's children not going to university again.

We wish also to establish a library and to produce propaganda materials on the lives and works of those comrades, and to maintain one of the characteristics of the Grenada revolution and of all genuine revolutions, the question of internationalism. People from every part of the world, from North America, from Canada, from the Eastern European and Western European countries, from the Caribbean itself, and from all over the world, came, voluntarily, and sometimes at great hardship and loss of money, to serve our revolution. We want to continue those links because we have to ensure that the programs of the Grenada revolution come back and people can develop again. So we want to maintain our internationalism.

We are asking you therefore to support our foundation, so we will be able, in a limited way, to carry on the objectives of the revolution.

We also should say that we are at the moment reexamining the activities of the party members and other functionaries to investigate any vulgarities that they may have committed and to formally move to expel them from the party.

Return of Gairy

We have seen the return of Gairy from the United States to Grenada. But the Grenadian people are not afraid of Gairy.

We have also seen some other new political formations taking place, particularly some younger people who have genuflected to the United States' interests and who pretend to follow the program of the New Jewel Movement, but will, in fact, be bedfellows with the interests of the United States.

Our people have gone through great trauma, great depression, many people lost their heads, many people were divorced and disconnected from politics because of this terrible tragedy. But they understand today that, in fact, they are no longer the guardians of their lives.

Many of Gairy's people are being put back into the civil service. Many of Gairy's people are being put back into the police force. Many of Gairy's people are penetrating throughout the society. What that means is that Paul Scoon, the governor general, is objectively supporting the reintroduction of Gairyism.

Therefore, elections in the country that are free and fair are absolutely necessary. Our country is in economic and political drift. Our country needs to reemerge and its people hold their heads up high, getting a quality of leadership and a perspective on the future so that they can feel free and confident. All the propaganda that you see emanating in the papers about Grenadians saying "God Bless America" is from the business sector who feel that Fort Knox will open and dollars will come from the sky. Even some of the official churches in Grenada are preaching the line and the lie that God Himself saved the Grenadian people. They must, just like Gairy now, have a telephone line to god so they get direct information.

Church refuses funeral

I will tell you a very disgusting fact, not fiction. When the comrade leader was executed, we made an approach to the Roman Catholic bishop of Grenada, who always felt that he was the "other" bishop, and asked him to hold a memorial service for Maurice and the others. He refused.

These petty leaders had refused to contribute to the Center for Popular Education, refused to contribute to help with the milk program and the social programs of the country. And when our people were mourning and in their deepest despair, they refused to hold a simple service for our fallen chief.

But at the same time they held a big ecumenical service for the invading forces and to thank god for being rescued. This shows a certain paralysis and sickness of thought. I am not anti-cleric — some of my best friends are in the church — but certainly I believe that there is a certain dignity that is a right of even the dead.

AIFLD

We see also that the AIFLD, the American Institute for Free Labor Development, is back in the country. They are back in the country giving courses in labor trade unionism. And we see also another fact — they bought two vans for the Seamens and Waterfront Workers Union and paid them money to paint over all the revolutionary slogans. But they could paint over as many revolutionary slogans as they want, the revolutionary slogans are in the

Continued on next page

'We will go forward – on our feet, not on our knees'

Continued from preceding page

heads and in the hearts of the masses. They can never over-paint that.

I must tell you that we are drawing great inspiration from the memory of our leaders, that the Grenadian people, once they overcome the sense of frustration and loss that they have experienced over the last few months, will, in fact, go forward on a course that will see progressive and democratic forces ruling our country again.

But I think most important, being here in the United States on this occasion, I should reiterate the position of our party, our people, and certainly my own position, relative to relations with the United States.

The United States has been a place to which our people have been coming since the turn of the century. Many of them have families here. Many of them repatriate money for which we are grateful. We used to receive many tourists from the United States. And as such we do not have any quarrel with the people of the United States.

At the same time we believe that the United States government shows contempt for small countries, particularly poor countries, Black people.

So we are saying that if we are to have friendly relations, those relations must be dictated, not by the multinational corporations, but must be dictated in partnership with the Grenadian people. We are saying as a condition for this cooperation that the invading army, which caused death and destruction, mutilation to our people, and trampled on the dignity of our soil, must be removed from our country as a precondition for cooperation. So that our country is ours. It's nobody's own, it's ours.

No matter how many guns they have down there, it is the Grenadian people who will decide how long those guns remain and when they will leave. No matter how many guns. Because I can tell you our people are not without courage. We got rid of Gairy. We got rid of England. And I dare say, we can get rid of the United States as well, if our people want to.

The reason why they did not like the Grenada revolution, and the revolutionaries in other parts of the world, is because we did not have just a small island mentality. It is because we liked and conceived the idea of justice. And so we struggled with all progressive, democratic, and revolutionary countries and extended what little solidarity we had to fighters and strugglers throughout the world. That is why the Grenada revolution had to be destroyed.

We are going to continue as our leader, Maurice Bishop, has taught us. We are going to make the sacrifices like those made by Jackie Creft, a woman, dying with the leader. Unison Whiteman, a struggler from infancy to death. We identify with him. With Vincent Noel, champion of the trade unions, with Fitzy Bain, champion trade unionist and revolutionary.

And we are going to invoke those memories to guide us in our work. Because, as the comrade leader taught us, while he lived, a united, conscious, and disciplined people shall never be defeated. We canonize them as heroes and martyrs who will forever be a source of inspiration to our people, not only now, but in the future. And we will go forward with confidence, on our feet and not on our knees.

All power and glory to the people!

Kevin Williams

Workers and farmers government led by New Jewel Movement helped set up farm cooperatives to help in effort to reduce unemployment. At the time of U.S. invasion, unemployment was down to 12.4 percent. "With the restoration of 'democracy,' we have the highest unemployment that we've had for years."

A visit to solidarity groups in Kampuchea

Continued from ISR/5

This group was somewhat larger, 34 families with 250 people. Of these, 77 members carry out the bulk of the fishing. The others tend a vegetable garden that raises corn, watermelon, and peas. Women process the fish into the traditional Kampuchean fish paste, *prahok*, or dry the fish in the sun.

Lach Chhorn, head of this solidarity group, met us at the market port in Kompong Chhnang to take us on the boat trip to Stung Chrouv. He told us that most of the people in the group had always fished for a living. But under Pol Pot, they too had been forced to go to other provinces. "We forgot what fish even tasted like," he recalled.

After the liberation in 1979, the new government made an appeal for people experienced in fishing, mobilizing them into these fishing co-ops. The government gave them boats, nylon for nets, and other material. This group also took out a 400,000 riel loan from the state, and individuals have put in about 30,000 riel of their own.

After the first catch, the group repaid the loans. The fish and fish products are sold on the free market, or directly to provinces like Kompong Speu and Prey Veng that have little fish of their own. During the two big catches of the year, a small proportion is sold to the state at a fixed price, in place of a tax.

This khrom samaki, like all the others, plays a major role in organizing social welfare. It not only divides the crop or catch to provide for the elderly and widows; it also maintains a social fund to build such necessities as schools.

The country's literacy drive was carried out in large part through the khrom samaki. At Stung Chrouv, there are still 50 adults who need to learn how to read and write, but Lach Chhorn was confident they will be able to make a big dent this year. Nationwide, a priority for 1984 is helping all khrom samaki leaders complete primary school–level education.

The solidarity groups have also been key in the health and sanitation campaigns, encouraging people to boil drinking water and use mosquito nets. Those that we visited had not yet been able to build their own clinics, but used facilities in nearby towns and villages.

This khrom samaki had a community house built on stilts over the river where people gathered to listen to the radio or tape recorder, hold meetings, and socialize.

People live in small huts. The khrom samaki plans to help its members rebuild more substantial houses like the ones that lined the river banks before Pol Pot's time.

The organization and extent of cooperation varies widely among the khrom samaki throughout Kampuchea.

In some, like the rice co-op we visited in Kompong Chhnang, nearly all the work is done collectively.

The land may be divided various ways. In the village we visited in Kandal Province, for example, each of the 11 solidarity groups had been given a plot of good, fertile land at some distance from the village, along with a plot of less fertile land closer to the village. The younger workers of the khrom samaki go out together to tend the distant fields, while the older members take care of the plots nearby.

Solidarity groups like these, where the work is done collectively, account for about one-third of the country's khrom samaki.

In other khrom samaki, the farming is done by individual families. The solidarity group is the means for sharing cattle and equipment, for distributing supplies, and marketing. About half of Kampuchea's khrom samaki are like this.

In the rest of the solidarity groups farming is done almost completely by individual familes, although distribution of supplies and marketing are organized cooperatively. These khrom samaki still are the means for organizing social welfare, since all peasants belong to the solidarity groups.

The khrom samaki do not automatically lead from simple cooperative efforts toward socialized collective farming. In fact, as Kampuchea has recovered and peasants have produced a little more surplus, there has been a trend for some to want to farm their own plots, while still participating in collective use of plows, marketing, and purchasing.

The government does not view this as an immediate problem. In a country where people were as brutalized as they were under Pol Pot, the government recognizes that it will only be on a voluntary basis that peasants can be encouraged to work collectively. That will take time, experience, and positive incentives.

In addition, the country's primary goal now is to boost production. So long as the family farms help the country's recovery, the government is not going to hinder them. Moreover, the khrom samaki retain social tasks to maintain the living standards of everyone and prevent too great a differentiation of wealth from reemerging in the countryside.

In general, the khrom samaki have become a solid building block for Kampuchea's future. As Lach Chhorn summarized the experience of the members of the Stung Chrouv group: "In the old days under Sihanouk and Lon Nol there were always rich and poor, with the poor mainly working for the rich. During Pol Pot times everyone became poor. Now we all work together and there are no rich or poor. We are equal and stabilizing our lives and slowly improving our living conditions."

Wang available to speak

Our correspondents Diane Wang and Steve Clark have recently returned from a several-week trip to Vietnam, Kampuchea, Hong Kong, and Japan. Wang is available to speak at public meetings on "Vietnam and Kampuchea: an Eyewitness Report."

To arrange for Wang to speak in your city, call the Militant editorial office at (212) 243-6392.

Pierre Frank: over 60 years of struggle

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Pierre Frank, longtime leader of the French Revolutionary Communist League (LCR), died in the early morning of April 18. Born in 1905, Frank contributed much to the revolutionary communist movement both in France and internationally.

Frank was a union activist in the Union of Technicians in Industry, Commerce, and Agriculture (USTICA). He joined the French Communist Party in 1925. In 1927 he learned about the platform of the supporters of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky inside the Soviet Communist Party. Frank supported this program, which defended the proletarian internationalism of the Communist International in its first five years under the leadership of Lenin. With other French communists, Frank helped launch the first Trotskyist periodical in France, *la Vérité*.

A top-notch communist journalist, Frank contributed many articles to the press of the world Trotskyist movement. At the time of his death, he was a Contributing Editor of *Intercontinental Press*.

Frank also played an important role in building a revolutionary Marxist party in France. He helped found the Communist League (LC) in 1930 and in 1931 became a member of the International Secretariat of the International Left Opposition led by Trotsky. Frank also served as one of Trotsky's secretaries in 1932.

In late 1934 the Communist League publicly decided to send all its members into the Socialist Party where they formed the Bolshevik-Leninist Group (GB-L). Frank and other members of the group were expelled from the Socialist Party a few months later.

At that time differences emerged within the French Trotskyist movement. Frank, along with Raymond Molinier, founded a new journal, *la Commune*. This led to the creation of the Internationalist Communist Party (PCI) alongside the GB-L. Trotsky continued to back the GB-L, but attempted to get the two groups to reunify.

These efforts to heal the split were undermined when Trotsky was assassinated by the Stalinists in August 1940 and by war-time repression against the French Trotskyists. On the eve of World War II both Frank and Molinier were sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Daladier regime. Frank escaped to Britain where, in October 1940, he was arrested and confined in a British detention camp until the end of 1943.

After the war Frank represented the reunified French section at the 1946 World Congress of the Fourth International. He played an indispensable role in holding together a cadre of revolutionary Marxists in France through the difficult years of the post–World War II reaction.

He was active in the struggles against French imperialism's wars in Indochina and Algeria. For his solidarity activities with the Algerian National Liberation Front, Frank was jailed by the French government.

In May-June 1968 there was a massive revolt of students and workers in France. As part of its repressive measures against the rebellion, the French government outlawed the PCI and the Revolutionary Communist Youth (JCR). Frank was jailed for 10 days on charges of plotting against state security.

The PCI and JCR fused in 1969, forming the Communist League, predecessor of the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR), which Frank helped to build and lead until his death.

The following is a solidarity message sent to the LCR from the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party meeting in New York City on April 24.

* * *

The Socialist Workers Party extends warmest fraternal solidarity to the comrades of the Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire at this time when you are paying tribute to our longtime leader, comrade, and friend, Pierre Frank. We celebrate with you his long and productive political life and pay homage to what he contributed to our movement both in France and internationally.

Pierre became a revolutionary communist when he was 15 and for more than 60 years neither imperialist jails, political isolation, nor any of the many other pressures that sap the staying power of those who choose revolutionary proletarian politics as their vocation forced him to flinch or deviate from that course. His steadfastness and his confidence in the capacity of the exploited to overturn capitalist rule has inspired several generations of younger fighters in our movement.

He was a high school rebel, a young activist in the newly-born French Communist Party, a pioneer leader of French Trotskyism, secretary to Leon Trotsky, a prisoner in a British detention camp during World War II, and a longtime member of the elected leadership bodies of the Fourth International.

Pierre was a first-rate communist journalist, and most comrades in the SWP and the International know him best through the many articles that he wrote for the press of the world movement. When *World Outlook*, the predecessor of *Intercontinental Press* and *Inprecor*, began publishing in Paris in 1963, he was one of its contributing editors — as well as always ready to pitch in to assure its production on a shoestring budget. Over the years his many articles published in the pages of *Intercontinental Press* brought the important events of the class struggles in France alive and made them comprehensible for working-class fighters around the world.

Pierre's most indispensable contribution was undoubtedly his steadfast leadership throughout the difficult years of the post-World War II reaction, and his determination to reunify the Fourth International in the early 1960s. His efforts were essential in assuring that there was a party nucleus in France capable of winning a whole new generation of youth out of the revolutionary upsurge of 1968.

Pierre remained active until the very end of his life, writing, participating in meetings of the International, and following closely the discussions and debates of the world movement.

Pierre served for decades on the International Executive Committee of the International, and at the 1979 World Congress this long service was given special recognition. It was an honor for one of the delegates of the SWP to present the motion that was adopted, naming Pierre a consultative member of the IEC, and paying tribute to his many contributions.

We know that Pierre's example will continue to serve as a source of strength to the party he helped to build.

Long live the LCR!

Long live the Fourth International!

Long live the world struggle for a communist future!

Georgia Black leaders hit attacks on SWP

Continued from back page

Joe Beasley of the Jesse Jackson campaign told the audience that Jackson's campaign office in Atlanta had received a bomb threat on the evening of April 11. He stressed unity in fighting these threats. He also spoke about going to see Mayor Young with Maurice Williams the previous week. They were not able to meet with Young, and Beasley drew the conclusion that it was important to have events such as this one to keep pressure on elected officials to take action.

Rev. Ed Loring said violence in this society is rooted in the greed of capitalism and spoke of the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution as an example to fight for.

SWP candidates Winsten and Williams had participated in volunteer work brigades in Nicaragua recently. They described these experiences and the importance of opposing Washington's official terrorism against Nicaragua, which creates a climate for other kinds of attacks on progressive political activists.

They also pointed out that these attacks against their office took place right after they had returned from Nicaragua and had begun to speak out at public meetings and in media interviews in defense of Nicaragua.

Williams zeroed in on the responsibility of the government and police for these attacks. By their inaction they give a green light to violent right-wing groups. By refusing to publicly denounce these attacks, the mayor and governor tacitly condone them. Williams related how when he and others met with the police, the cops said, "Well, you are an unpopular group and some nuts are going to do things like shoot into your office."

The positive response so far to the SWP's 1984 election campaigns from working people, however, is the *real* reason for these attacks on the socialist campaign.

The SWP, the Jackson campaign, civil rights activists like Mary Cater, Mexican workers in Cedartown — two of whom have been murdered by the KKK — and others who have been recent targets of physical attacks are not simply the victims of "nuts," declared Williams.

They are victims of illegal attacks designed to prevent them — and by example all Blacks and working people — from exercising their constitutional rights.

The government, whose police often have agents in the KKK and other rightist groups, is obligated to stop these attacks and bears responsibility if they are not stopped, Williams charged.

He also reported that his employer, ITE Inc., has been threatening to fire him for his political activities. He asked for support against this harassment.

Mary Cater spoke about the lack of response from elected officials at all levels. The Cobb County authorities have branded her a "troublemaker" for her work on behalf of Black rights, and are guilty of condoning the series of attacks on her and her family.

In Greensboro, said Cater — referring to the recent trial of nine rightists who gunned down five anti-Klan demonstrators in North Carolina in 1979 — they had the murders on film and knew an FBI agent participated in the events, "but the Justice Department said there wasn't enough evidence. What do they want?"

Rev. Emory Searcy held up a copy of the Socialist Workers campaign platform and said, "This program benefits you and me and our families. Why did they shoot into their office?

"When they shoot into the SWP office they are shooting into SCLC [Southern Christian Leadership Conference], PUSH, all of us," he said.

Searcy also spoke about the invasion of Grenada as an example of government-sponsored racist terrorism.

Michael Samanga of AFSCME said that despite political differences with the SWP, it was essential to have unity in the face of such attacks.

"If I stand by and let the SWP be attacked, then I am sealing the doom of my own organization," he declared.

Gordon Sellers, the mayor's representative, said Mayor Young deplored the violent attacks and was doing what he could. He objected to any implication that Young had to be forced to defend anyone's rights and tried to depict Young as being part of the "movement."

Rev. Bill Thurston from Atlanta PUSH noted that April was supposed to be "anti-violence month" and said it would be good to see both the mayor and the governor mark this month with a joint news conference condemning the racist violence and the attacks on the SWP.

U.S. Senate witch-hunters smear CISPES

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America and supporters of the liberation fighters struggling against that intervention, have been targeted by anticommunist witch-hunters in the U.S. Senate.

At a March 24 session of the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, subcommittee chairman, Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.), noted the public activities of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES). He asserted that CISPES was tied to the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front–Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR) of El Salvador.

Denton went on to repeat old and discredited charges that the FMLN and FDR were responsible for terrorist bombings in the United States.

Denton asked FBI Director William Webster to testify about CISPES' alleged terrorist connections. Webster replied that he preferred to do so in secret session. Denton obliged Webster by setting such a session for April 3.

Van Gosse, a staff worker in the CISPES national office in Washington, D.C., told the *Militant* that to the best of CISPES' knowledge, the April 3 session did not occur. Whether it was rescheduled is not known.

Gosse emphasized the seriousness of this attack, both for CISPES and for others opposed to U.S. policy in Central America. He characterized Denton's charges as a "witch-hunt . . . intended to prevent us from carrying out our legal, peaceful activity," and aimed at forcing CISPES to turn "time and resources to defending ourselves from unsubstantiated smears."

Denton's claims are "not true on all counts," said Gosse. "We are an organization of North Americans and we decide" on all of the group's activities, "based on our political support for the FMLN and the struggles of the people of Central America." CISPES is a "completely independent" group, Gosse asserted.

The FMLN-FDR, Gosse noted, had answered the false charges concerning terrorist bombings in this country when they appeared last November. At that time a bomb went off in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington. The FMLN-FDR denied any responsibility for the blast.

Gosse also noted that witch-hunts such as those initiated by Denton posed a danger to all solidarity organizations. If the charges against CISPES go unanswered, he said, the same smears can be used against others engaged in antiwar and solidarity activity.

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THE GREAT SOCIETY

Harry Ring

Art of healing — We now have special consultants who advise doctors on how to sell themselves. One such whiz notes that a number of doctors now have video games in their waiting rooms and he urges his clients to put TVs in their examination rooms. "While the patient is waiting," he advises, "the naked man can watch TV." And, with a video camera, could make a home movie.

Science at the service of society — Iben Browning, a climatologist, is an adviser to Paine Webber, the investment folk, who find his climatic observations useful. "When Mount St. Helens blew up," an official recalled, "some people within the firm who were familiar with Dr. Browning's thinking bought grain futures on the rationale that reduced sunlight would cause prices to go up. I understand it was quite profitable."

Enough room in hell? — The Vatican condemned the conception of a child in Australia from a frozen embryo. A church paper explained that obtaining the sperm required masturbation, which the church has declared a "deviation" and grave sin.

We've noticed that — One of the Hunt brothers (the Texas oil folk) grouses that a billion dollars doesn't buy what it used to.

Bigger than the bomb — Col. Sanders' Kentucky Fried Chicken chain (actually a subsidiary of R.J. Reynolds, the coffin nail folk) sold just under 2.7 billion pieces of chicken last year. The colonel's secret recipe is kept under 11 different locks in a fireproof, bombproof vault at corporate headquarters in Louisville.

Fashion tip — For those nippy early spring evenings, Hilditch & Key, a Paris men's clothing shop, features silk bathrobes with shawl collars, satin piping, and tassled belts. Prices start at $600.

See — Initial results of a Transportation Dept. study found that 50 of the nation's 355 airlines have safety-related problems, several of them described as "major." Commenting on the findings, a transportation official declared, "I think it shows the industry's in very fine shape."

Obviously paranoid — What with the traditional "50 minute hour" of psychiatric therapy down to 45 minutes, coupled with assembly line scheduling, criticism has emerged, advises a *New York Times* science article. In fact, the deeply suspicious writer asserts, "Some critics see money-making as the motive rather than care for the patient."

Cultural Intelligence Agency — "I think it's a cultural problem. It's a violent society like most of the societies down there." — CIA director William Casey on the Salvadoran right-wing death squads.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA
Birmingham
Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquín and All Other Refugees! Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born socialist whom government is trying to deport; Mark Curtis, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress; others. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA
Phoenix
Coalition of Labor Union Women: What It Is And Where It Is Going. Women unionists from United Steelworkers of America, American Postal Workers Union, and others will report on issues discussed at the national CLUW conference. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 17 E Southern, South Phoenix. Donation: $2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 268-3369.

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.

Oakland
What Difference Does a Revolution Make: What's Behind the CIA Mining of the Harbors of Nicaragua. Speakers to be announced. Fri., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: $2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

No U.S. Intervention in El Salvador! Speakers: Miguel Zárate, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress; representatives from Casa El Salvador and Casa El Salvador–Farabundo Martí. Fri., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: $2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

FLORIDA
Miami
Defend Haitians Against Reagan and Duvalier. Reports and discussion about poverty and repression in Haiti and situation of Haitian immigrants in United States. Speakers will include Haitian community activist and Miami-area garment industry worker. Translation to Spanish and Creole. Fri., April 27, 8 p.m. 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St. at 7th Ave.). Donation: $1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

The Freedom Struggle in Southern Africa. Speakers to be announced. Fri., May 4, 8 p.m. 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St. at 7th Ave.). Donation: $1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

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.

MICHIGAN
Detroit
May Day 1984 — Hear Socialist Candidates. Celebrate filing 30,000 signatures to put socialists on the ballot. Speakers: Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers candidate for Senate; Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, 1st District. Sat., April 28, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: $2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

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 MEXICO
Albuquerque
U.S. Mining of Nicaragua — An Act of War. Speakers: Angela Delli Sante, Latin America Institute at University of New Mexico; Peter Thomas, Students of Latin America Studies at UNM; Socorro Rios, Santa Fe Clergy and Laity Concerned; Araceli Martínez, Socialist Workers campaign and member of Communications Workers of America Local 8611. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 1417 Central Ave. NE. Donation: $2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

NORTH CAROLINA
Greensboro
Lessons of Grenada: Revolution, Counterrevolution, and U.S. Occupation. *Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again.* Videotape interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm St. Suite 522. Donation: $2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

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 Coaby, 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 Nimtz, 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.

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.

VIRGINIA
Newport News
Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again. Videotape interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to Grenada's murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Sun., May 6, 6 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: $2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston
Rally: Jobs Not War! Kick-off in Boston for 1984 Socialist Workers Campaign for President and Senate. Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; Christine Gavreau, SWP candidate for Senate. Sat., May 5. Reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: $4. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

WASHINGTON
Seattle
Eugene Debs and the American Movement. Film with presentation by Cheryl Hidalgo, member of International Union of Electrical Workers Local 1002 and Socialist Workers candidate for governor. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: $2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Support the Arizona Copper Miners: an Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Dan Fein, laid-off copper miner and member of Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: $2. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA
Charleston
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.

Nicaragua denounces envoy rejection

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Foreign Ministry officials here view the Reagan administration's rejection of their proposed ambassador to the United States, current Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga, as part of Washington's war against this country.

Because Astorga helped the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) bring to justice ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza's second-in-command, the CIA (whose morality leads them to mine harbors here) claims she lacks the moral stature necessary for the job.

(For a more detailed profile of Astorga's revolutionary background, see the April 6 edition of the *Militant*.)

The FSLN daily *Barricada* summed up Washington's decision this way:

"Compañera Astorga is a cadre with a long and heroic history in the struggle against Somoza, a member of the Sandinista Assembly, and a figure of great international prestige for her work carried out as deputy minister of foreign relations. By arrogantly rejecting her nomination, the Reagan administration once again makes clear before international public opinion its lack of interest in establishing mechanisms of communications that will contribute to favoring diplomatic solutions to the conflict between both countries."

Vietnam and Kampuchea: an eyewitness report

A slide show and presentation by Diane Wang, *Militant* correspondent recently returned from month in Indochina.

ILLINOIS
Chicago
Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: $2. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

INDIANA
Indianapolis
Sun., April 29, 4 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: $2. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

MARYLAND
Baltimore
Sun., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: $2. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston
Sun., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. Donation: $2. For more information call (617) 262-4621

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: $2. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WISCONSIN
Milwaukee
Fri., April 27, 7 p.m. 4707 Lisbon Ave. Donation: $2. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Cuban poet on Grenada revolution, invasion

***Grenada Notebook (Cuaderno de Granada).* By Nancy Morejón, translated by Lisa Davis. Círculo de Cultura Cubana, New York City, 1984. Available for $2.50 plus 75 cents shipping and handling from: Ediciones Vitral, 1133 Broadway, Room 1101, New York, N.Y. 10010.**

BY LEE MARTINDALE

Last October, millions of Americans from Harlem to Buenos Aires heard the news that the revolution in Grenada had been betrayed, its leaders murdered, and the island invaded by thousands of U.S. troops.

POETRY REVIEW

The Cuban government and people led working people around the world in responding to these events. Cubans mobilized to mourn the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the other Grenadian leaders and to protest the U.S. invasion. They supported their own internationalist construction workers in Grenada, who defended themselves against the U.S. troops. The Cuban Communist Party explained the events in Grenada and answered the lies of the Reagan administration.

In those first few days, as the events unfolded, the well-known Cuban poet Nancy Morejón wrote a series of poems which, as she says, "breathe the feelings of my people toward the cause that was and is Grenada."

These poems, an eloquent expression of militant solidarity, were published in Cuba in February. They are now available in a bilingual edition titled *Grenada Notebook* from the Círculo de Cultura Cubana.

Morejón read poems from this collecton on April 9 at an event jointly sponsored by the Círculo de Cultura Cubana and the Third World Women's Archives in New York City.

The shock and confusion caused by the murder of Bishop and the betrayal of the revolution by Bernard Coard and his clique within the New Jewel Movement is captured in a poem, "Elegy for Maurice Bishop," which describes an agonized search through the Grenadian capital of St. George's for the truth about what happened. The search discovers not only the betrayal, but also that the example and inspiration of the revolution survive:

. . .
Saint-George's floats in silence
as though it knew beforehand of the crime.
I touched the eyes of the fishermen.
No one could tell me.
I knocked at the door of a church
bullet-riddled and empty.
I touched the lips of an eternal flower
and I guessed the mystery.
The dead man is not dead.
The dead man roars across the savanna.
The dead man breathes in the salt-flats,
he is carried among the people, on their shoulders,
and they set him up above the ark on the hills
and they arm him with a passionate language.
Saint-George's moans in silence
like a child.

I touched the tip of the bayonets
and no one suspected.
I touched the resplendent blood of the fallen
while no one was watching me.
With my small dagger,
I opened up the green amphibians along their back-bone
and treason reigned.
. . . .

The poems also ring with confidence that the people of Grenada will resist, and that they will not be alone:

Requiem
As though it were the apple Eve picked,
Grenada has tempted you,
ranger from hell
and you disembark on her shore
full of whiskey and marihuana.
Point-Salines has already struck at you violently,
now the bitterness of the night waits for you,
now the arms of the people
will teach you their faithful revenge.
The Caribbean recognizes your stance.
The Caribbean recognizes your cunning tricks.
Your helmet over the blood.
Your boot on the sand.
Your bones on top of the shells
and the nape of your neck on the dunghill.
Your mouth, among the palm-groves,
rages and howls in its worn-out spittle.
Ranger of evil,
you belly serves as food for the eagle.

Morejón closed her reading on April 9 by drawing a parallel between Grenada and a turning-point in Cuban revolutionary history: the assault on the Moncada barracks in 1956, which, though it failed, at the same time inaugurated the July 26 Movement's ultimately victorious struggle against the Batista regime. As Fidel Castro said in a statement on the Grenada events issued on Oct. 25, 1983:

"The courageous and heroic Cuban construction and cooperation personnel have written an unforgettable chapter in the annals of international solidarity, but in a larger sense, in Grenada they have been waging a battle for the small countries of the world and for all the peoples of the Third World in the face of a brutal imperialist aggression. They have also fought for the American continent and for their own homeland as if there, in Grenada, they were in the first line of defense of the sovereignty and integrity of Cuba.

"Grenada may become for Yankee imperialism in Latin America and the Caribbean what the Moncada garrison meant to the Batista tyranny."

In this little book of poems, one of the foremost poets of the Cuban revolution gives voice to this perspective and this hope.

Cops brutalize San Francisco antiwar protesters

BY SAM MANUEL

SAN FRANCISCO — Police here brutally attacked a crowd of more than 1,000 people at an April 16 demonstration against Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state under Richard Nixon.

Kissinger played a central role in U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. He recently headed a pro-war, bipartisan commission on Central America for the Reagan administration. Kissinger advocates the direct use of U.S. military forces in Central America.

The demonstration included a large number of young people. It had been called by the Central America Non-Intervention Coordinating Committee, a coalition of antiwar, antinuclear, and Central America solidarity organizations.

The attitude of the police and city administration toward the demonstration could be seen in the large show of force around the Hilton Hotel, where Kissinger spoke. In addition to several dozen cops from the tactical squad and mounted police, another 50 armed cops could be seen at each corner of the block, in the lobby of the hotel, and in the garage area.

Chanting "No troops, no war, U.S. out of El Salvador," about 500 protesters set up a picket line on a sidewalk directly adjacent to the hotel.

As the protest doubled in size, the organizers of the demonstration attempted to move into the streets. The cops responded by riding into the crowd with their horses, scattering the demonstrators. They were followed by units of the tactical squad who poked and shoved people with their riot batons. Many began to leave the demonstration. Hundreds of others were forced by the cops into a nearby intersection.

At this point several hundred of the demonstrators lay down in the intersection and spilled red paint on the street symbolizing the blood of the people of Central America. Hundreds of others stood by chanting slogans against U.S. involvement in Central America and against Kissinger. A group of construction workers nearby gave mixed responses. Some held up their hands in a "V" symbol for peace, or a raised fist. Still others encouraged the police to charge the demonstrators.

After 30 minutes the cops began to clear the streets. Again cops on horseback waded into the protesters, this time taking no care for the safety of the protesters. Several people were injured by the horses.

Larger numbers of cops moved in as many people retreated to a safe distance. The cops continued the chase. I saw one cop on a horse club a demonstrator on the back of the head. The young man fell immediately. The cop rode on, continuing to swing his club indiscriminately. Teams of monitors and medics organized by the demonstrators carried the injured off to safety.

Cops arrested 191 demonstrators. Early official reports were that eight protesters had been hospitalized.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for the 16th State Assembly District, Marilee Taylor, a San Francisco garment worker, condemned the police assault on the demonstration. "The brutal, unprovoked assault by the police upon those protesting U.S. military involvement in Central America is an attempt to silence the overwhelming opposition of U.S. workers and youth to the bipartisan war drive of the Democrats and Republicans," Taylor said.

"The attempt of the capitalist media to smear the demonstrators as violent only takes the spotlight off of those who were really responsible for the violence — the cops and city administration," she continued.

Taylor demanded a full investigation of the police assault and that those cops responsible for attacking the demonstrators be prosecuted.

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New attack on Salvadoran rebels

The FBI's move to link the April 20 explosion at the Officers Club of the Washington Navy Yard to Salvadoran freedom fighters is another slander of them and their supporters in this country.

It is designed to smear the Salvadoran rebels; to build sentiment here for direct U.S. intervention in the Salvadoran civil war; and to try to muzzle opponents of that intervention in the name of combating "terrorism."

The Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES) has been the recent target of exactly such charges (see story page 15).

Responding to the FBI smear attack, a Washington representative of the Salvadoran liberation forces categorically denied any link to the bombing.

The explosion occurred at 1:50 a.m., two hours after the club had closed. The building was deserted.

Soon after, the *Washington Post* and United Press International reported receiving calls from a woman who played a taped message asserting the bombing was a protest against U.S. policy in Central America and the Caribbean, and specifically against U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean.

The FBI then announced that a group calling itself the "Guerrilla Resistance Movement" had taken credit for the act and declared it was "in solidarity" with the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), the united liberation force in El Salvador.

The FBI conceded it had never heard of the organization before and had no concrete evidence to link it to the FMLN.

Francisco Altschul, a Washington spokesperson for the FMLN, said that the movement and its political arm, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), "categorically denies any involvement or responsibility" for the bombing or "any similar incident."

"The FDR-FMLN has never resorted to this type of action in the U.S. and will never do it," he declared.

Any implication of FDR-FMLN involvement, "in this or similar actions," he further declared, "are false and malicious accusations which we reject."

Last November, a similar explosion occurred in the Capitol Building and responsibility was assertedly taken by the "Armed Resistance Movement," another group no one had ever heard of. That incident, too, was used to try to smear the FDR-FMLN.

The FBI said it could not establish a link between that alleged group and the present one, but would not rule out the possibility of such a link.

There are unexplained discrepancies in the public accounts of the present incident.

For instance, the April 21 *New York Times* reports that the FBI and editors at the *Washington Post* and UPI said the taped message named the "Guerrilla Resistance Movement" as taking credit for the act.

But the account given by the *Post* itself is different.

Its story does not mention a "Guerrilla Resistance Movement."

To the contrary, the *Post* report of April 21 said, "It was unclear last night who was responsible for the bombing."

It added that "two news aides and a night editor listened to the brief tape recording but had difficulty understanding its content."

One of the aides described the voice on the tape as "flat, metallic, probably electronically altered."

According to the *Times*, "Reagan Administration officials . . . said they planned to monitor the investigation of the bombing to see if there is any concrete connection to the turmoil in El Salvador."

A recent Reagan directive ordered the military and civilian police agencies to beef up their capacity to deal with "terrorist" threats, with Secretary of State Shultz declaring the government is prepared to take "active" steps here and abroad to thwart attacks that allegedly might be planned.

This is simply a pretext for U.S. acts of military aggression abroad in the name of "national security" and for stepped up political police harassment and terror in this country against antiwar activists and other political dissidents — all in the name of combating "terrorism."

The *New York Times* reported April 22 that, "The Pentagon is now in a position to assume a combat role in Central America should President Reagan give the order. . . ."

The propaganda exploitation of the incident at the Navy Yard and baseless assertion of FDR-FMLN responsibility is part of the preparation for that presidential order.

Washington's declared readiness to send troops to El Salvador confirms, once again, that the real terror center of the world is on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Britain and U.S. smear Libya

Continued from front page

breaking of diplomatic relations. "We support it without reservations," said White House spokesman Larry Speakes. Washington expelled all Libyan diplomats from the United States in 1981.

Libya accurately responded that Britain was "launching a campaign of hatred and racism" against the Libyan people.

On April 17 Libyan exiles and others opposed to Qaddafi's government staged a march on the Libyan embassy. As the demonstrators marched in front of the embassy, shots were fired. A British police officer fell dead and 10 demonstrators were wounded. British cops claimed the shots came from the embassy building.

Libya denies this. Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Salam Turayki called the incident "a fabricated one planned by elements opposed to the Libyan revolution under the influence of the British police."

A Qaddafi proposal that Libya set up an inquiry team to question the embassy's occupants, with the pledge that if any Libyans were involved they would be taken back to Libya and tried before international observers, was rejected out of hand by the British government.

British authorities claimed to be shocked by the shooting. But the *New York Times* London correspondent reported, "As the shots rang out, hundreds of armed police officers quickly ringed the building and marksmen took up positions on surrounding rooftops. . . ."

The rapid gathering of hundreds of British cops points out that perhaps the British authorities were not as surprised by the incident as they claimed.

From the moment of the shooting the Libyan embassy was put under siege as British authorities persisted in their demand that the Libyans allow them to search the embassy. This is a violation of international law which grants foreign embassies immunity from precisely this type of harassment by hostile governments.

Meanwhile, however, Scotland Yard admitted that it was not certain the alleged gunman remained in the embassy. It never offered an explanation for how such a gunman might have escaped beneath the watchful eye of British sharpshooters — if in fact a gunman had been in the embassy at all.

While British authorities may be successful in concealing the real facts about the shooting, imperialist hatred for Libya is no secret. This incident is the latest in a chain of anti-Libyan actions and propaganda orchestrated by the U.S., British, and French governments.

At the root of this campaign is the lie that Libya is responsible for world "terrorism." This lie and the anti-Libya campaign are intended to isolate and discredit the Qaddafi government as part of a longer term goal of overthrowing it and replacing it with one more to imperialism's liking.

Why does imperialism hate Libya?

Qaddafi has opposed key imperialist foreign policy efforts in Iran, the Middle East, Africa, and other countries. He has also forced imperialism to pay a higher price for its exploitation of Libyan oil. The Libyan people have benefited from this higher income from oil through an improved standard of living.

The campaign against Libya also provides a cover for armed imperialist intervention. In 1983 France sent several thousand troops into the African country of Chad to prevent rebel forces from overthowing a proimperialist regime. It did so under the guise of stopping "Qaddafi-sponsored terrorism."

Similar excuses were given for the U.S. decision to send Awacs surveillance planes and other arms to the Sudan last March.

Back in August 1983 Larry Speakes hypocritically declared, "The United States has a strong strategic interest in assuring that Qaddafi is not able to upset governments or to intervene militarily in other countries. . . ."

However it is not Qaddafi who carries out such a policy. It is the *U.S. government which does* — in Nicaragua, Grenada, El Salvador, Lebanon, and elsewhere. The anti-Libya campaign is a convenient cover for turning the victim into the criminal and vice versa.

The deadly danger of the "antiterrorism" campaign conducted by the real terrorists in Washington was reinforced by an April 17 White House statement asserting, "the states that practice terrorism or actively support it cannot be allowed to do so without consequence."

The statement followed reports that President Reagan signed a "National Security Decision Directive" on April 3 outlining a new policy that includes "a switch from defensive to offensive action . . . to stop terrorists before they act," according to the *New York Times*.

The U.S. rulers' stepped-up "antiterrorist" effort has dangerous implications here at home as well. Going "on the offensive" against "terrorists" is equally useful as a pretext for spying on those in the United States who oppose U.S. government policy on any question.

Striking unionists, Blacks fighting racist discrimination, opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America and the Middle East, and women struggling for equality, can all be targeted by government efforts against "terrorists."

The campaign against Libya, and the racist, antilabor drive against "terrorists" should be exposed and opposed by U.S. working people.

1954 'Militant' foresees CIA coup in Guatemala

In June 1954, the CIA overthrew the legally elected government of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala.

Arbenz had tried, within the framework of capitalism, to alleviate mass misery in Guatemala. U.S. investors were particularly enraged when he nationalized some land to parcel out to landless peasants. He further incurred U.S. wrath by including members of the Communist Party in his government.

The CIA was assigned to organize an army of Guatemalan exiles in Honduras. In late June, on signal from the U.S. envoy in Guatemala City, they marched

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

into the country. Arbenz was forced to resign and a military dictatorship established under the U.S.-selected mercenary leader, Col. Carlos Castillo Armas. The land reform was reversed and brutal repression imposed.

In the period preceding the CIA-organized overthrow, political developments clearly pointed to what was being plotted against Guatemala. And it was also known that Castillo Armas was organzing his army of several hundred in Guatemala.

The *Militant* of June 7, 1954, warned of the impending invasion of Guatemala. The following are excerpts.

* * *

At the behest of the brutal, profit-hungry United Fruit Co., the Eisenhower administration is stepping up to a screaming climax its campaign to incite outside invasion and internal counterrevolution against tiny Guatemala.

This impoverished Central American country of less than 3 million people has invoked the wrath of American imperialism by introducing mild agrarian reforms that have affected the property holdings of United Fruit, one of the 10 largest holders of American foreign investments and notorious exploiter of the "Banana Empire" in Central America.

American imperialism is openly encouraging, financing, and arming counterrevolutionary elements among the tiny capitalist and landlord class for a violent coup d'etat.

This campaign of U.S. intervention has been mounting ever since the land reform measures were enacted in 1952.

According to United Fruit Co. officials, by May 1 of this year the Guatemalan government had expropriated from the company a total of 392,945 acres.

All the reclaimed land is untilled jungle that the company had grabbed up under previous corrupt, U.S.-dominated governments. Not an acre of land which the company is actually using to exploit Guatemala labor has been taken.

For the reclaimed land, stolen from the Guatemalan people to begin with, the Arbenz government had deposited in the Bank of Guatemala $1,185,115 as "compensation" to the United Fruit Co.

But United Fruit refused to accept this. It demanded $16,000,000. The U.S. State Department, acting as intermediary for United Fruit, demanded that Guatemala give United Fruit the sum of $16,000,000 — or else.

Against such an outrageous and extortionate claim, Guatemala had no choice but to issue a rejection.

It gave the U.S. State Department a memorandum saying: "The Guatemalan government cannot accept any claim seeking privileged treatment for foreigners, which, under internal legislation, may not be given to Guatemalan nationals."

As a pretext for its threats and pressure, the U.S. government raised the cry of "communism."

Last month, Secretary of State Dulles dramatically proclaimed that Guatemala was the recipient of "a massive shipment of arms from behind the Iron Curtain."

This "massive shipment" boiled down to a mere 1,900 tons of arms, which would scarcely equip the police forces of some U.S. cities.

Guatemalan officials quite properly demanded to know why their government didn't have just as much right to buy arms where it pleased — particularly since the U.S. has refused to sell arms to Guatemala — as the U.S. has itself. To all but the most ignorant, the idea of Guatemala as a military menace . . . is simply ludicrous.

But it is the best excuse the State Department could think of for its attack on Guatemala.

Honduras, which was trying to break a strike of banana workers employed by United Fruit, also clamored about "red infiltration" and threatened to follow Nicaragua's example.

U.S. intervention in Guatemala will be for the purpose of overthrowing a regime backed by the people. It will be armed robbery for the benefit of U.S. capitalist exploiters.

INS cops raid Silicon Valley factories

BY JIM BURFEIND

SAN JOSE, Calif. — On the eve of the April 17 Supreme Court decision upholding the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) policy of conducting unannounced factory raids in search of undocumented workers, the INS marked the opening of new offices here with 19 factory arrests. The arrests were followed by an ominous threat that there would be more to come.

Harold Ezell, regional INS commissioner, charged April 16 that at least 25 percent of the workers in "Silicon Valley" electronics companies here in the South Bay area are "illegal aliens."

Most of the electronics jobs are low-paying and employers are resisting unionization efforts. Increasingly, employers are cooperating with the INS — the hated *la migra* — by fingering employees who are allegedly undocumented.

Protest against the escalating INS raids was voiced by a picket line April 10 in front of the INS office in the recently opened federal building here.

Shouts of "*Raza sí — guerra no!*" [People yes, war no!] and "INS out of San Jose!" could be heard throughout the new complex of buildings.

The protest, with 80 participants, was sponsored by People United for Human Rights and the Bay Area Committee Against the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill. This bill is an anti-immigrant statute now pending in Congress.

Filipino, Chicano, and Central American groups joined with representatives of the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO and members of the Molders and several other unions. The Molders have taken court action against la migra's factory raids.

In March, a record 48 workers were seized at a single electronics plant here. In addition to raids at other electronics companies, workers were seized at the Levi Strauss plant here and at a local tortilla factory. On March 12, in nearby Milpitas, two Filipino workers were beaten by INS agents.

A statement issued at the picket by the sponsors angrily responded to the INS charge that immigrant workers are causing unemployment in the United States.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," the statement declared.

"Atari Corporation laid off hundreds of workers and moved production overseas to parts of Asia where wages are low and workers have few rights.

"Plant closures, runaway shops, and the general state of the economy has caused high unemployment.

"Moreover, the government's priorities to spend more on the military budget and direct support to the repressive Salvadoran and Guatemalan governments has increased unemployment and decreased social services.

"Increased military aid to Central America has, furthermore, resulted in an increase in the number of refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras."

The statement accurately predicted:

"With the opening of the INS San Jose office, more raids can be expected in the South Bay area."

Grenada supporters organize in Michigan

BY ANDREW PULLEY

DETROIT — It was recently reported that Reagan is seeking $40 million in "aid" for Grenada. This is the imperialist carrot now being offered Grenada while the big stick of military occupation and police rule continues.

Try as they may, the U.S. rulers are having a rough time convincing Grenadians and supporters of Grenada elsewhere to turn against the revolution and its martyred leaders, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Here in Detroit recently, organizing efforts have been stepped up to refute Washington's lies. On March 13, a meeting of 40 persons saw slides and heard a poetry reading and discussed the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution. Michelle Gibbs, who taught school in Grenada for three years was the discussion leader. Gibbs was briefly arrested and held by the clique led by Bernard Coard that overthrew the revolutionary government led by Bishop. She was deported from Grenada by U.S. troops.

On March 30, the Committee to Organize the Maurice Bishop and Martyrs of October 19, 1983, Foundation sponsored a showing of the film *The Future Coming Toward Us*, which reviews the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution. A lively discussion followed.

The film was shown the following day at the Republic of New Africa's Nation Day activities, which was attended by 50 people. Donald Telesford, president of the Grenada Michigan Association, and Gloria House of the Committee to Organize the Maurice Bishop and Martyrs of October 19 Foundation led the discussion.

On April 17 at the University of Michigan-Flint the film was shown twice, sponsored by the Anthropological Club. Grenada solidarity activists are now thinking of planning an event to commemorate Bishop's visit to Detroit last June.

LETTERS

Admired Bishop

I am a subscriber to the *Militant*. The March 30 issue carried an article by Larry Johnson reporting on a Toronto meeting in which the Grenada revolution was hailed by a gathering in that city.

I was an admirer and strong supporter of comrade Maurice Bishop, slain prime minister of Grenada.

State Rep. Tarrel R. Miller
Pierre, South Dakota

Helen Keller

Bravo for reprinting Marvel Scholl's illuminating article on Helen Keller (*Militant*, March 23, 1984).

The Establishment, while acknowledging her courage and perseverance, has portrayed her as a simpering Pollyanna — a bland, "Sound of Music," politically neutral character.

The article points out that, despite formidable physical handicaps, Helen Keller was mentally vibrant, politically aware, strong in her convictions, with deep compassion for the oppressed — a truly great human being.

At this moment, when well-meaning but perennially self-deluded liberals are advocating "the lesser of two evils" — i.e. the Democratic candidate over the "Great Communicator" — it would be wise to recall Helen Keller's statement made in 1911:

"Our Democracy is but a name. We vote? What does that mean? It means that we choose between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. . . ."

Helen Keller's statement is truer than ever today.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have cooperated with — and often established — murderous dictatorships all over the world. Both have enlarged the Cold War, poisoned the environment, and been guilty of wide-scale corruption.

Both claim to support minorities. You bet they do! *Their* minorities consist of the super-rich and all-powerful.

I think Helen Keller would understand this and vote the Mason-González ticket.

S.W.
Brookline, Massachusetts

Debate with Republican

While petitioning to put Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot in Clarksburg, West Virginia, this week, one of our petitioners had the rare opportunity to engage in a brief sidewalk debate with a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate.

The well-dressed politician had apparently overheard some criticism of his party as the campaign supporter spoke with several unemployed young people sitting in front of the county courthouse.

"I heard you say something about the Republican Party," he explained as he introduced himself.

"That's right," the socialist replied. "I was saying that your party, along with the Democrats, represents the banks that are throwing people off their farms and the big steel and coal companies that are closing down and leaving our communities to rot.

"You *can't* represent the interests of working people and the many who have been thrown out of work.

"That's why the Socialist Workers Party is running a socialist coal miner against you for U.S. Senate. We think y'all should be kicked out of office and working people should run our own country."

As the onlookers nodded in agreement, the Republican smiled politely and, after an uneasy pause, asked, "What do you think is the number one priority for federal government?"

"We think the priorities for the U.S. people are jobs and stopping you from sending young workers and farmers to die in Central America fighting against working people there who are rising up against the big union-busting companies you represent.

"We say stop the war and put the billions going to the Pentagon into creating jobs and providing health care and other programs that we need."

"You don't think our national defense is the number one priority?" the politician asked with seeming disbelief.

"Defense against what?"

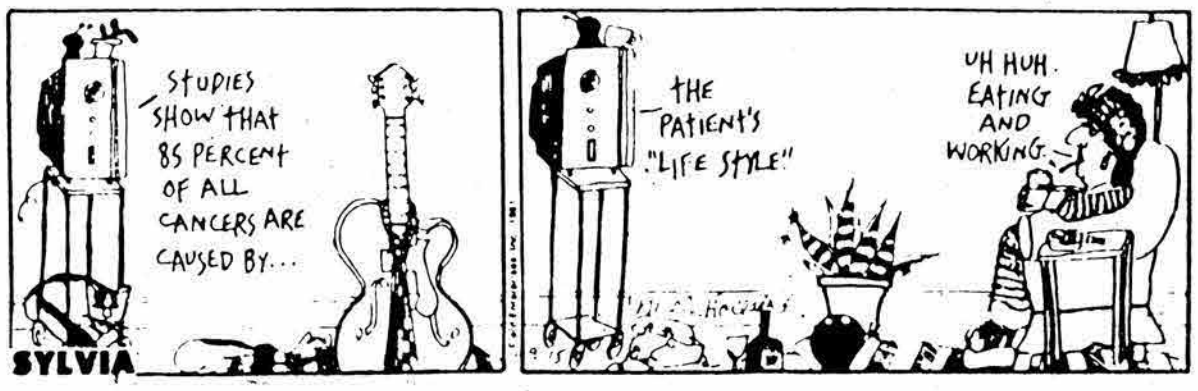
"Against threats to our freedom and liberty."

"The only threat to *our* freedom," the socialist campaign supporter said, pointing to himself and the onlookers, "is from the union-busting, warmongering class of people that you and your party represent."

"Well," the Republican smiled, as several of the onlookers nodded again, "enjoyed talking to you. I like you. I like you."

"I heard it all," one young man said. "Give me that sheet and I'll sign it." After he had signed and taken a piece of literature on the campaign, all the other onlookers — eight or so in all — signed the petition to put the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot.

David Marshall
Morgantown, West Virginia



Farmers and Nicaragua

The recent articles in the *Militant* on the problems of U.S. farmers together with the three-part series in *Intercontinental Press* on agriculture in Nicaragua were a great help for discussion on the job.

I work in a war plant in Birmingham. Some of my coworkers farm on the side. Many of them grew up farming and are now seeing the destruction of the family farm. They are feeling the squeeze at every turn.

The way the Nicaraguan government and the Nicaraguan peasants are expanding food production is in stark contrast to what goes on in this country.

Priorities such as improving nutritional standards, cutting out the middlemen by adding more state-run stores, the formation of cooperatives — these are attractive to farmers.

The *facts* of the revolution in Nicaragua help to point out the problem with the U.S. government. Whose side is the government on when it tries to wipe out the small farmer? As one coworker said, "They just care about the big ones, not about the little people."

Little by little these facts help U.S. workers understand the plight of workers and farmers struggling for their basic needs in the underdeveloped world, especially if it's something they can relate to, like the problem of agriculture. It builds solidarity.

Sonja Franeta
Birmingham, Alabama

Racist frame-up

Since Aug. 11, 1981, Zola Agona Azania (Rufus Averhart) has been illegally held for a crime that he has no knowledge of.

On May 25, 1982, he was sentenced to death on trumped-up charges of fatally shooting a cop after a bank heist in Gary, Indiana. Because of his politically conscious activities and principled expressions of social artistic reality depicted in many of his paintings and drawings, Zola was a marked man. He became the victim of a racist frame-up.

The obvious plot to murder this brother is the continuation of the notorious Cointelpro (Counterintelligence) conspiracy of the FBI. The oppressor government will do to this beloved comrade exactly what they are intending to do if he doesn't get the prerequisite support. We must not let that happen!

Several prominent attorneys have expressed deep concern in this case, but lack of funds is a problem. For more information contact: Henry B. Rothblatt, attorney, Suite 208, 901 SE 17 St., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33316 and Rufus (Z. A. Azania) Averhart, Death Row #4969, P.O. Box 41, Michigan City, Ind. 46360.

Donna B. Azania

Prison labor

Support is urgently needed to help end slave-like labor and forced labor conditions in Attica prison and other major New York state prisons.

Prison industries steal production from labor unions and sell products at meager prices, displacing outside workers. Prison industries are not governed by OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] regulations and ignore state safety laws.

All persons are welcomed in this struggle, especially typists, clericals, lawyers, teachers, or other concerned workers. Help unionize prison labor or abolish it.

Most Blacks and Hispanics wind up in prison due to lack of decent jobs. Prison industries continue to displace said jobs. So the vicious cycle continues.

Contact Ronald Davidson, #76A166, Attica Prison Special Housing Solitary Unit, Attica, N.Y., 14011.

Ronald Davidson
Attica, New York

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

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

THE MILITANT

Ga. Black leaders hit attacks on SWP

'When they shoot SWP offices they are shooting SCLC, PUSH, all of us'

BY RICK CONGRESS

ATLANTA — On Saturday morning, April 14, more than 60 people attended a protest rally here against a recent series of attacks on the Socialist Workers Party's Atlanta campaign office.

The rally was held at the Tabernacle Baptist Church and the theme was "Stop terrorist attacks." The Atlanta chapter of Operation PUSH turned over its regular Saturday morning meeting for the event.

The socialist headquarters has been shot into three times between March 10 and April 7.

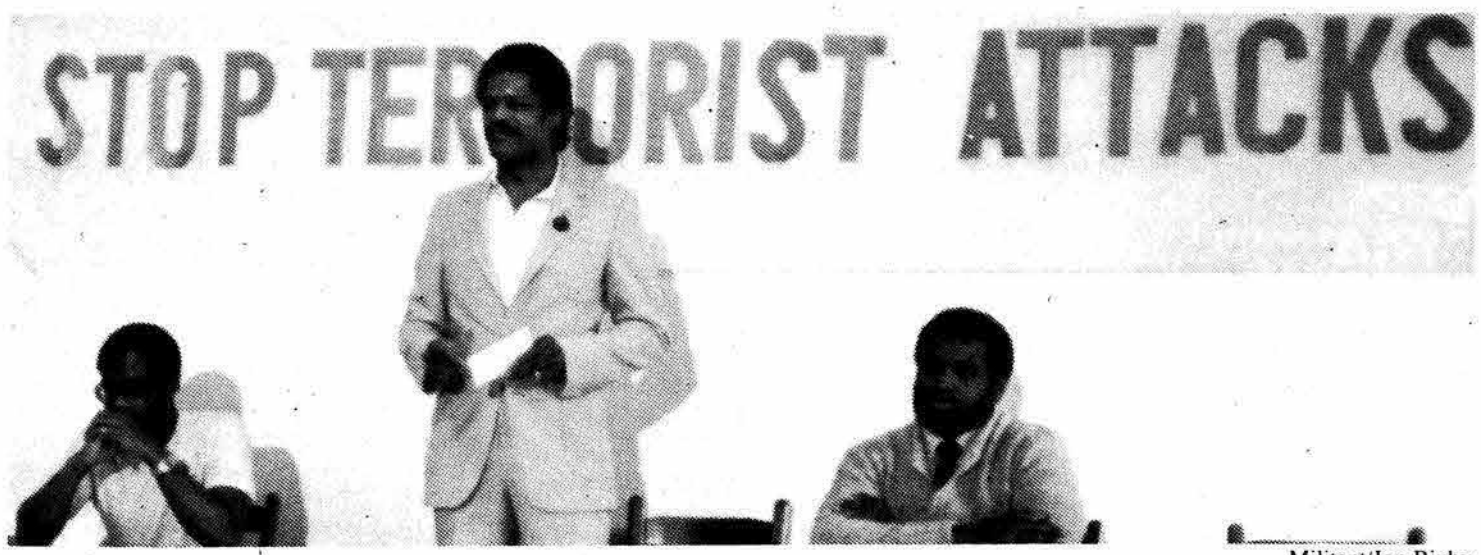
The Socialist Workers Party is running Maurice Williams for Congress in the 5th Congressional District and Susan Winsten for U.S. Senate. They are backing SWP candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González for U.S. president and vice-president.

The rally was an impressive show of unity in the face of the attacks.

The candidates, their supporters, and those who support their democratic right to run for office free from harassment and violence have demanded that those responsible be arrested and that Mayor Andrew Young and Gov. Joe Frank Harris make public statements condemning the attacks.

So far, these attempts have been unsuccessful.

While the rally focused on the attacks against the SWP, it also highlighted the role of the federal government, including the FBI and local police agencies, in fostering terrorism against the people of Central America and against Black activists and unionists here at home.



Militant/Jon Bixby

Rev. Bill Thurston, executive director of Atlanta PUSH, addresses antiterror protest rally. At right, cochair Maceo Dixon; at left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, Maurice Williams. Many participants and their organizations had been victims of racist and right-wing violence. Meeting stressed need for unity in combating it.

The rally also addressed the recent wave of racist violence by the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia.

The rally was cochaired by Rev. Bill Thurston, executive director of Atlanta PUSH, and Maceo Dixon of the SWP.

The broad speakers list included: Rev. Ed Loring of the Open Door Program for homeless people; Mary Cater of the Cobb Country NAACP; Maurice Williams and Susan Winsten; Rev. Emory Searcy of Clergy and Laity Concerned and the Coalition of Conscience; Joe Beasley, deputy director of the Georgia Jesse Jackson campaign; Michael Samanga, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) staff and a leader of the New Justice Movement; Ken Miliner, National Black Independent Political Party; Robb Lutton, Atlanta Committee on Latin America; and David Christian, Antiwar Organizing Committee.

Messages of support were read from the National Anti-Klan Network and the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia.

The mayor's office sent Gordon Sellers as a representative.

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Garment workers oppose Marroquín deportation

BY SAM MANUEL

SAN FRANCISCO — On a nine-day tour in the San Francisco Bay area, Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born unionist and socialist, gained new support for his fight against Washington's efforts to deport him.

The tour here March 28–April 5 took on a special urgency because the U.S. Supreme Court, which could now rule on Marroquín's appeal for political asylum any day, had just reconvened.

Marroquín's visit here also came just as the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is coordinating Marroquín's defense, launched an emergency campaign to force the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to grant Marroquín a permanent residence visa, or green card, based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen.

If the Supreme Court rules against Marroquín, he will have only 48 hours to leave the country voluntarily or face deportation to Mexico. If he is forced to leave the country before he gets a green card — which the INS is stalling on — he would have to reapply for it from outside the United States, a much more difficult procedure.

Here, as in the other places he has been during his spring national speaking tour, Marroquín got a warm welcome from fellow unionists.

Marroquín and his supporters went out to factory gates and talked to workers about his case and urged them to sign petitions to the INS demanding that he be granted his right to stay in the United States.

Marroquín was well received at the Kar Kar Electronics plant, which is organized by the International Association of Machinists Lodge 1327.

Later that day, Marroquín spoke with Kar Kar workers at the home of one of his supporters who works in the plant. Like Marroquín, many of these workers are immigrants who are personally familiar with brutal attacks on their rights by the INS and the companies.

Many of these workers signed petitions for Marroquín.

In an inspiring moment of solidarity, they gave Marroquín a message written in three languages: English, Chinese, and Greek.

It said in part "We are very glad to know you. Here at work we are from many countries: Greece, Mexico, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Philippines, Guatemala, El Salvador. . . . We all respect your right to live, and we welcome you here."

Supporters of Marroquín reported that a big discussion and debate about Marroquín's fight against deportation had broken out among workers at the large Koret garment manufacturing plant organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The work force there is largely Spanish- and Chinese-speaking. Marroquín had been featured the previous day on Channel 14, a Spanish-language TV station in the Bay Area.

Some Nicaraguan rightists who are opponents of the Sandinista government and work in the plant attempted to smear Marroquín as a terrorist and criminal. They were taken on by other workers from Central America who saw Marroquín's fight as a fight for the rights of all immigrant workers.

Among those here supporting Marroquín's fight are: Jim Herman, president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Ignacio de la Fuente, Molder's Union president; Charles Lamb, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 2 president; Michael Houston, executive vice-president of the Oakland United Teachers Local 771; and Rudy Meraz and Mary Petersen, president and secretary-treasurer of the Graphic Communications Union Local 3-B.

Marroquín also spoke before the Committee in Support of Trade Union Rights, a coalition of unions in the Bay Area. It voted to send a message of protest to the INS.

Members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245 signed Marroquín's petitions after hearing him speak at their membership meeting.

Marroquín also spoke to 75 students at the largely Black and Latino Freemont High School.

PRDF is urging supporters of Marroquín's case to send messages demanding that the INS give Marroquín his green card. They should be addressed to Commissioner Alan Nelson, INS, Washington, D.C., 20536, with a copy to PRDF, Box 649, New York, N.Y. 10003. Contributions to defray the costs of the case are also urgently needed.

Marroquín will be wrapping up his spring tour with a stop in Birmingham April 28–May 1 and Atlanta, May2–5.

S.F. labor supports Las Vegas strikers

BY SUSAN JAMES

SAN FRANCISCO — As part of a national day in solidarity with striking hotel and casino workers in Las Vegas, Nevada, 200 unionists and others rallied here April 19. The march and rally was called by the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union Local 2.

Also participating were unionists from the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), the Service Employees International Union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, and the teachers' union.

Chanting "Support the Las Vegas Strikers!" the demonstrators marched to Crocker National Bank and from there to the San Francisco Hilton Hotel. Crocker National Bank is the major bankroller behind the Hilton Corp., being a leading holder of Hilton stock.

The Las Vegas Hilton has been among the most notorious of the hotel chains in attempting to break the strike and in calling out the cops to violently attack the pickets.

The strikes began April 2 when union contracts with the Nevada Resort Association (NRA) expired. More than 17,500 workers were forced out on strike by the hotel-casino owners.

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.

Among those addressing the San Francisco solidarity rally were Charles Lamb, president of ILWU Local 2; Jack Crowley, secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council; John Henning, executive-secretary of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; and representatives of the Alameda Central Labor Council and of local community groups.

Henning explained that this strike was "about dividing the share of profits between capital and labor, without whose hands there would be no capital." He called on the candidates of the Democratic Party to publicly state what hotel they would be staying in during the Democratic National Convention in July and where their headquarters would be. The labor movement is urging boycotts of the Hilton, Ramada, and Holiday Inn chains.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, Mel Mason, participated in the demonstration and told those attending of Mason's full support to the Las Vegas strikers.

They explained that he was using his campaign to spread the word about the strike and build solidarity among working people.