

Dominican revolt hits U.S.-imposed austerity

BY FRED MURPHY

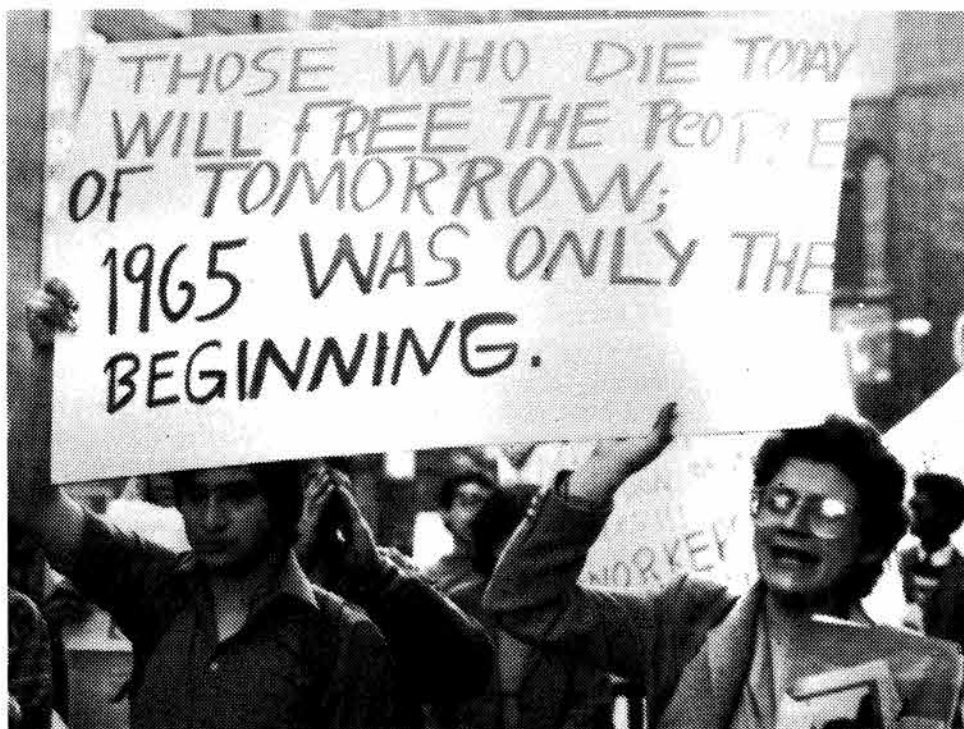
The Dominican Republic — hailed by President Reagan as “a beacon for freedom-loving people everywhere” — exploded into massive rebellion April 23–25. Tens of thousands of workers, unemployed youth, and housewives took to the streets, outraged by hikes of up to 100 percent in the prices of essential food items, which the Dominican government ordered at the behest of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the course of the largely spontaneous protests, many people helped themselves to foodstuffs and other consumer goods in stores and supermarkets. One bank was reported burned, and a police station was assaulted. In several provincial cities, the local headquarters of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) were sacked. Barricades of burning tires went up in the poor and working-class neighborhoods of Santo Domingo, the capital of the Caribbean nation of 5.7 million.

The regime of Pres. Salvador Jorge Blanco responded with massive force. Army troops and police were deployed against the protesters. Indiscriminate firing by government forces took the lives of more than 60 Dominicans. Some 200 suffered gunshot wounds, and more than 4,000 arrests were reported.

Among those detained were Dominican Communist Party General Secretary Narciso Isa Conde and other leaders of the Dominican Left Front. Julio de Peña Valdez, general secretary of the General Workers Federation (CGT), was placed under house arrest.

The regime also moved against news media outlets that were providing on-the-spot coverage of the mass protests. Four radio stations and one television station



New York City protest April 26 in solidarity with rebellion in Dominican Republic. Sign refers to 1965 revolt in that country. Andrea González (right), SWP vice-presidential candidate, joined picket (see page 4).

were forced by the military to suspend broadcasting.

A one-day work stoppage called for April 25 by the CGT and four other union federations — including the PRD-affiliated General Union of Dominican Workers (UGTD) — attained widespread participation. But the regime's huge show of force succeeded in squelching further street protests on that day.

The unions are demanding higher wages; a rollback in price increases on

food, medicine, and imported goods; and prosecution of those responsible for the more than 60 deaths during the rebellion.

Plans by the CGT and other unions for a mass rally and a “march against hunger” in Santo Domingo on May 1 were cancelled after the regime warned it could not “guarantee the security” of participants. Instead, the CGT called on all Dominicans to remain in their homes between 6:00 a.m. and noon and to wear black armbands in memory of those gunned down by the armed forces.

The rebellion by Dominican working people was touched off by a series of austerity measures announced April 19 by the Jorge Blanco regime. At the heart of these was a shift in currency-regulation policy that tripled the price of most imported goods overnight. At the same time, government subsidies on essential food items were sharply reduced, forcing immediate price rises of 35 percent on bread, 40 percent on wheat flour, and 100 percent on cooking oil. Milk prices also rose substantially.

These measures had been demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as preconditions for the disbursement of the second portion of a three-year, \$455 million loan designed to help the Dominican

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Latin Americans mark May 1

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans took to the streets on May 1 — International Workers' Day — making loud and clear their opposition to U.S. domination of the continent, the intolerable austerity demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the many U.S.-backed dictatorships in the region.

Sandinista Commander Jaime Wheelock addressed the main gathering in Nicaragua, which was held in the northern agricultural center of Chinandega. (The *Militant* will carry coverage of Wheelock's speech in a coming issue.)

Meanwhile, in El Salvador, more than 3,000 workers took to the streets of the capital for the first time in four years, albeit under heavy police “escort.”

The five trade union federations represented joined mothers of the “disappeared” in a mass for thousands who have been assassinated for their political beliefs. Three of the federations denounced the upcoming election run-offs as a “farce and insult to the people.”

The largest demonstration in South America was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, where 300,000 (one-tenth of the country's population) demanded “freedom, jobs, higher wages, and amnesty” from the dictatorship.

The Chilean military dictatorship was also confronted by large crowds — 100,000 in Santiago. The demonstrators were forced to build barricades to defend themselves. Initial figures report some 30

Chileans wounded and another 80 detained.

Chanting, “Democracy yes, hunger no!” some 100,000 Bolivian workers marched in La Paz. May 1 marked the second day of a four-day general strike in Bolivia in protest against recent attacks on the living standards of Bolivian workers.

In Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, the streets were deserted — except for the military apparatus which remained there in force after leaving more than 60 dead last week during protests against recent price increases imposed by the IMF. Workers stayed in their homes in protest and mourning, as union leaders met with Pres. Salvador Jorge Blanco about increasing wages and lowering prices.

In Honduras, 30,000 demonstrated against the presence of some 2,000 U.S. soldiers in their country, against the IMF, and against generalized government corruption.

In Costa Rica, where railroad workers and bank workers are out on strike, the May Day slogans focused on “No to the IMF dictatorship.”

In Lima, Peru, where city workers have been on strike for higher wages for the past week, it was announced that state workers would go out on strike as well the following day.

In revolutionary Cuba, half a million workers paid homage to internationalist construction workers recently killed by South African-backed rightists in Angola and pledged to continue their solidarity with the struggle of working people all over the world.

Campaign launched to sell Bishop book

“I have absolutely no doubt that one of the major factors responsible for all of the aggression and hostility against the revolution in Grenada being shown by the United States government is precisely the fact that they recognize that being a small Black country, with a large Black population, and . . . English-speaking, that it becomes a lot easier for Blacks and other oppressed nationalities in the United States to identify with our goals and our aspirations. And that must be a real problem for them. It must be.”

Maurice Bishop

July 15, 1980, interview

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Maurice Bishop, the slain prime minister who headed Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government, was the central leader of the Grenada revolution. His murder and the subsequent U.S. invasion of the island last October sparked a discussion among working people — especially Blacks — about the achievements of the PRG.

That discussion continues today. In fact, more people than ever know about and are discussing the Grenada revolution's accomplishments and its overthrow.

An invaluable contribution to this exchange is the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, published by Pathfinder Press. Supporters of the Grenada revolution have been selling this book, which contains all the major speeches by Bishop between 1979–1983. The book also has the October 20 and 25 statements of the Cuban government and Communist Party, and the November 14 speech of Fidel Castro on the execution of Bishop and his supporters and the U.S. invasion that followed.

Since publishing *Maurice Bishop Speaks* last December, Pathfinder Press has been carrying out a major promotional effort to distribute the book. This drive received important backing when the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, meeting in New York City April 21–26, decided to open a 10-week campaign of the entire party to aid Pathfinder's promotional efforts. This SWP leadership meeting was the first national gathering of the party since *Maurice Bishop Speaks* was published.

SWP members and supporters across the country will be building book-launching meetings sponsored by Pathfinder Press. Other public functions organized by the publisher, such as cocktail parties, receptions, and public forums will also be im-

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New antiunion conditions set by GM-Toyota at Fremont plant

BY JEFF POWERS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — “As a new and independent company, our policies and labor relations will differ from those that existed when General Motors owned the

For editorial on General Motors' profits, see page 14.

Fremont facility. None of the former agreements with GM apply to us.”

This is from a March 30, 1984, letter recently received by members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) who were formerly

employed at GM's assembly plant in Fremont, California. GM shut the plant down in 1982. The letter “is an invitation to you to submit an application form for employment with New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. — the Toyota-GM Joint Venture.”

At an April 9 meeting organized here by the UAW, 500 Fremont workers, who are now working at GM plants in the area, learned how serious the GM-Toyota offensive against the union is and what it may mean for wages, benefits, work rules, and union rights. They learned too that winning back a job at the Fremont plant — and returning to their families, friends, and

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY MARY SELVAS

The Albany, New York branch of the Socialist Workers Party recently had a discussion aimed at figuring out how to organize our sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at area plant gates so that we could most effectively reach out to industrial workers in the Capital District with our ideas.

The discussion focused on two main questions: How do we organize ourselves so that we can have every member selling at a plant gate every week? Which are the most important plants for us to sell at?

We found that with some of us starting work at 6:30 or 7:00 in the morning and because it takes at least a half hour to drive to and from our sales locations, it's hard to sell at factories other than where we work. So we did some investigating and found that there were at least two places where Monday-through-Friday workers could sell on Saturday or Sunday: a General Electric plant and the Amtrak diesel shop.

We made a list of eight places to sell, plus one back-up place in case of rain. Of the plants we chose, two are organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, two by the United Steelworkers of America, one by the United Auto Workers,

and three by the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE).

The General Electric plant in Schenectady has the biggest concentration of industrial workers in the Capital District, with around 600 workers organized by IUE Local 301. It's an important union looked to by other workers in the area as the biggest and strongest union around.

The challenge before us was how to sell there. The main gate is where most of the cars drive in, but there is no walk-in traffic to the plant. So we had to figure out how to sell to workers in the cars driving in.

Our first team, which started about three weeks ago, thought it would be best to sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the traffic light nearest the factory entrance. There are two lights right by a viaduct near the main gate, so two people stood at each light.

At our first sale we took a large sign with us that said, "Money for Jobs, Not for War — Read the *Militant*" and a leaflet which explained what the *Militant* is.

We also brought leaflets about the socialist presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González which explain a little more about

who they, and we, are and that the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are their campaign's newspapers.

The first week we distributed 30 leaflets and sold one *Militant*.

The second week we gave out 60 leaflets and sold 5 *Militants*.

We have to sell during those few seconds while the light is red. We walk between the cars talking to as many folks as we can in that time, then jump on the sidewalk as the light turns green.

Several of my former coworkers (I was laid off from this GE plant last August) say hello as I or someone else on the team walks up to their car. My former shop steward bought a *Militant* from me and asked how I was doing and why didn't I stop by a union meeting sometime.

Another worker I used to talk with about socialism smiled and took a leaflet.

The Young Socialist Alliance is also participating in the plant-gate sales, and a young woman who recently joined the YSA sold her first *Militant* to a worker at the Ford plant in Green Island.

SWP and YSA members are enthusiastic about our plant-gate sales, even though we don't sell large quantities of papers. We are maintaining these plant-gate sales while we're increasing our sales in



Schenectady, New York, General Electric plant. Albany socialists have begun selling 'Militant' to workers at GE gate every week.

working-class districts during the spring *Militant-Perspectiva Mundial* sales drive.

Ninety per cent participation in weekly sales at the plant gates — including the help of an active

supporter of the SWP — is about the norm for our branch, with the usual cases of people sometimes unable to participate due to illness or a sudden change in work schedule.

Campaign launched to sell 'Maurice Bishop Speaks'

Continued from front page

portant vehicles for distributing *Maurice Bishop Speaks* to the broadest audience possible.

Don Rojas, a former press secretary to Bishop, has urged supporters of the Grenada revolution to mount a campaign to sell *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Last January 29, Rojas was interviewed on WHUR radio in Washington, D.C. He explained that the book is a "very reliable and a unique document. . . . It contains previously unpublished speeches by Maurice, and the selection of the speeches is, I think, well done, reflecting the history of the Grenada revolution over the four and a half years from March 1979 until October 1983. . . .

"*Maurice Bishop Speaks*," said Rojas, "is a well put together effort and it deserves the widest possible circulation throughout North America."

Rojas helped to do just that by participating in a March 13 rally in Toronto,

Canada, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Grenada revolution. Joining him on the platform was Ricky Singh, former editor of the *Caribbean Contact*, and other speakers.

Sixty copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* were sold at the rally, which was attended by 350 people, and more than \$1,200 was collected for the Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983, Martyrs Foundation.

The Toronto rally also heard greetings from U.S. Rep. Ronald Dellums, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Dellums and other members of the caucus have been sympathetic to the Grenada revolution. U.S. representatives John Conyers and George Crockett, for example, were instrumental in organizing Bishop's visit to Detroit in June 1983.

During that visit Bishop was praised by the Detroit City Council, which passed a resolution giving "the utmost respect to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop for the vast improvements he has overseen in his country since taking office in 1979. . . ."

Such support for the Grenada revolution from prominent individuals shows the potential for building broadly-sponsored meetings or other events to launch *Maurice Bishop Speaks*.

Another example of the broad support that can be won for distributing the book

was shown in Australia on March 13. At a book-launching rally in Melbourne, a member of parliament and the Australian Labor Party (ALP) urged that *Maurice Bishop Speaks* be distributed as widely as possible in the labor movement. The meeting also received solidarity messages from three prominent left-wing ALP Members of Parliament.

Trade unionists, activists in the solidarity movement with the Central American revolution, Black rights activists, and fighters for women's liberation should all be approached to participate in activities to launch the book.

Maurice Bishop Speaks is the property of all supporters of the Grenada revolution. The National Black United Front, for example, has been selling the book at events it has organized in solidarity with Grenada.

Organizers for the Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983, Martyrs Foundation in New York City were selling the book at a February 26 rally to hear Kenrick Radix, a former minister of the People's Revolutionary Government. Pathfinder Press is encouraging supporters of the Grenada revolution to order bundles of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* to sell in their local areas (see ad below).

As Bishop pointed out in his July 1980 interview with SWP leaders Steve Clark,

Andrew Pulley, and Diane Wang, the U.S. government's hatred of the Grenada revolution was based, in part, on the revolution's appeal to U.S. working people, especially Blacks.

Speaking at Hunter College in New York City in June 1983, Bishop repeated this point. He also said the U.S. State Department had a secret report that said "the Grenada revolution is in one sense even worse — I'm using their language — than the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions because the people of Grenada and the leadership of Grenada speak English, and therefore can communicate directly with the people of the United States."

Reaching out to U.S. working people with *Maurice Bishop Speaks* is the best way to introduce them to the program of Grenada's revolutionary leadership. Educating U.S. workers about the gains made by Grenadian workers and farmers once they had political power in their hands is essential to deepening opposition to the U.S. occupation of their country.

Moreover, the Grenada revolution is a shining example of what U.S. working people need to do — take political power out of the hands of the employers and use it to construct a socialist United States and a socialist world.

SPECIAL OFFER TO MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS

"Maurice Bishop Speaks"

This collection of interviews with and speeches by the slain prime minister of Grenada also includes an introduction explaining the events that led to the overthrow of the revolution, Bishop's assassination, and the invasion by U.S. troops.

We are offering the book to subscribers for a special price of \$4 (a \$2.95 discount!).

You can also participate in getting this important book out to others by ordering a bundle of 3 or more copies for \$3.50 each.

Please ☐ begin ☐ renew ☐ extend my subscription:
☐ 3 months/\$6 ☐ I am enclosing an additional \$4.00
☐ 6 months/\$15 for a copy of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*
☐ one year/\$24

Name _____

Address _____

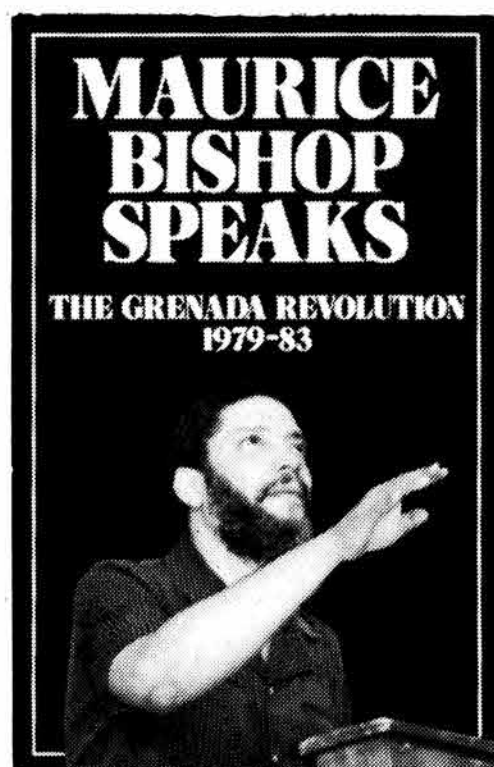
City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Union/Organization _____

☐ Enclosed is \$ _____ for a bundle of _____ copies of the book at \$3.50 each to sell to friends and coworkers (minimum of 3 copies).

☐ Enclosed is \$3 for a 12 week introductory subscription (book offer not available).

Mail to: *Militant*, 14 Charles Ln., New York, N.Y. 10014.



The Militant

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U.S. military practices invading Cuba



U.S. has occupied Guantánamo base in Cuba since beginning of this century. U.S. rulers have refused to return land to Cubans and use it as permanent base for intervention in region.

BY HARRY RING

The ominous nature of Washington's military buildup against Cuba was underlined with the launching of "Ocean Venture."

This massive naval and air operation in the Caribbean includes the provocative landing and evacuation exercise at Guantánamo Naval Base, the U.S. installation on the island of Cuba.

The Ocean Venture operation began April 20 and is slated to end May 6.

Involving 30,000 troops and 350 ships, Ocean Venture is tied in with the escalating

Some 30,000 protesters demonstrated in San Juan, Puerto Rico April 29 against the use of Puerto Rico by the U.S. Navy in the "Ocean Venture '84" maneuvers, which include a mock invasion of Cuba's Guantánamo Bay. Demonstration organizers said the U.S. maneuvers are preparation for an invasion of Nicaragua and that Puerto Rico would be used as a launching pad for such an attack.

U.S. military buildup in Honduras and the Grenadier I exercises being conducted there.

The Honduran operation facilitates the increasingly open direct U.S. role in the war to overthrow Nicaragua's revolutionary government. And it's conducted with an eye to open U.S. troop intervention against the Salvadoran people in the civil war there.

The Ocean Venture war games include landing "reinforcement" troops at Guantánamo Bay. One of their functions is a

trial run evacuation of 300 dependents of Guantánamo personnel by air to Florida.

U.S. naval occupation of Guantánamo Bay began at the turn of the century when Washington had fastened its colonial rule on Cuba. Cuba was compelled to sign a "lease" granting the United States perpetual use of Guantánamo.

With the victory of the revolution in 1959, the new Cuban government demanded Washington dismantle the base and withdraw its troops from Cuban territory. Confident of its armed might, Washington has arrogantly refused to do so, maintaining the base there as a dagger against Cuba.

Meanwhile, as Reagan railed against government-sponsored "terrorism," UNITA, the South African-U.S. puppet force opposing the Angolan government, took credit for an April 19 bomb attack in the town of Huambo in Angola.

According to the Angolan government, a car bomb was driven into a building where Cuban health, education, and construction workers resided. The report said 14 Cubans and 10 Angolans died in the blast.

The Cuban government charged April 26 that Washington was complicit in the attack.

The Cuban statement was reported as declaring that the "paws of the Central Intelligence Agency" and the "ominous footprints of its agents are printed all over this brutal terrorist act."

Cuban soldiers and civilian workers are in Angola at the invitation of the government there.

Washington has persistently demanded the Cuban troops be withdrawn — obviously, to leave Angola at the mercy of South African aggression.

Nor is Washington interested in promoting aggression only by its junior imperialist partner, South Africa.

As the Ocean Venture maneuvers were being conducted at Guantánamo, the Cuban government invited journalists to observe the exercise from a nearby area.

An escorting Cuban military officer, Capt. Oscar Rousseau, commented that the show of force made him "think of an orchestra that rehearses, then performs."

Socialists take 'Militant' to textile workers

BY SANDI SHERMAN

Socialist campaign supporters in Atlanta took the Socialist Workers Party election campaign to the Fieldcrest Textile Mill in Columbus, Georgia, last week. Campaigners had petitioned in Columbus to put SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González on the ballot in Georgia, but this was their first visit to the textile mill there.

They distributed campaign literature to the mill workers, who are organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), introducing the socialist campaign of Maurice Williams for U.S. Congress and Susan Winsten for U.S. Senate. Winsten, as the Fieldcrest workers, is a member of the textile workers union. Williams belongs to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 2127.

Twenty-two workers at Fieldcrest bought copies of the *Militant*. Many were particularly interested in the articles on the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi trial in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the Las Vegas hotel strike. They also wanted to know more about the activities and program of the SWP.

Socialist workers campaigning in other cities are meeting with an equally good response.

Socialist Workers Party branches and Young Socialist Alliance chapters have adopted sales goals so far totalling 31,626 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM) for the course of the eight weeks' spring sales drive.

Many areas adjusted their weekly goals for the second week of the drive, which coincided with the Easter holiday weekend. However, a number of areas reported higher sales results than they had projected.

Cleveland sold half again as many papers as they had planned; Houston sold 126 papers (31 over their weekly goal) including 51 copies of PM.

Indianapolis socialists sold almost as many while they were petitioning to get socialist candidates on the ballot as when they're not petitioning.

These results indicate the receptivity to the *Militant*'s and PM's socialist views.

Socialist campaigners in Chicago took advantage of the Friday, April 20, holiday and organized campaign teams at shopping

centers around the city. They reported selling 106 papers in just two hours.

The next evening, 150 people attended a memorial meeting for Ahmed Sékou Touré, the recently deceased president of Guinea, sponsored by Supporters and Friends of Guinea, Operation PUSH, and 40 other organizations. Ed Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 1st Congressional District of Chicago, attended the meeting and sold 20 copies of the *Militant*. Many people who bought the paper were especially interested in a feature article on the recent military coup in Guinea and attempts to wipe out the legacy of the Touré regime.

Nelson González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, campaigned with a team of his supporters on a downtown Chicago street corner, where they set up a table covered with campaign posters for Mason and González. Twelve people bought copies of the *Militant* and several expressed interest in the Pathfinder Press book about the Grenada revolution, *Maurice Bishop Speaks*.

Many urged the socialists to set up the table on that street corner the next Saturday, so they could buy the book.

Special efforts continued to reach the Spanish-speaking section of the U.S. working class. Socialists in Albany, New York have been looking for ways to introduce Spanish-speaking workers in their area to PM.

On Saturday, April 28, they sent a campaign team to Amsterdam, New York, about one hour north of Albany. Amsterdam is the site of Coleco, a toy factory where several members of the SWP used to work. There are a number of textile mills in Amsterdam, which used to be a rug and knitting mill center. It is also a big center for the Latino community in the area.

Socialists sold 11 copies of PM that day, a number of which were bought by Latinos attending a dominoes tournament at a local club which drew people from several cities.

Through discussions with Latinos they met in Amsterdam, as well as those they work with in Central America solidarity activities, Albany socialists have now compiled a list of places in their area to sell PM at.

Supporters of the SWP campaign who live in cities where there are no branches of

the SWP are also participating in this drive.

If you would like to join in the campaign to introduce the socialist alternative to working people in your area, contact the socialist campaign headquarters nearest you (see directory on page 12), or call the *Militant* circulation office in New York City at (212) 929-3486.

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #2: Totals as of *Militant* issue #15, PM issue #8)

Area	Eight-week Goal <i>Militant</i> /PM	Sold So Far <i>Militant</i> /PM	Total Goal/Sold	%
Seattle	760/40	283/12	800/295	37
Milwaukee	800/160	311/43	960/354	37
Newport News, Va.	400/0	145/0	400/145	36
Chicago	900/300	352/51	1,200/403	34
Seaside, Calif.	320/200	107/57	520/164	32
Albany, N.Y.	704/56	227/6	760/233	31
Greensboro, N.C.	360/0	106/0	360/106	29
Los Angeles	840/880	308/191	1,720/499	29
Houston	555/195	139/79	750/218	29
San Diego	375/125	103/33	500/136	27
Albuquerque	480/120	139/25	600/164	27
Toledo	800/40	217/3	840/220	26
Phoenix	600/320	162/79	920/241	26
Denver	800/56	210/12	856/222	26
Minneapolis/St. Paul	1,120/80	288/13	1,200/301	25
San Francisco	755/325	189/82	1,080/271	25
Philadelphia	640/160	158/40	800/198	25
Dallas	400/200	77/75	600/152	25
Baltimore	800/0	201/1	800/202	25
San Jose	480/80	98/36	560/134	24
Washington, D.C.	515/105	114/26	620/140	23
Oakland	800/120	170/40	920/210	23
New Orleans	720/80	166/17	800/183	23
Miami	720/80	167/19	800/186	23
Louisville	450/0	104/0	450/104	23
Virginia, Minn.	500/0	117/0	500/117	23
Portland	320/160	87/20	480/107	22
Cleveland	675/70	159/3	745/162	22
Birmingham	600/0	129/0	600/129	22
Atlanta	760/40	151/1	800/152	19
Morgantown, W. Va.	520/0	77/0	520/77	15
Salt Lake City	400/40	54/9	440/63	14
Price, Utah	336/24	50/1	360/51	14
Indianapolis	760/0	107/0	760/107	14
Detroit	1,040/40	152/0	1,080/152	14
Cincinnati	600/0	72/0	600/72	12
Kansas City	650/25	73/1	675/74	11
Charleston, W. Va.	450/0	49/0	450/49	11
Pittsburgh	850/0	80/0	850/80	9
Boston	640/160	68/7	800/75	9
New York	1,600/550	95/31	2,150/126	6
St. Louis	*/*	171/0	*/171	0
Newark	*/*	75/11	*/86	0
Total sold		6,307/1,024	7,331	

*Goal not yet adopted

Mason in Utah — workers respond to his ideas

'Doggone right working people should run the country'

BY GEORGES SAYAD

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah tour of Mel Mason, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, reached out to workers, Latinos, Blacks, immigrants, students, and others from all over the state.

The first meeting on the tour was held in Orem, where Mason was able to meet a number of immigrant and other workers from the area. Mason explained what a government run by workers and farmers in the United States would do in relation to Central America.

The Salt Lake City Young Socialist Alliance played a central role in organizing Mason's tour in Utah. As part of this effort, the YSA has been organizing meetings to hear the tape of Mason's speech at a rally at the YSA's national convention last December. After hearing the tape, some leaders of the Black Students Union at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City decided to organize a meeting for Mason there. Several students attended, including a Black worker from the Chevron oil refinery. During this meeting there was a discussion on Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic Party nomination and the U.S. war drive. Nine campaign supporters attended a reception in Salt Lake City where they were able to talk to Mason more informally.

Central to Mason's tour was talking to workers at plant gates in and around the Salt Lake City area. Mason was able to meet oil workers at the entrance to the Chevron refinery, where some campaign supporters work.

At Mode-o-Day, a garment factory organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), Mason got a warm response as he talked to people on their way in to work. A campaign supporter had been publicizing the campaign on the job so people were already somewhat familiar with it.

Mason and his supporters also visited the Kennecott copper mine near Salt Lake City. Members of the SWP have regularly been out at this plant gate publicizing the campaign. The previous week, Cecelia Moriarty, a coal miner from Price, Utah, and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Utah, had been campaigning among the workers at the Kennecott mine.

Mason and his supporters had good discussions with these workers, who bought six copies of the *Militant* and four copies of the socialist pamphlet *Steelworkers Under Attack*.

"I'm for working people running the country. I'll vote for you even though I don't think you'll win. Anyone who's for changing the country I'm for," said one worker who bought a *Militant* and a pamphlet.

Another worker said, "Doggone right working people should run the country, and they should run places like this [Kennecott] cause they're just being run for the rich."

Price, Utah, is a coal mining town and a base for the United Mine Workers of America. Mason is the first socialist candi-

date for president to tour through Price since Farrell Dobbs ran as the SWP candidate for president in the early 1960s.

Twenty people attended a campaign rally in Price, including two Black workers and a Latino city worker. The rally also heard Leyla Martí, a leader of the Provo Committee in Solidarity With the People of Central America.

Mason spoke to many workers outside Koret, a garment factory in Price organized by the ILGWU. Workers here received leaflets on Mason's appearance before he came and were interested in meeting him.

The highlight of the Utah tour was the rally held in Salt Lake City on April 14, which was attended by 50 people from various parts of the state.

Moriarty began the rally by explaining, "Tonight we are celebrating the successful completion of Mel's tour throughout Utah and the completion of our petitioning drive for ballot status."

Linval Lewis, a Jamaican antiwar fighter who was one of the first to speak out against the U.S. invasion of Grenada, expressed his solidarity with the Socialist Workers campaign. "If you want to know where the beef is, just read Mel's platform, he's got the beef," said Lewis.

A Salvadoran worker and leader of the Provo Committee in Solidarity With the

Continued on next page



Mel Mason, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, addressing rally in Orem, Utah. Many Utah workers liked his call for a workers and farmers government in United States.

Seattle SWP headquarters fire bombed

BY BILL OSTEEN

SEATTLE, Wash. — On April 26 at approximately 2 a.m., the headquarters of the Seattle Socialist Workers Party was set on fire by arsonists, causing thousands of dollars in damage.

From April 18-24, Nazi vandals had nightly defaced the headquarters with Nazi stickers bearing a local post office box number. They also spray painted "Go back to Russia" across the storefront. The police said there was nothing they could do and that the SWP should "call up the Nazis and talk it over man to man."

On April 19 in Everett, Washington, the Feminist Women's Health Center was fire-bombed for the third time by foes of abortion rights.

A statement released by Diane Hale, director of the Everett women's health center, said, "Organizations such as the Feminist Women's Health Center and the Socialist Workers Party can be burned — can be burned more than once — but courage, freethinking, and determination to have choices cannot be destroyed."

Why the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters was selected for the arson attack was made clear by Cheryl Hidalgo, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Washington. Hidalgo, a member of International Union of Electrical Workers Local 1002 and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, spoke at a news conference

held at the headquarters the morning of the arson attack.

"When we announced our campaign several weeks ago," Hidalgo said, "we made clear our intention to use our campaign to speak out in defense of abortion rights, against racist violence, against the U.S. war in Central America, against union-busting, and for a labor party and a workers and farmers government."

"The Nazis, and other right-wing terrorist groups, want to disrupt our petitioning campaign to get on the ballot. They want to suppress our antiracist, prolabor, pro-abortion rights, and prosocialist views. But we will not be intimidated. This attack is not just an attack on the SWP as a political party, but also an attack on the Black community, the women's rights struggle, and the entire labor movement."

The racist nature of the attacks on the SWP is clear. The campaign's first public forum was on the police execution of Robert Baldwin, a Black former Boeing worker who was shot 30 times by Seattle police after a fight with a cop who was trying to evict him from his apartment be-

cause he owed \$110 in back rent. The cop died in the course of the fight. When a leaflet for this meeting was posted in the headquarters window, the first Nazi stickers began to appear. A picture of Hitler was also plastered over a portrait of Malcolm X that was in the window.

Mark Manning, Socialist Workers candidate for 7th Congressional District, read a statement demanding a full police investigation and calling on Mayor Charles Royer and the Seattle City Council to condemn the attacks. This was signed by many prominent leaders from the Black community, women's rights groups, and unions.

Also speaking at the news conference was Helen Keuster, representing the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Santiago Juarez, Chicano activist and immigration attorney; and actor John Gilbert. The news conference got major media coverage in Seattle and Tacoma.

The Socialist Workers candidates then went to Mayor Royer's office to demand that the cops arrest and prosecute those responsible for the attacks.

L.A. SWP office bombing protested

LOS ANGELES — On Tuesday, April 24, the Los Angeles headquarters of the Socialist Workers campaign was fire-bombed. "Fortunately, campaign volunteers had left the building a brief time before the attack and escaped injury," explained Socialist Workers candidate for County Board of Supervisors District 2, Naomi Bracey. Bracey held a press conference on April 27 to denounce the attack.

Other supporters of democratic rights were also on hand to express their outrage, include striking garment workers from Southern California Davis Pleating Co.

"Even though the remains of two firebombs were found on the scene, the fire department arson unit says that no investigators are being assigned to find those responsible," reported Bracey.

A representative of the Los Angeles Fire Department's arson unit informed the SWP that while the case is "open" it is not "active." He said that no investigators had been assigned to the case, nor does the department have any intention of assigning any. After all, he said, the SWP is a "communist workers party" and must have thousands of enemies. "We can't go on a fishing expedition," said the representative.

"This act of political violence," said

Bracey, "was directed not only against my campaign, but against all those who oppose U.S. intervention in Central America, racism, and union-busting in the United States."

Others have been victims of similar attacks here recently. Last year, Casa Nicaragua was severely damaged in a fire bombing by rightist counterrevolutionaries. Earlier this year, the offices of Trade Unionists for Jobs and Peace were broken into. No one was prosecuted in either case.

Speaking at the press conference, prizewinning playwright Donald Freed said there is a "long history of attacks in Los Angeles against workers and Black rights organizations. . . . The source of terrorism is from authorities like the red squads."

Jim Cushing-Murray, vice-president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1222 noted that this "comes on the heels of the Greensboro acquittal" of nine Klanners and Nazis in the shooting deaths of five civil rights and labor activists and "the mining of the harbors of Nicaragua." Also speaking at the press conference was Ron Wilkins, from the Patrice Lumumba Coalition.

Bracey is demanding that those responsible for this crime be apprehended and prosecuted immediately.

Dominican solidarity actions in N.Y.

NEW YORK — Two demonstrations in solidarity with the recent popular rebellion in the Dominican Republic took place in New York City. On April 26, about 250 people picketed the Dominican consulate.

On April 29, there was another march — this time in the Dominican community in Manhattan. An estimated 500,000 Dominicans live in New York City.

Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Andrea González participated in the April 26 protest.

González and socialist presidential candidate Mel Mason sent a solidarity message to the Dominican trade unions and other popular organizations.

"The root cause of the crisis lies in the imperialist domination, by U.S. employers, of the Dominican Republic," declared Mason and González.

"This policy of imperialist exploitation is also a policy of war. When working people dare to rise up against their oppres-

sion and against the tyrannies that maintain their exploitation, the U.S. and its allies respond with their armed might," they continued, referring to the 1965 suppression by the U.S. Marines of an armed uprising of the Dominican people and the current U.S. war against the peoples of Central America.

"U.S. workers and farmers don't want war. Our interests lie in promoting solidarity among working people internationally and joining with you to end war and exploitation. Rather than pouring our resources into the U.S. military machine, U.S. workers want to send real aid — machinery and technology — to our brothers and sisters in Latin America. U.S. farmers want to cultivate the land to help feed the world's people."

"We pledge to campaign to get out the truth about your struggle and to fight against imperialist domination of the Caribbean and Latin American peoples."

West Virginia petition drive completed

BY RON RICHARDS

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — The West Virginia drive to get the socialist candidates on the November ballot was successfully completed April 21.

The goal of the drive was to gather well over the 7,500 signatures required by law to put the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot and to talk to West Virginians about the program the Socialist Workers candidates are running on. Campaign supporters collected almost double the necessary number of signatures.

The socialist ticket includes Mel Mason for U.S. president, Andrea González for vice-president, and Joan Radin for U.S. Senate.

John D. Rockefeller, IV, one of the richest men in the United States, is the Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Senate. He is currently the governor of West Virginia.

Hatred of Rockefeller runs deep in this state. Many people signed the petitions when they heard that a socialist coal miner was challenging Rockefeller. Radin is a member of Local 2271 of the United Mine Workers of America.

On a two-day trip to Martinsburg, the largest population center in West Virginia's eastern panhandle, socialists gathered more than 500 signatures and sold 30 *Militants*.

The first stop was a garment complex organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). Twenty signatures were collected in a few minutes. In later discussions with gar-

ment workers at a shopping center, the team learned that there are 1,000 ILGWU members in Martinsburg.

Most of West Virginia is too mountainous to be good farmland. Martinsburg is the only place where petitioning teams have run into large numbers of farm workers, who, in this area, include Blacks, Latinos, and whites. Some live in the area all year long, while others come up from Florida.

This is the season for pruning in the apple orchards, which is done on a piece-rate basis. One Black pruner was eager to buy the *Militant* and wanted to know if the Socialist Workers Party had an office in Martinsburg.

Alabama notables support SWP ballot status

BY BOB SCHWARZ

BIRMINGHAM — The Socialist Workers Party has filed more than 12,000 petition signatures with the secretary of state to put its candidates on the Alabama ballot. More than 9,000 signatures were collected during March for presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González. People signed from 60 of the 67 counties in Alabama.

More than 3,100 also signed to put the SWP on the ballot in the Birmingham-area 6th Congressional District.

The petitions were filed by Martin Boyers, SWP candidate for governor in 1982. Boyers was representing congressional candidate Mark Curtis, who was denied time

off from work by his employer, Hayes International.

At a news conference in front of the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Boyers called the Hayes action "an outrageous denial of the democratic right of a worker to run for public office" and pledged a vigorous effort to win the right of Mark Curtis to campaign.

In a statement released at the news conference, Curtis called on Secretary of State Don Siegelman to accept the signatures and put the candidates on the ballot. "For the Socialist Workers Party candidates to be on the ballot is more important than ever," he explained, "since ours is the only campaign that calls for an immediate, unconditional, total halt to the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua."

In addition to the thousands of signatures, campaign supporters have also obtained statements of support for the socialists' ballot rights from many prominent Alabamians.

These include Rev. Abraham Woods, president of the Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference; E.D. Nixon, organizer of the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott; Mary Weidler, executive director of the Alabama American Civil Liberties Union; Michele Wilson, president of Birmingham National Organization for Women; Perry Varner, one of the fired deputy voter registrars in Selma; Grover Smith, National Field officer of the NAACP; J.L. Chestnutt, civil rights attorney; and Georgia Fleming, editor of the *Irish American Voice*.

Siegelman, a liberal Democrat, likes to pose as a proponent of fair and open elections. But Curtis declared: "If Mr. Siegelman is truly concerned about fair elections, he



Militant Elizabeth Lariscy (left), Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in Toledo, Ohio, talks with reporter about her support to Nicaraguan revolution.

would take action against the firing of Black deputy voter registrars in Selma. He would join the fight against racist gerrymandering of local elections. And he would honor the wishes of the thousands who signed these petitions and immediately certify the Socialist Workers candidates for president, vice president, and Congress."

Ohio candidate visits Nicaragua

BY MARIAN McMANUS

TOLEDO, Ohio — A press conference was held here on April 20 where Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 9th District,

announced her plans to visit Nicaragua at the end of April.

Calling for an end to U.S. government support to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, Lariscy, a member of United Auto Workers Local 12 (Jeep Unit), told several TV and radio stations of her intention to tour Nicaragua to express solidarity with the workers, peasants, and Sandinista government there. She pointed out that her union is opposed to covert and overt U.S. aid to rightist Nicaraguans fighting the government.

Ohio supporters of Mel Mason and Andrea González, the SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates, are petitioning to get the SWP on the ballot in the state. To open this drive, González is speaking at a campaign rally here on May 5 at the UAW Health and Retirees Center.

Mason in Utah — workers respond to his proposals

Continued from preceding page

People of Central America explained, "I congratulate the Socialist Workers and Mr. Mason for standing up to the most powerful oligarchy in the world. I want to speak of the positive consequences a socialist government can have in this country, of the future policies of a workers and farmers government in this country. Such a government will promote sincere, honest aid, will promote development in our Central American countries. Therefore, it can be deduced that a workers and farmers move-

ment in the U.S. will have its repercussions in our countries. I want to encourage you all to support Mel's campaign."

Other speakers supporting the campaign included Asya Munir, a member of the Executive Council of the local Black Students Union, and Rogelio Martí, a leader of Casa El Salvador in Utah.

Kari Reddington, a YSA member, explained that the Socialist Workers campaign is a campaign of struggles. "I'm in the unusual position of having scored a victory for women and all working people

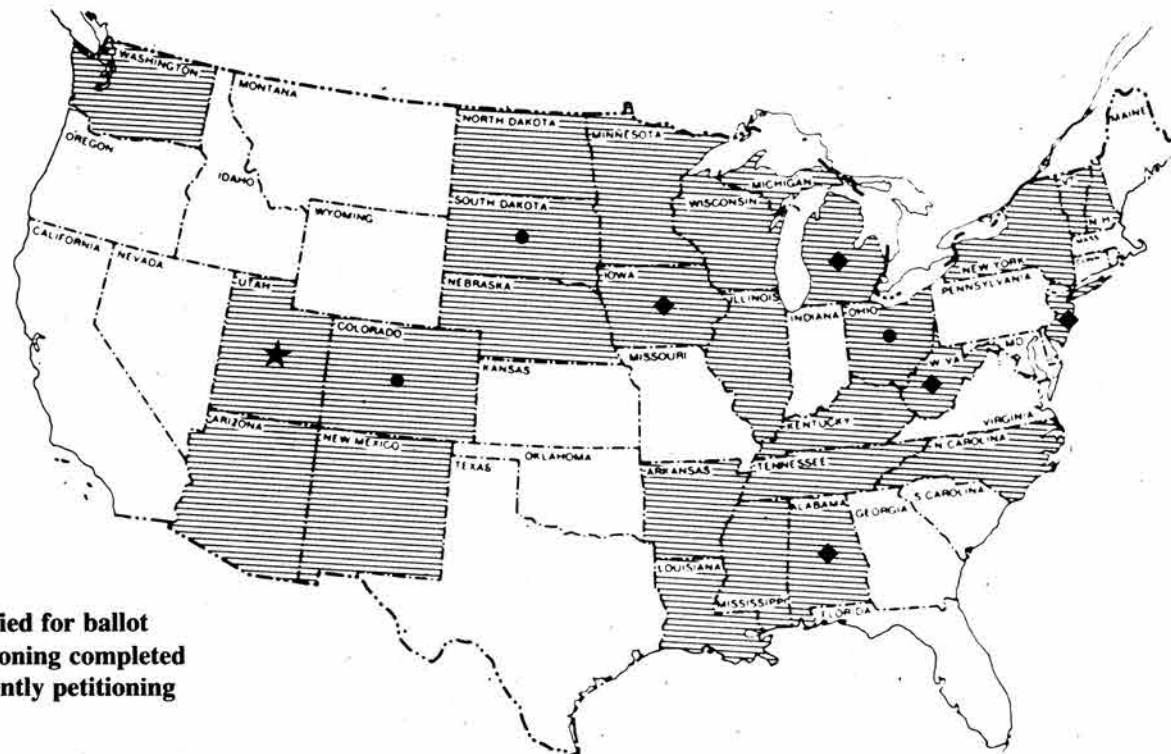
against an oil company," she said. Reddington was fired five-and-a-half months ago from her job at Phillips Petroleum simply for being a woman. She decided to fight, taking her case to her union — the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers — to the local chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Organization for Women, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The company backed down and rehired her.

"Mason is the only alternative working people have. He supports struggles like

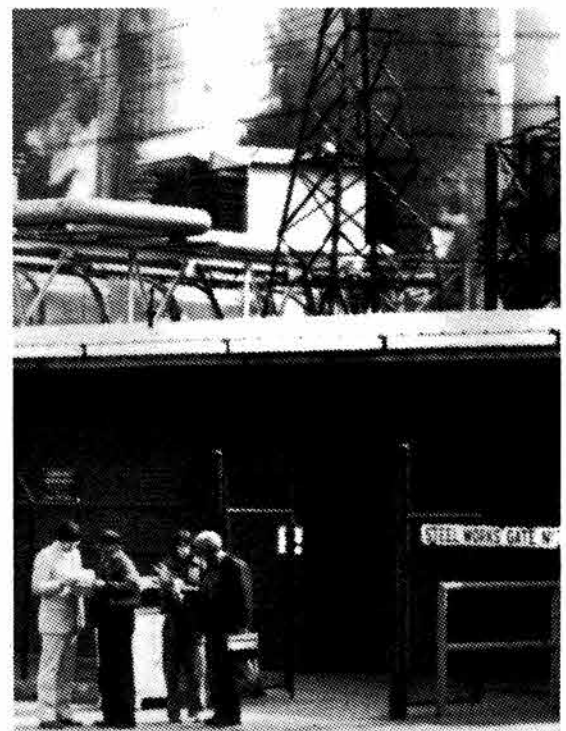
mine against Phillips," continued Reddington.

A young Latin American garment worker addressing the rally explained, "I never thought I would learn about the struggle of the working class, about socialism in the biggest capitalist country in the world. I did thanks to leaders like Mr. Mason." She continued, "I support Mr. Mason, not because he supports Costa Ricans or Nicaraguans or Bolivians or Americans, it's because he supports the working class in the whole world."

Put Mason & González on '84 ballot!



- ★ -certified for ballot
- ◆ -petitioning completed
- -currently petitioning



Petitioning for socialist candidates outside steel mill in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Join national petition drive now!

Supporters of Mel Mason, Andrea González, and other Socialist Workers Party candidates are required by undemocratic ballot laws to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures on petitions to place them on the ballot in 27 states (shaded) and Washington, D.C. Petition drives in May will include Illinois, Ohio, Colorado, Nebraska, Kentucky, South Dakota, Mississippi, Vermont, and Tennessee. Volunteers are needed. To help, contact the campaign headquarters nearest you (see socialist directory, page 12).

Socialist machinists discuss 2-tier wages, new attacks on union

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

OAKLAND — More than 25 members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance who are active in the International Association of Machinists (IAM) throughout California gathered here April 7 and 8 to discuss the problems confronting their union and workers in the state's massive aerospace-war industry.

Those attending work in IAM-organized plants in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Seaside, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, socialist machinists from Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, were invited as guests.

The aerospace-war industry dominates California's industrial economy, and the IAM is the main union that organizes this industry. Hundreds of thousands of workers are employed by such aerospace giants as Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, General Dynamics, and the many hundreds of smaller subcontracting firms.

Discussion at the Oakland meeting was initiated by a report outlining the political activity of socialist workers on the job and in their union and touching on some of the political questions they have been grappling with.

The reporter, a newly hired worker in the San Francisco Bay Area war industry, detailed the wide variety of issues confronting aerospace workers, including the recent wave of cutback contracts forced on them beginning last October.

Two-tier wage scale

A major provision of these contracts has been the introduction of a two-tier wage system. Under the two-tier structure, new hires' wages can be as low as 50 percent of current employees' pay, with no prospect of catching up.

Contracts containing the two-tier structure were forced upon IAM and United Auto Workers (UAW) members at Boeing, Lockheed, and McDonnell Douglas in the most recent round of negotiations in the aerospace industry. Two-tier structures were also part of numerous contracts negotiated between the IAM and many smaller companies — both aerospace and non-aerospace — last spring.

"Fundamentally, the two-tier wage structure represents a wage cut," the report explained. "What disguises this is the fact that often the wages of current employees aren't cut. But for the work force as a whole, it is nothing but a wage cut."

Furthermore, it was explained, the two-tier structure opens the union up for further

attack, undermines the solidarity of the membership, and paves the way for driving the wages of the entire union down to the level of the second tier.

The union's top officialdom, several participants noted, has helped sell this wage-cutting scheme in a number of cases. "It won't affect you, so don't worry about it," is the approach of many IAM officials to this takeback.

This approach has helped to sow considerable confusion among union members about the two-tier structure.

Jan Aragon, an IAM member from San Diego, told of the experience of aerospace workers at Teledyne-Ryan, organized by the UAW, where a two-tier structure was narrowly accepted by the membership last year.

Since that time, Aragon explained, management has been on a campaign to force higher-paid workers out the door through firings and layoffs and to replace them with lower-paid new hires.

A new division among workers

Even where the consequences of a two-tier structure are not so immediate, participants at the meeting noted, a severe danger to the entire union is posed. Acceptance of this wage-cutting formula undermines solidarity within the union and diminishes the union's attractive power.

In essence, a new division is created between first-tier and second-tier workers, which the bosses can use as they use existing divisions among workers — Black and white, male and female, young and old, skilled and unskilled — in order to sow disunity and derail the struggle of the working class to defend itself.

Lee Artz, a member of IAM Local Lodge 1518 at Aircor Corp. in the East Bay Area, described how a two-tier contract has sown divisions at his shop. "The newer workers are resentful as hell," when they find out how much more money other workers are getting. "They often get angry at the union. 'What good is the union,' they ask, 'when it went along with slashing our wages.' This attitude makes them susceptible to antiunion propaganda by the company."

Theresa Delgadillo, a member of IAM Local Lodge 562 at FMC Corp. in San Jose, explained that discussions about the probable impact of a two-tier contract became widespread at her plant prior to the expiration of the old contract last month.

"At first hardly anybody knew what a two-tier contract would mean. But as the discussions went on," Delgadillo said,

sign the forms. Local members would then vote on whether to rescind a contract provision making union membership a condition of employment at Douglas.

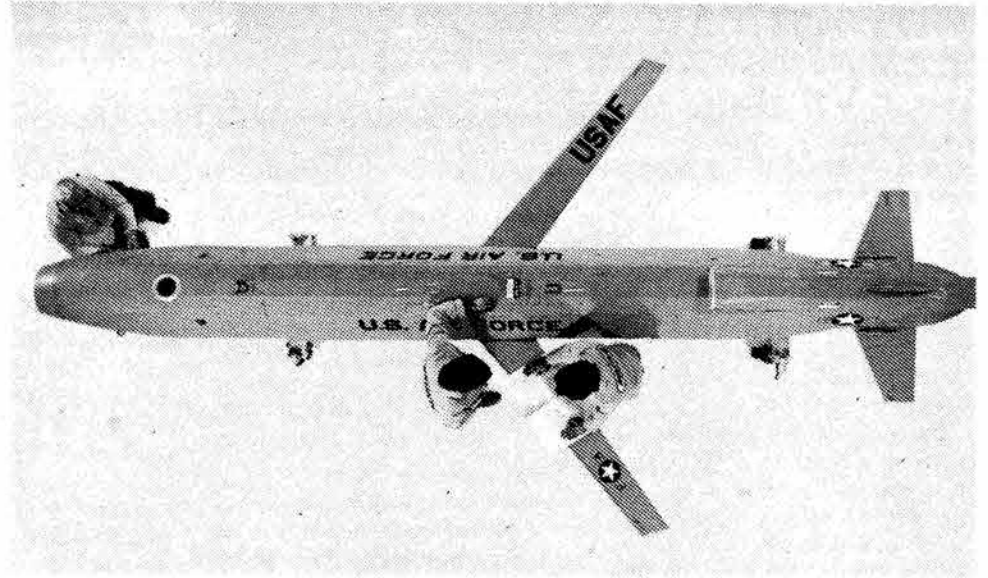
A successful deauthorization drive would make UAW Local 148 "only about half as strong," says local vice-president C.D. "Ski" Cibulski. "And when the next contract is negotiated, the company could do anything it wanted to. We wouldn't have the strength to stop them."

Douglas spokesman David Eastman has denied that the company is using the law firm for the "deauthorization" campaign. A law partner in the firm has refused comment.

In addition, a number of union members have petitioned international UAW leaders alleging misconduct by Local 148 officials in preparations for the local's May 1984 elections. The petition is asking that the union be put in receivership, that is, run by an administrator from the international. Local 148 officials have circulated a counterpetition.

"They worked on their petition for weeks and got only 750 to sign," local Pres. Bob Berghoff said. "We came up with 1,600 signatures in 3 days."

In a meeting with Berghoff at the UAW headquarters in Detroit, international offi-



Workers at Boeing plant building cruise missile. Socialists discussed need for nationalization of war plants and conversion to socially useful production.

"more and more people came to see that accepting a two-tier structure would hamstring the union at the next contract time. The divisions and animosities created would weaken the union and make us less able to fight against FMC's demands."

Socialists in the plant played a significant role in helping to initiate these discussions, Delgadillo reported. "Some of the recent articles in the *Militant*, which we regularly distribute to our coworkers, detailed other workers' experiences with the two-tier wage structure. They were a big help in the discussion."

The contract that was finally adopted by Local 562's membership contained no two-tier provision, although a new, lower starting rate for new hires — as low as 70 percent of standard wages — was introduced, something many see as a step in the direction of the company's real aim.

McDonnell Douglas strike

There was a separate report on the militant 116-day strike earlier this year by the UAW against McDonnell Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, California.

One cause of the strike's defeat, reporter Ollie Bivins — a Black aircraft assembler — explained, was the company's success in recruiting strike breakers, many of them unemployed Black youth. This provoked a big discussion among the strikers on how to stop people from scabbing.

A necessary ingredient, Bivins said, is for the unions to reach out to the Black and Latino communities, to explain how the union's fight is in their interests too.

Accepting a two-tier contract as "no problem" leads in exactly the opposite direction. "Imagine if our union had willingly accepted a two-tier structure. How could we later reach out to the unemployed and oppressed if we said to them in effect, 'We got ours and to hell with you. We don't give a damn about the young worker, the Black worker just starting out.'"

"We were forced to accept a two-tier structure in the end, but at least we fought

it. We didn't fall for thinking that a job trust-type situation would make us stronger. It would make us weaker because it would serve to cut us off from our natural allies."

Attacks on women, Black workers

Another major topic of discussion at the gathering of socialist machinists was the ongoing problem of discrimination against Black, Latino, and women workers in the aerospace industry. Participants at the meeting pointed out that women and minority workers have in the past been forced into lower-paying and less-skilled jobs in the plant. In much of the war industry, this continues to be true today.

Company attacks are particularly harsh against women workers in the basic machine shops. Many women who succeed in finally obtaining machine shop jobs are forced out by the bosses' efforts. Considerable discussion at the Oakland meeting concerned recent fights by IAM members against such discriminatory practices.

As the U.S. war in Central America escalates, discussion of it among machinists — including among those working in the war industry — is deepening. Socialist workers in the IAM are active participants in this discussion, taking advantage of opportunities that present themselves for involving IAM members and their union locals in organized discussions of, and protests against, Washington's war.

Despite the jingoist campaign that Washington, the media, and the employers attempted to whip up during the U.S. invasion of Grenada last fall, it was pointed out, socialist workers and others working in the war industry who opposed this aggression were able to get a hearing for their antiwar views.

The same will be the case when large numbers of troops are deployed in combat in Central America. While some initial confusion can be expected, the longer such a direct military intervention persists, the firmer will opposition to it become among U.S. workers, and the more will this opposition be reflected in their unions.

And this will hold true for workers in the war industry organized by the IAM as well.

Recent antiwar activities involving IAM members and their locals point in exactly that direction. Last February IAM Local Lodge 562 at FMC in San Jose, which manufactures armored personnel carriers, helped sponsor a meeting for Magda Enríquez, a member of the Nicaraguan Council of State and a leader of that country's women's organization, AMNLAE.

In early March, almost 20 members of IAM Local Lodge 1327 at Kar Kar Electronics in San Francisco organized a reception for Ninosca Méndez, a leader of the Sandinista youth organization JS-19.

In addition, the education committee of Local Lodge 1125 at General Dynamics in San Diego has ordered for distribution to local members a large quantity of brochures on a recent visit of trade unionists to El Salvador, sponsored by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

'Not one penny for war'

One of the questions socialist candidates and socialist workers, especially in aerospace, confront, it was pointed out, is what to do with the multi-billion dollar war industry.

The employers and sections of the labor

McDonnell Douglas 'still at war' with UAW

BY OLLIE BIVINS

LONG BEACH, Calif. — "We are still at war with the company — they having declared it on us." These words by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 148 bargaining committee chairman Doug Griffith aptly sum up the situation at McDonnell Douglas. Since the UAW's 117-day strike against the aerospace giant ended February 9, the situation in the plant remains volatile.

McDonnell Douglas has hired a ritzy Century City law firm to defend 1,300 workers charged by the local union with crossing picket lines during the legal strike. The union is attempting to make those who crossed the lines before January 4 each pay \$100 plus \$50 per day for every day worked. The majority of strikers went back to work after the January 27 deadline from the company to return to work or be replaced.

The same law firm is organizing a company campaign to "deauthorize" the union, thereby turning McDonnell Douglas into an open shop. Deauthorization petitions are being circulated in the plant. The petitions are to be submitted to the National Labor Relations Board which is authorized to call an election if about 30 percent (approximately 1,350 members) of the union

decided to hold off action on the receivership question pending an examination of the way the local union elections set for May 16 are conducted. The international originally proposed having the elections take place on company property. The local refused. The elections will be conducted at Long Beach Veterans Memorial Stadium. Only members in good standing can vote. Berghoff and his Responsible Action Program caucus have announced their intention to seek reelection. Company-backed "dissidents" are expected to run against them.

Inside the plant the company continues its harassment. Workers overheard using the word "scab" are disciplined. Many of the scabs have been allowed to have special cards, usually reserved for salaried personnel, which allow them to park close to the plant.

Workers who wear T-shirts in the plant that make reference to the 17-week strike are immediately sent home without pay. The most popular T-shirt reads, "We struck Oct. 17, 1983. We stuck 115 days plus. Scabs Suck."

Ollie Bivins is laid off from McDonnell Douglas and is a member of UAW Local 148.

Miners heading toward contract showdown

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

On April 23 negotiations were formally opened between the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) over the terms of a new contract. The UMWA's current agreements with the BCOA expire on September 30.

At its December 1983 convention the UMWA adopted a unanimous position of "No backward steps. No takeaway contracts," to guide union negotiators. This stance is sure to come into conflict with the demands and profit needs of the coal operators who are expected to insist on concessions.

The BCOA's three-member negotiating committee led by B.R. Brown, chairman of Consolidation Coal, also includes William Miller, the vice-president for labor relations of U.S. Steel Corp. The BCOA's 11-member chief executive officer committee, which directs the smaller negotiating committee, includes top officers of some of the giant corporations which in turn own the big coal companies. Among the members of this committee are David Roderick, chairman of U.S. Steel and Donald Trautlein, chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Corp.

In March 1983 the giant steel corporations succeeded in imposing a concession contract that cost steelworkers over \$3 billion in wages and benefits. Since then the steel barons have imposed new, local concessions. Last December, U.S. Steel shut down more plants and threw 15,000 steelworkers permanently out of work.

It is not accidental that steel company executives will play a large role in the coal negotiations. It is unlikely that, after squeezing concessions out of steelworkers, they will not try to do the same to miners.

While mine workers-BCOA contracts do not expire for several months, UMWA contracts with other coal operators have already expired and some new agreements have been reached in coal fields in the West.

UMWA Vice-pres. Cecil Roberts heads the union's Western negotiating efforts. In an interview in the March issue of the *UMWA Journal* titled "If we're united, we can win," Roberts reported on the results so far and their possible implications for the coming contract showdown with the BCOA in the fall.

Asked about employer attitudes, Roberts responded that, "companies in the West have generally been taking a hard line. . . . They've seen companies in other industries get concessions from their workers and they've come to the bargaining table asking for the same things."

Roberts explained what the employers have demanded: "One of the most common demands is for cuts in medical coverage. One proposal wanted our members to pay deductibles and pick up part of the insurance premium for a plan that covered only 80 percent of the medical costs."

"Another thing companies are asking for is a two-tiered wage system, similar to what we've seen in other industries, where new employees hired during the term of the contract would be under a reduced pay scale."

"This was one of the last company demands taken off the table before we reached our first agreement in the West."

The *Journal* interviewer observed, "That seems like a particularly damaging thing for a union to agree to."

Roberts replied: "It is. What the companies are trying to do is create two classes of employees so they can divide and conquer. If new employees were covered by a two-tiered wage system, what reason would they have to be loyal to the union?"

"A new hire could look around and see other people working at the same job for more money. If the company hired enough people in that situation, it would be easy for them to get rid of the union."

Roberts explained that the contracts won by Western miners required some strike action. This included use of the selective strike tactic approved by the December UMWA convention.

"When the contract expired [at five western mines owned by Peabody Coal] UMWA members at Black Mesa and Kayenta went on strike and we extended the contract at the other three Peabody op-

erations," said Roberts. "After a few weeks, management came back with an offer our members felt they could live with . . ."

The operators in the West backed off their concession demands because of unity and solidarity in the union, according to Roberts. He explained he received complete support from the UMWA membership in negotiating with the companies. "With that kind of support," he said, "the companies know that they won't be able to divide our union."

In the upcoming negotiations with the BCOA, "We'll probably face the same situation where the operators will come in asking for concessions and trying to divide the union," explained Roberts. "And we'll have to show the same solidarity in national negotiations that the Western miners have shown."

West Coast socialist machinists meet

Continued from preceding page

officialdom peddle the notion that the jobs and livelihoods of workers in the aerospace-war industry are totally dependent on a huge military budget.

"This is a particularly important question for California," the reporter noted, "where so many workers are involved in war production. Our starting point is 'not one person, not one penny for imperialist war.'"

The U.S. military machine exists for one purpose only — to threaten and suppress the insurgent workers and farmers of the world and to encircle the Soviet Union and other workers states. This incurs an astronomical social cost when calculated on a world scale.

This deployment of military might is in the interests of the U.S. rulers, but it is totally against the interests of U.S. workers. The reporter emphasized that part of explaining the need for working people and the unions to adopt their own foreign policy based on the working class' needs, is explaining the need to dismantle this far-flung military machine and the military budget.

Convert war industry

At the same time it's necessary to explain that the plant and equipment currently dedicated to war production can produce socially useful things as well. That is, if the war industry is nationalized and converted to such production.

As it is explained in the political resolution adopted by the SWP at its 1975 convention, "We reject the insidious lie that the workers have no choice but to rely on massive 'defense' industry contracts or else suffer large-scale unemployment. The war industry plants must be nationalized and put under the control of workers' committees charged with retooling for the production of useful goods."

During the discussion a number of participants at the meeting addressed the question of conversion of the war industry.

The demand for nationalization and conversion of the war industry, explained Chris Remple, a member of IAM Local Lodge 1518 who works at Airco, is part and parcel of international class solidarity. "Just think of what we could be producing and sending abroad in place of the war matériel that is currently made for the U.S. military and the armed forces of scores of reactionary dictatorships."

"Not only could we begin producing many things that are sorely needed here, such as mass transportation systems, but we could also make a huge contribution to overcoming the problem of world economic underdevelopment through production of mining equipment, electrical generating equipment, railroad rolling stock, and machine tools — all with the very same plant and equipment and human labor power that is currently producing war matériel."

The idea of converting the war industry would also meet with a good response from other workers in the industry, explained Kim Allen, a member of IAM Local Lodge



December 1983 United Mine Workers convention vowed to fight concessions. Coal operators will challenge this. "Anything that involves money will be an issue," says one coal executive.

562 at FMC in San Jose. "Very few of my coworkers," said Allen, "actually like what they are producing. And most know as well," he added, "that the problem of converting the industry is not a technical one, but a political one. It could be done in weeks."

"That's why it's important to explain that it will require a political struggle to convert the war industry, one that can't be taken on company by company, but can only be done by the government in relation to the industry as a whole — that is by nationalizing it. This raises the need for labor to form an independent party to fight for a government that would implement this and other measures working people need."

Other speakers noted the fact that the official position of the IAM leadership favors conversion of at least part of the war industry. While the many weaknesses in the IAM position were pointed to, it was also noted that it was fundamentally a positive step for the union officialdom in the United States to adopt such a position, since it helps open the discussion on this question in an important industrial union.

Broad array of activity

Along with organizing opposition to the U.S. war in Central America, socialist workers in the IAM have been involved in a broad array of political activity in defense

of the union and the working class as a whole.

At General Dynamics, it was reported, socialist workers have participated along with other Local 1125 members in a campaign to push back a raid on the local by the Teamsters, timed to coincide with contract negotiations.

At FMC they have been part of an ongoing struggle by Local 562 around health and safety in the plant.

Throughout the state socialist workers have carried out important work in defense of victimized Teledyne-Ryan workers and Héctor Marroquín, a leader of the SWP and YSA threatened with deportation.

Moreover, it was noted, sales of the *Militant* at IAM-organized plants have increased, while in San Diego, Oakland, and San Jose the SWP candidates for Congress are also members of the IAM.

The meeting also heard a report on the recent national convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, presented by Marilee Taylor, a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 101 and the Socialist Workers candidate for 16th Assembly District in San Francisco.

In addition, participants discussed the role of socialist workers in the IAM in helping to finance the party and elected a state coordinator of the party members' participation in the IAM.

Guatemalan Coke worker speaks

BY PETE SEIDMAN

MILWAUKEE — Miguel Cifuentes, a leader of the union federation representing Coca-Cola workers in Guatemala City, spoke here April 8-9 as part of a U.S. tour.

On February 17, 460 Coca-Cola workers, members of STEGAC (Guatemalan Bottling Workers Union), occupied their plant to protest management's decision to stop operations due to "bankruptcy" (see *Militant*, March 30, 1984).

Cifuentes is a leader of Guatemala's largest union federation, the National Committee of Trade Union Unity (CNUS). STEGAC is a CNUS affiliate. The Guatemalan secret police attempted to kidnap Cifuentes in April 1979, forcing him into involuntary exile.

Cifuentes was able to report on the latest developments in the Coke workers' struggle to the unionists gathered at a reception hosted by eight area labor leaders and the Central America Solidarity Coalition. He also addressed students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and held a successful news conference.

An uneasy standoff continues at the Guatemala City bottling plant, Cifuentes said. Army troops remain posted outside the factory. And secret police are visiting the homes and families of the workers.

But so far, troops of the Mejía Victores dictatorship have not attacked.

Cifuentes believes international pressure is a key factor in this.

It was only a 1979-1980 boycott (centered in Europe) organized by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers Association (IUF), Cifuentes said, that fi-

nally forced Coca-Cola to negotiate a contract with STEGAC in 1980. Even this was after a difficult five-year struggle during which nine union leaders were killed, Cifuentes charged, at the direct order of John Trotter, a North American who held the Coca-Cola franchise in Guatemala City at the time.

Part of the 1980 victory won by STEGAC was Trotter's dismissal, as well as the establishment of a company fund to care for the children of the murdered unionists.

Trotter was replaced by two Guatemalan franchisers. The attorney for these men is Pérez Mesa, who, according to the IUF, is known in Guatemala as a professional union-buster. His standard procedure is to advise his clients to declare bankruptcy and to reopen shortly under another name without a union.

So far, the workers at Coca-Cola have put those plans on ice. But, Cifuentes warned, only international solidarity can help assure their safety in a country described by Americas Watch as "a nation of prisoners."

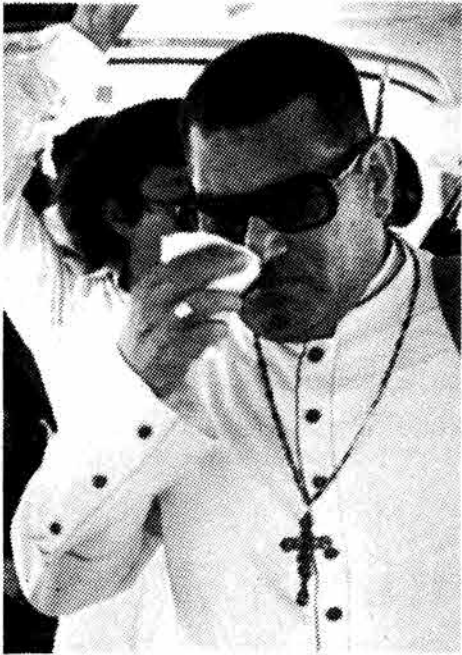
He urged U.S. unionists to write Coca-Cola, urging the company to reverse its union-busting policies in Guatemala City. Coke's address is 310 North Ave., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30313.

Messages of solidarity can be sent to STEGAC at 24 Calle 6-01, Zona 11, Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala.

For more information on Cifuentes' tour, contact Network in Solidarity With the People of Guatemala, 930 F St., N.W., Suite 720, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Nicaragua bishops won't condemn U.S. war

Sandinista leaders denounce Easter message backing counterrevolution



Archbishop Obando y Bravo wants to welcome CIA-trained terrorists into Nicaragua.

BY JANE HARRIS

LAS SIERRITAS DE SANTO DOMINGO, Nicaragua — "Another mine against the people of Nicaragua, one more mine the CIA has planted." That's how government junta member Sergio Ramírez sized up the Nicaraguan Catholic bishop's Easter "pastoral" letter.

On April 22, Nicaragua's nine Catholic bishops issued a pastoral letter criticizing Nicaragua's government and urging it to open negotiations with leaders of the armed, CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries.

Ramírez spoke on this at the weekly "Face the Nation" session, this one held here in a working-class suburb south of Managua April 26.

The church hierarchy's message was read at the main outdoor Easter Sunday mass, attended by some 30-40,000 people. It calls for a dialogue to promote reconciliation in which "all Nicaraguans, whether they be inside or outside the country, should participate, without any discrimination concerning ideology, class, or party affiliation."

Rightist opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution, such as the Catholic church hierarchy, have demanded that the government let the leaders of the armed counter-revolution, who are carrying out a bloody, U.S.-financed invasion of Nicaragua, participate in the upcoming elections and that the government negotiate with them.

The government has rejected these demands. Most Nicaraguans want to see these murderers tried and sentenced — not talked to.

To emphasize their support for negotiations with Somoza's ex-National Guardsmen and other murderers of more than 3,000 Nicaraguans in the two-and-a-half-year-old war, the bishops add, "Nicaraguans who have risen up in arms against the government should participate in this dialogue." Otherwise, they threaten, "there won't be a possibility of a settlement."

Instead of condemning the U.S. mining of Nicaraguan ports, the bishops charge, "materialist and atheist education is mining the consciousness of children and young people."

The nine bishops, who have refused to

organize religious services for many fallen Sandinista soldiers, state, "the suffering of mothers who have lost their sons, who deserve all our respect, consolation, and support, is being manipulated to stimulate hatred and the desire for vengeance."

The bishops complain about, without naming, "foreign powers [that] take advantage of our situation to foment economic exploitation and ideological exploitation. They see us as objects of support to their power, without respecting our history, culture, and right to decide our own destiny."

(However the central figure in the church, Archbishop Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, made clear who he was singling out when he told *Barricada* March 31, "I believe Nicaragua is suffering an aggression from Russian and Cuban imperialism, and as well from other imperialisms." Yet, Obando y Bravo refuses to condemn the U.S. mining of Nicaragua's ports.

So, the bishop's message concludes, "pardon enemies and adversaries. It is necessary to facilitate the return of those who have abandoned their homeland and wel-

Fruits of revolution seen at Masaya mill

BY STEVEN FUCHS

MASAYA, Nicaragua — Pompilio and Noel are leaders of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) in Masaya. Five of us — members of a North American volunteer work brigade just returned from picking cotton in a western province of Nicaragua — visited them in their union office on March 2. They told us about the work of the CST and the gains won by working people since the 1979 triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Pompilio insisted we not just take him at his word. He asked us to come back the next day to visit a factory, talk with the workers, and find out for ourselves.

'Cradle of the insurrection'

The next day he brought us to INCA — the National Nail and Barbed Wire Industry — a steel mill just outside of Masaya.

This city lies below the Masaya volcano into whose crater victims of the former dictator, Anastasio Somoza, were thrown.

Masaya was a major battleground of the revolution. The Indians of the Monimbó neighborhood in 1978 were the first to rise up in the mass insurrection which led to the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Somoza.

Visitors are greeted by a sign at the city's entrance: "Welcome to the cradle of the insurrection."

INCA itself was a battle site.

The hilltop fortress of Coyotepe overlooks the mill. From there, Somoza's National Guard bombarded the plant. During the final offensive of the revolution, the masses pushed the National Guard out of Masaya and cornered them in the factory — their last refuge.

Most of the workers at INCA, many of them Indians, took part in this insurrection.

Salvador Bande, the mill's owner — notorious for his oppression of the workers — had left shortly before. After the revolution's triumph, the mill was nationalized. It became *propiedad del pueblo* — property of the people.

INCA is like a small section of Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point mill where I work. There are wire-drawing machines and a nail mill — much like those at Sparrows Point — a galvanizing line and a tin mill. They also roll re-bar from steel billets and weave fence and barbed wire. The plant works 21 turns a week and employs about 600 people.

Before and after

Three factors have combined to bring changes for INCA workers: their union, their government, and the nationalization of their mill.

Before the revolution, the Somoza dictatorship suppressed union rights and barely 8 percent of the country's work force was organized. Workers at INCA first tried to unionize in 1966; 25 people were fired.

After the triumph, with freedom for unions guaranteed, INCA workers soon formed a CST local. CST unions now organize the majority of the urban work force.

In pre-revolutionary Nicaragua, workers at INCA received no benefits and accident victims had no protection. One worker, for example, who had his foot severed in an accident was fired.

Now, along with health care provided for all by the government, the union contract provides INCA workers with full pay while on disability. There is a clinic at the plant, with a doctor, nurse, and pharmacy. The man who lost his foot was rehired.

Among the countless victims in serious accidents, between 1960 and 1979, two were killed. One was pierced by a rod. The other was pulled into a wire-drawing machine — the same way a worker was killed at Sparrows Point about six years ago.

Only minor accidents have been suffered in the last four years since safety — not profit — is the priority. Regular safety seminars are held.

Other accomplishments

There have been many other accomplishments as well.

The national campaign to eliminate the country's 52 percent illiteracy was brought to the mill. Shifts are scheduled to permit workers to attend ongoing adult education classes held in the plant.

INCA has a new air-conditioned cafeteria. There was no food service in the plant before.

Five years after the triumph, INCA workers are still at war — now against U.S.-directed aggression. Each department has a bomb shelter. Workers have formed a militia unit. Everyone is on guard against sabotage.

One worker told us that the gains for working people have been enormous, but that the war has prevented them from realizing the full potential of their new society.

Though wage increases were won after the revolution, last year workers decided that because of defense needs, no new increases should be negotiated.

INCA may look like any mill in the United States but it is profoundly different.

Mill run by workers themselves

It is no longer run for private profit. It was nationalized to provide materials and money to raise the standard of living of all the people.

It is no longer run by bosses, but to a large degree by the workers themselves.

Joint union-company councils are set up to resolve problems. The union even has an office in the mill. We asked why we saw no foremen; they are usually so easy to spot. We were told there are no foremen, only administrators who know "things will go badly for them" if they don't treat the workers well.

At Sparrows Point, "labor-management participation" schemes are a cover for job elimination and speed-up; they blunt the union's struggle for workers' rights by putting company profits first.

At INCA the workers have real power to help run the mill in their interests.

An important area of workers' control is in organizing production.

Technical personnel propose production goals. The workers then discuss the proposals in assemblies. They know best the state of the machinery, the wear and tear

from the work, the pressures on the workers, the dangers of the job.

If necessary, they send the proposals back to be reworked. Every six months all the workers reevaluate production plans.

To raise production is a major CST priority throughout the country. It is synonymous with defense. The war-ravaged economy needs increased production to rebuild the country and income to buy necessities it cannot itself produce.

As they saw the progress of the revolution, workers at INCA became convinced to contribute more. Production has doubled since 1980. The day we visited the mill, the union signed a new wage agreement that included using incentive pay to reward hard work.

Workers' role in running country

Workers at INCA enthusiastically support their government and the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Political posters are everywhere in the mill. They know that even with a union, even with a nationalized mill, they could not have won the gains they have without a government that really represents workers and peasants.

But the people of Nicaragua face a difficult challenge.

For more than 40-years, Nicaragua was bled dry; kept impoverished by Somoza and his U.S. sponsors. It was ravaged by his bombers and his National Guard.

Now it faces daily raids and sabotage by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and Hondurans, backed by U.S. arms, training, and money. The country's scarce resources must be committed to defense and the economy suffers. U.S. banks conspire with Washington to restrict Nicaragua's credit, causing shortages and higher prices.

'We appreciate the help you give us'

A walk through the machine shop at INCA drove this home to us. One machinist showed us a spiral gear shaft used in the mill. They can't make replacements, however, because they can't get the proper cutting tools to mill the gear.

We suggested that steelworkers and others in the United States might want to help them, and we asked for the part numbers. They included the data in a letter they wrote on the spot, addressed to their "union compañeros" in the United States.

The letter read in part, "In the face of the threats suffered by our people, we greatly appreciate all help that you give us, since already our people have a very great economic crisis due to the aggressions of North American imperialism."

We asked one worker what message he would like us to bring back to U.S. workers. He told us to say that Nicaraguan workers are moving forward; they will raise production; they will come out on top; they are conscious of their tasks; and they have a vision of the future.



Pompilio (left) and Noel, trade union leaders in Masaya, Nicaragua, encouraged U.S. visitors to tour steel mill to see for themselves achievements of revolution.

come them with a generous spirit, liberate those suffering in prison for different ideologies, and create a climate of friendship and peace that will make possible social coexistence."

But the Nicaraguan government has already granted an amnesty to those Miskito Indians and Nicaraguan nationals who have fled since the revolution — including ones involved in armed actions against the country as long as they are willing to lay down their arms. The only exception is leaders of the counterrevolution.

Hundreds have already returned under this law. It's been the U.S.-armed rightists, in fact, who have prevented many Nicaraguans who want to return to their country under the provisions of the amnesty from doing so.

'Nothing pastoral about it'

A young woman took the microphone at the meeting to read a statement on behalf of 11 Sandinista Defense Committees in the surrounding municipality.

"We repudiate the pastoral letter," she said, "because there's nothing pastoral about it. It's political, imperialist, and not religious. It's a betrayal of our heroes and martyrs and an insult to their mothers."

"What are you going to do with these people?" she asked.

"What measures can be taken against this 'pastoral' letter?" a young worker demanded to know.

"How long will we have to put up with this?" chimed in somebody else.

Sergio Ramírez, rising to take the floor, began by explaining, "We can't speak here of measures against the pronouncement. However, a political response needs to be given."

"I'm not even going to talk about the absurdity of talking with the National Guard," said Ramírez. "We never held a dialogue with Somoza when he was in power. Now that the people are in power, why should we begin?"

Taking up the bishops' charge that youth are being "mined" with materialism and atheism, Ramírez pointed out that the state is financing those private schools threatened with closing for lack of funds. Of the 120,000 students attending private schools, 80,000 are attending religious schools, predominantly Catholic.

So, said Ramírez, "there's no conflict between the church and the revolution. What we have here is a conflict between the church hierarchy and the revolution."

Auxiliadora Castillo, a mother of three sons in the army, expressed concern that the bishop's letter will confuse the Contadora Group, the countries of Colombia,

UAW leader organizes Nicaragua tour

BY CAROLE LESNICK AND MARCIA GALLO

From March 25 through April 2, we were able to participate in a tour of Nicaragua along with 13 others, mainly unionists, from the Minneapolis area. The tour was organized by Bob Killeen, international representative for the United Auto Workers and subregional director of UAW Region 10.

Participants included members of four UAW locals; two United Transportation Union locals; a United Paper Workers local; and an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees local.

We were able to visit a metal industry plant (see interview on this page), a textile factory, and the San Antonio Sugar Mill. We saw two state farms and an agricultural school that teaches peasants how to run and repair tractors.

We also visited a daycare center, a hospital, and met with leaders of 10 unions, including Alvin Gotry, secretary general of the Council on Trade Union Unity, the AFL-CIO-affiliated union that opposes the Sandinista government.

One of the highlights of our visit was a meeting with the elected bargaining committee of the stevedore's union in Corinto, the port mined by CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries.

A group of Nicaraguan soldiers re-



Direct Action/Renfrey Clarke

One of weekly televised "Face the People" sessions where government leaders meet with the people. At April 26 session junta members Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramírez and residents of Managua suburb expressed anger with bishops' "pastoral" letter that chose to attack "ideological mining" of children by Sandinistas and said nothing of the real mining of Nicaragua's ports by the CIA.

Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, who are trying to negotiate a peace settlement in the Central American region.

"Yes," government coordinator Daniel Ortega told her, it will confuse Contadora. "The United States is looking for more elements to give the impression that what's happening here is an internal conflict between Nicaraguans, that it is not a conflict between the United States and Nicaragua. That therefore it is valid to support 'freedom fighters' as Reagan calls them."

Referring to the fact that Nicaragua is now confronting the largest armed attack since the 1979 revolution, Ortega said,

"it's not an accident that the pastoral letter appears now. . . . There is nothing naive about it. It was calculated, thought out, and drawn up by the CIA. We have no doubts that some of these bishops have received orientation from the American embassy. . . . They are manipulating religion to carry out counterrevolution."

Furthermore, he added, the letter is "completely orchestrated in accord with the posture of the rightist parties, which advocate abstention [in the elections], and with some capitalist producers who take positions against the revolutionary process."

Interview with Nicaraguan unionist

The following interview is with the executive board of the Aníbal Matamoros metallurgical union at the Industrias Metalurgicas del Pueblo steel fabrication plant in Managua, Nicaragua. It was conducted on March 26 by Carole Lesnick.

Question. What is made at this plant?

Answer. The 120 workers here make parts for armaments, water and gas storage tanks, and bouys for the ports.

Q. How does the union work in this state-owned factory?

A. Union membership is voluntary. The union is led by an executive board of seven

members that is elected by the workers at the plant. At our monthly meetings we discuss things like production goals and workers' needs on the job. We take these concerns to the Ministry of Labor.

Q. Do you have bosses with the power to hire, fire, and discipline workers?

A. No. The National Corporation of the People sends a plant director to help implement the plans that are voted on. If the workers think he's not working out, he is replaced. But these directors only direct.

Q. Who sets the wages and what are they?

A. The Ministry of Labor has set or is in the process of setting standards of pay for similar jobs nationwide. Skilled workers earn more. At this plant the secretarial staff gets 3,000 to 4,000 córdobas [10 córdobas = US\$1] a month. Shop workers get 4,000 to 4,500 córdobas per month. The shop director gets 9,000 córdobas.

Q. How have conditions changed in the plant since the revolution?

A. Under Somoza this company was privately owned. The former owner now lives in Miami. We have seen many positive changes.

- Now we have a union here. We didn't before.

- We have a cafeteria where food is 80 percent subsidized by the company. So a person pays 5 córdobas a day for food.

- We have a free medical clinic where medicine is subsidized 70 percent for the workers' families.

- Transportation costs are 100 percent subsidized.

- We have free uniforms and shoes.

- We have collective injury insurance, death insurance, and insurance for wages. So if a person is ill and has to stay home for two months, they get their full wage. Sixty percent is paid by the Ministry of Health and 40 percent by the company.

- The swimming pool, which was once only for management, is now for all plant workers.

- Women have a three month pregnancy leave with full pay.

- We have a daily literacy class for two

"These vende patria [sellouts] are a minority who form a part of the internal destabilization plan," said Ortega.

Intensify political education

There is war-time censorship today in Nicaragua. However, the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for the censorship, authorized the publication of the bishops' letter.

"Let it be our people, who are in the end the ones who will judge the positions of the church hierarchy, who decide," said a communiqué from the Interior Ministry regarding the letter.

Commander Leticia Herrera, general secretary of the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS), told reporters April 27 that the committees will be intensifying political education within their ranks.

Describing the CDS's membership as "very heterogeneous and diverse," she said, "really we think it will be healthy to have this confrontation with certain people."

Herrera clarified, "We're not against religion. We are against the chief leaders of the church. The majority of our people are religious. The great majority of them are Christians who identify with the revolutionary process and generally repudiate the pastoral letter."

Carlota Paz de Teller, whose son Daniel was killed a year ago by counterrevolutionaries, put it more plainly in an open letter: "Mr. Obando y Bravo, get off that pulpit that denigrates truly Christian sentiments. Your place is not in the church. You offend God and men."

hours after work. The company pays the workers for the first hour and the second is voluntary.

- There is a company store that is subsidized by the government.

Q. What do you do if someone doesn't want to work?

A. If it is a major problem everyone in the plant is called to a meeting. We ask the person what the problem is and do whatever we can to help.

Q. Do people show up for work every day?

A. Quite regularly. This is a high priority plant because the goods we make here are very important for the revolution and the defense of our country. The people here are committed to that. If a person doesn't come to work, they aren't paid for that day or the seventh day. Here we work five days and are paid for seven.

Q. Do you have forced overtime here? Isn't there a contradiction between the need for increased production and conditions on the job?

A. No. One of the main priorities for our country is improving the agricultural sector. Some of the things we make here go to that effort, as well as for defense of the country. But there is no forced work. When there is a need for greater production that can't be met by the workers here, the plant director asks the government for more workers. Once that's agreed to, the union does the hiring. There is a one month trial period. If the person does not work out, another job is found for them.

Q. How are the special concerns of women handled?

A. Under Somoza women were subject to very degrading conditions, if they were given work at all. They faced many abuses from the bosses. Now when a woman comes to work here the union presents her to all the workers and demands that she be respected. If she has a difficulty, she tries to work it out through the union. She can also go to AMNLAE. This is the national

Continued on Page 10

Mass rebellion rocks Dominican Republic

Continued from front page
Republic keep up payments on its \$2.4 billion foreign debt.

Earlier IMF-imposed austerity moves — currency devaluations, wage cuts for public employees, import curbs, and tax hikes — had already been the target of protests. In February, tens of thousands took part in marches called by the CGT and other unions in the cities of Santo Domingo, Santiago, and San Francisco de Macoris.

Reagan rejects aid appeal

Jorge Blanco had sought to stave off the latest austerity measures by appealing for increased economic aid from Washington. In January, he wrote a letter to Ronald Reagan warning that if the IMF's terms were accepted, it "could undoubtedly provoke social tensions so strong that it could alter the peace and the most important functional democratic process in the Caribbean."

But instead of coughing up more aid, Reagan suspended \$80 million in scheduled assistance until the IMF's demands were accepted. Meanwhile, the U.S. Export-Import Bank and commercial banks also withheld further loans to the Dominican Republic.

Jorge Blanco made a state visit to Washington in early April to seek new aid. He returned home empty-handed.

After suppressing the rebellion with brute force, Jorge Blanco went on nationwide television and radio to claim the protests were "systematically led and at the same time instigated" by the right-wing Reformist Party and the "extreme left." He renewed charges, long since discredited, that leaders of the Dominican Left Front had set up a "guerrilla training school." (Dozens of leftists had been jailed under this accusation last August, but were soon released when the authorities could present no evidence.)

His government, Jorge Blanco declared, would not hesitate to use force to defend the Dominican Republic's "exemplary democracy." In face of the extensive police

killings, he praised the "example of equanimity" and "professionalism" of the cops and the army.

Democratic facade crumbling

The austerity measures and the resort to heavy-handed repression have badly tarnished the democratic image of Jorge Blanco and his Dominican Revolutionary Party. The PRD is affiliated to the Socialist International. In 1965, it played an important role in the popular rebellion against a U.S.-imposed rightist regime, an upsurge that was only suppressed through an invasion by 40,000 U.S. Marines.

The U.S.-backed dictatorship of Joaquín Balaguer and his Reformist Party came to an end in 1978 and was replaced by an elected PRD government. The PRD was reaffirmed in office in the 1982 elections, in which Jorge Blanco made a series of promises — land reform, housing construction, extension of trade-union rights, public-works programs — that have all remained unfulfilled.

Instead, the PRD has presided over mounting unemployment (now nearly 30 percent), harsh austerity measures, deteriorating living standards, and stepped-up repression. The result has been a sharp decline in its popularity among the Dominican masses. In this situation, the working-class political currents that make up the Dominican Left Front (FID) have been able to grow and gain a wider hearing among the workers, peasants, and unemployed.

In a statement answering Jorge Blanco's April 25 speech, the FID rejected his charges of a conspiracy and pointed out that "the real causes of the protest" were to be found in "an intolerable situation of hunger, unemployment, poverty, and mounting economic hardship for the vast majority of the population."

By unleashing the repressive forces against the people, the FID said, Jorge Blanco had confirmed "the definitive failure of the PRD leadership, which has be-



Dominican protesters on streets of Santo Domingo

come a government in the service of the big local bourgeoisie and the imperialist bourgeoisie."

Jorge Blanco's words, the FID continued, "deepen the crisis and do not intimidate anyone." Rather, they "make

more compelling the need to place the entire people on a footing of struggle in order to say 'No' to the government's arrogance, to its institutionalized crimes in the name of democracy, and to the hunger policies of the IMF." **From Intercontinental Press**

Ban on travel to Cuba before Supreme Court

BY HARRY RING

The Supreme Court heard arguments April 24 on whether or not it should uphold President Reagan's 1982 ban on travel to Cuba.

The case against the travel ban was made by the noted constitutional authority, attorney Leonard Boudin.

In an interview with the *Militant* following the court session, Boudin outlined the evolution of restrictions on the right of U.S. citizens to travel abroad, and the fight against such unconstitutional curbs.

This is the fourth time Boudin has appeared before the Supreme Court on this issue.

As the "cold war" developed in the late 1940s, the government instituted the practice of denying passports to those deemed to be "subversive." One of those denied a passport on this ground was the noted artist, Rockwell Kent, who, represented by Boudin, challenged this up to the Supreme Court.

For the first time, Boudin said, the court ruled that the right to travel is a constitutionally protected right. And, Boudin added, the court also agreed "that it is important for citizens to have the right to see for themselves what others think and do instead of relying on their government, or news handouts."

But after the Kent decision, the government moved to deny U.S. citizens the right to travel to specified countries, including Cuba, and sought to impose criminal penalties on those traveling to the "forbidden area."

Representing Levi Laub, a 1960s radical activist, Boudin won a Supreme Court decision that criminal sanctions could not be imposed for traveling to countries on the restricted list.

In 1977 the Carter administration lifted the government's ban on travel to Cuba and other countries.

The ban was reimposed by the Reagan administration in 1982, under a Treasury Department regulation banning the spending of U.S. currency in Cuba. This was the issue presented to the Supreme Court.

Earlier, the Treasury Department regulation had been struck down by the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

The government quickly obtained a stay of that ruling while it prepared its present appeal to the Supreme Court.

The legal challenge to the ban was made by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the American Civil Liberties Union, with Boudin as principal counsel in the case.

The suit was brought on behalf of various individuals, including Prof. Ruth Wald of Harvard, who had planned to take a group of students to Cuba.

When it initially imposed the ban, the Reagan administration cynically declared Cuba should not be permitted to earn U.S. dollars "while it is actively sponsoring armed violence against our friends and allies."

This is a shameful lie. The ban was declared as part of the war moves against Cuba and to prevent people in this country from seeing for themselves what Cuba is really like.

At the time the ban was imposed, the Treasury Department estimated that some 40,000 people a year were visiting the island.

Texas workers back Marroquín

Continued from back page

cause they are nothing but a monster with two heads."

Another farm worker, Yolanda Chofert, attacked the racist double-standard of the Carter and Reagan administrations, for granting permanent residency to refugees from Cuba, while harassing, deporting, and even killing undocumented workers from Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras. "They only wanted to make Fidel look bad," she said.

Another farm worker concluded the discussion, which lasted more than two hours, by pointing out "this discussion shows that the problem we face is the rich and their system. That's what we have to fight."

The meeting ended with participants exchanging addresses and phone numbers and a discussion of future plans to preserve the unity they had seen in the meeting for Marroquín.

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 help pay the costs of the case are also urgently needed.

Labor News in the Militant

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Interview with Nicaraguan unionist

Continued from Page 9

women's organization.

Q. How much are union dues?

A. One percent of wages.

Q. What about sick pay and vacation benefits?

A. We get sick pay if we bring a doctor's slip. Everyone gets one month's paid vacation a year. We also get paid for what's called the 13th month, which is an extra month's wages we are entitled to.

Q. How is the union executive board compensated for time spent on doing union work?

A. The board is elected to a one year term of office and gets no extra money for carrying out union responsibilities.

Q. Could you discuss work conditions

here and work hours?

A. We work five days a week to conserve the energy resources of the country. We work nine hours a day and get two 15 minute breaks and a 40 minute lunch period. When we work overtime, we get double pay, dinner, and transportation home.

We are working on improving the safety conditions of the plant. We lack some of the protective equipment we need like earplugs, gloves, goggles, and paint masks. One of the best ways unions in the United States can help is to donate this equipment.

Q. What about retirement?

A. This is still being discussed nationally. No age has been decided on, and no one is forced to retire. As it's necessary, we find easier jobs for people.

Q. Why are there armed guards at the plant?

A. If there is an attack or sabotage, we have some people who guard the complex and others who are in the militia. Sixty percent of the workers are in the plant militia. Eight people stay here every night to stand guard. All the workers know their positions in the event of an attack.

Q. What's done with the profits?

A. Part of it goes back into the company for equipment and maintenance. And part goes to meet the workers' demands.

Q. Are unions represented in the national government?

A. Yes. Unions have representation on the Council of State.

Q. Any final remarks?

A. We appreciate your visit and hope you will go back and help your unions get out the truth about Nicaragua.

New issue of 'IP'

Many *Militant* readers will be interested in the May 14 *Intercontinental Press*. It will feature an interview with Mfanafuthi Makatini, a leader of the African National Congress, as well as several documents from the ANC on the recent Mozambique-South Africa security pact and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

This issue of *IP* will also carry an article by Cindy Jaquith on the gains and challenges facing the Iranian people. It will include selections from left-wing periodicals around the world analyzing where the Iranian revolution stands today, as well as a document from the Tudeh Party of Iran and a joint Iranian-Nicaraguan communiqué.

To order *IP*, send \$1.25 for a single copy, or \$12.50 for six months, or \$25 for a year's subscription to: *Intercontinental Press*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Las Vegas hotel strike continues

Despite some press reports of an agreement between striking unions and the Hilton hotels in Las Vegas, as of May 1, the strike against Hilton and other big resort hotel-casinos is still on.

Bob Harbrant, an official at strike headquarters at the Culinary Workers Union offices in Las Vegas explained to the *Militant* that his union has an "understanding" with Hilton management that could lead to a settlement in the strike. However, the settlement, according to Harbrant, has been "imminent" for a week.

From the union's point of view, he explained, the understanding is contingent on Hilton management reaching an agreement with the unions representing musicians and stagehands, which the hotels have not done.

A United Press International account reports that a 30-day no-strike clause in contracts covering front-desk clerks, parking attendants, and engineers was set to expire May 2. This could lead to these workers and their unions, the Teamsters and Operating Engineers, joining the 17,000 strikers already on the picket lines.

Harbrant said as of May 1 "no decision has been made" on what action these unions will take.

The strikers have been out for a month over hotel demands for wage and benefit concessions.

They have staged several militant demonstrations in the face of the hotel owners' intransigence and police strike-breaking violence. Some hotels in Las Vegas

have signed union contracts. The Hilton hotels are viewed as the center of resistance to the strike.

Postal workers begin contract talks

Contracts covering almost 600,000 workers at the U.S. Postal Service expire at midnight, July 20. On April 24 four postal unions began negotiating with government representatives.

The government has wasted no time spreading the false story that postal workers are overpaid and should be forced to make concessions in the new contracts. This offensive was led by the U.S. Postal Service's Board of Governors, a policy-setting panel appointed by President Reagan.

Public statements issued by this board claimed postal workers are paid more than comparable workers in private industry. It directed Postal Service negotiators to roll back wages and benefits.

This was echoed by Postmaster General William Bolger who utilized recent interviews to charge that postal workers are "overcompensated." Base pay for the average postal worker is \$23,031 — not exactly a princely sum!

At the same time, Bolger admitted in an April letter to Postal Service employees that "we're in better shape than ever." The service registered its second annual yearly profit in fiscal 1983, earning a tidy \$616 million.

"Quite clearly they're talking about givebacks," said Moe Biller, president of the American Postal Workers Union, largest of the postal unions. But, he con-

tinued, "there is no reason for givebacks in an industry that is doing quite well."

As federal employees, postal workers are legally prohibited from striking. The government would like to both roll back wages and benefits, and intimidate workers with memories of government strike breaking in the 1981 air traffic controllers strike.

However, Vincent Sombrotto, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers observed in respect to possible strike action, "If people feel that's the only option open to them, they will exercise it."

Mine union backs conference of women miners

The Sixth National Women Miners Conference, sponsored by the Coal Employment Project, will be held in Charleston, West Virginia, June 22-24. Keynote speaker at the meeting will be United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Vice-pres. Cecil Roberts.

UMWA President Rich Trumka has issued the following statement in support of the conference:

"The United Mine Workers has always upheld the belief that 'an injury to one is an injury to all,' and that applies to the problems that women have experienced in the mines, such as job discrimination and sexual harassment.

"To give less than our full attention to the concerns of women miners would be a disservice to our entire membership, and a betrayal of the best traditions of our union.

"The United Mine Workers of America has endorsed the Sixth National Conference of Women Miners not only as a demonstration of solidarity with our union sisters, but as another vehicle through which the problems of women miners can be fully addressed."

Further information on the conference can be obtained from the Coal Employment Project, P.O. Box 3403, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830. Telephone (615) 482-3428.

The April issue of the *UMWA Journal* which announces the conference also reports that "A limited amount of aid is available for women miners who need financial assistance to attend the conference."

Copper strikers face new attacks in Arizona

BY KAREN KOPPERUD

PHOENIX, Ariz. — In a new blow to the 10-month-old Arizona copper-miners strike, 27 strikers in Ajo and Morenci, Arizona, have received eviction notices ordering them to vacate Phelps Dodge Corp.-owned housing. This follows an April 20 ruling handed down by a federal district court judge in Tucson upholding the giant copper producer's right to order the evictions.

Phelps Dodge, which has spared no effort or expense in its effort to bust the 13 unions at its mining operations, now is hypocritically making much of its "generosity" in allowing strikers to remain in the company housing

until the school year ends, May 31.

However this cannot cover up the vicious nature of the evictions. In company towns like Ajo and Morenci, eviction from company housing can often mean being forced to move out of town altogether. Many strikers' families have lived here for four or five generations. The unions are still considering their response.

These evictions are the latest move by Phelps Dodge aimed at totally breaking the spirit of the embattled miners. Many of those targeted for eviction are among the most active rank-and-file leaders and supporters of the strike.

While the company's moves will certainly have an effect, many miners refuse to give up the fight. "I'm going to be here," said Junior Bueno, a member of the United Transportation Union facing eviction. "They can try to get rid of us, but win, lose, or draw, I'm here for the duration."

A young Morenci member of the United Steelworkers responded, "If they thought they could break our spirit, they picked the wrong group of people."

In 1917 Phelps Dodge loaded striking copper miners into box-cars and dumped them in the desert as part of an effort to break a strike. Looking back on that event one older machinist in Ajo joked, "It's just like when P-D deported strikers out of Bisbee in 1917, only this time you have to provide your own transportation. P-D was always cheap."

A strike solidarity rally is scheduled for May 5 in Morenci, sponsored by the Women's Auxiliaries.

Compiled by Geoff Mirelowitz

Brink's case: 'sweeping attack on democratic rights'

BY STEVE CRAINE

NEW YORK — The trial of Kathy Boudin ended on April 26 when she pleaded guilty to one count of murder and one of robbery in the October 1981 holdup of a Brink's armored car in Nanuet, New York. She will be sentenced to a minimum of 20 years in prison, becoming eligible for parole in 2001, when she is 58 years old. Eleven other charges against her will be dropped.

After accepting her plea, District Attorney Kenneth Grietz admitted to the press that Boudin had not carried a gun or shot at anyone in the course of the robbery and escape, during which a guard and two cops were killed. He also conceded that he had no eyewitness who could place Boudin at the scene of the robbery.

But under the state's felony murder law, anyone convicted of participating in a felony in which a killing occurs can be convicted of murder, even if they had nothing to do with the killing.

That Boudin was forced to settle for such a harsh sentence is an indication of the success of the government's campaign to isolate and intimidate her and her co-defendants, three of whom received sentences of 75 years to life in an earlier trial. The flagrant abuses of the defendants' rights over the past two and a half years had made this a test case in the battle with the government over its stepped-up attempts to push back democratic rights.

On April 27, Linda Backiel, co-counsel for Kathy Boudin, addressed a Militant Labor Forum in New York — one of the few public meetings held to protest the abuses of democratic rights in this case. Backiel explained that the fact that Boudin entered a guilty plea "doesn't change the issues of the case or what we have to do to fight the government's policies." She described the considerations that led Boudin and her attorneys to decide to enter the guilty plea.

Among these was the repressive atmosphere that the court had established, intimidating both jurors and potential witnesses

and bolstering the prosecutor's argument that Boudin was a dangerous, violent criminal.

The same judge who had given Boudin's co-defendants the maximum possible sentences was presiding over this trial, and he had denied repeated requests to exclude from the jury people with relatives who are cops.

"Our chance of an acquittal was zero," Backiel said. Boudin's other lawyer, Leonard Weinglass, told the press on April 26, "It's not so much a matter of comparing her 20 years to 25 years," the minimum sentence for a single murder conviction, "but comparing 20 years to 75 years."

At the Militant Forum, Backiel made the connection between the Boudin case and the new "antiterrorist" legislation proposed by the Reagan administration.

"When the government says it's a case of terrorism, all of a sudden all the rights we assumed we had seem to disappear," she said. "To do this," she added, "the

government tries to isolate those charged with terrorism so that others, including those on the left, are in a position to distinguish themselves from the accused. We have to realize that as far as the government is concerned we all fall under the same rubric."

Backiel gave the example of one potential juror who said that all he knew about Boudin was that she was a terrorist. When asked what he thought a terrorist was, he replied, "Well, I guess they're people who protest — people who don't like what the government is doing."

Judy Holmes, a legal advisor for other Brink's defendants, also spoke at the forum. "The antiterrorism of today is the anticommunism of 20, 30, or 40 years ago," she told the 75 people at the forum. "We must not allow them to stick that label on people and then redefine who democratic rights apply to."

Speaking for the New York Socialist Workers Party, Susan Jacobson called the

entire Brink's case a "sweeping attack on our democratic rights," and "part of the government's drive toward war in Central America and the Caribbean."

"Who will be the next so-called terrorist that they will condemn to life imprisonment?" she asked. "Will it be a unionist on strike against harsh and uncivilized working conditions, or a demonstrator against the murderous wars in Central America and the Caribbean, or a Black who defends themselves against police violence?"

Jacobson pointed to the insufficient public outcry against the abuse of defendants' rights as one of the reasons the government was able to get away with as much as it did. She emphasized the need to "reach out to broad forces to try to draw in people who can be moved to protest violations of democratic rights whether or not they disagree with the defendants' politics."

The forum concluded with a lively discussion and debate about legal and political defense strategies.

Puerto Rican independence supporters jailed

BY DUANE STILWELL

NEW YORK — Another two supporters of Puerto Rican independence have been sent to jail.

They were not tried by a jury, nor did the government present a shred of evidence against them.

Shelley Miller, 39, and Sylvia Baraldini, 36, were both given three-year sentences here April 19 after being convicted of criminal contempt. Baraldini's sentence is to be served consecutively with a 40-year sentence on another trumped-up charge.

The convictions are based on the fact that they refused to collaborate with the federal grand jury that is "investigating" the National Liberation Armed Forces (FALN). This grand jury has sent seven other people to prison for refusing to testify.

Federal grand juries have become a favorite government tool for suppressing opposition to the policies and interests of the

U.S. colonial rulers of Puerto Rico. Since Puerto Rico is the source of superprofits for U.S. corporations, and since 13 percent of the island is occupied by U.S. military installations, political activists who support independence for Puerto Rico are a target of Washington's political police and have been increasingly victimized through the use of grand juries.

When you go before a grand jury you are stripped of your rights, including the right to have a lawyer present and the right to remain silent. If you are convicted of criminal contempt the sentence is left up to the judge.

According to the April 20 issue of *El Diario-La Prensa*, Baraldini told Judge Charles Sifton after the sentencing that "The connection with the FALN cannot be proven because it does not exist. Today we have been sentenced not for anything that we have done, but because we are revolutionaries."

Miller is a member of the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism, and Baraldini is a member of the May 19 Communist Organization. About 40 supporters of Baraldini and Miller were at the sentencing to show their solidarity with the political activists.

In their declaration after the sentencing Baraldini and Miller pointed to the fact that the United States has removed itself from the jurisdiction of the World Court to avoid being indicted for its criminal mining of Nicaraguan harbors. That, they said, shows that legality is only applied when it serves the interests of the ruling class.

They also said that the attacks on solidarity groups such as the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and movements such as the one that provides sanctuary for refugees from the civil war in El Salvador show that the government is cracking down on dissent in this country.

Just nailing down the point — A Rochester, N.Y., cabinet maker tried to pay a \$2,400 tax debt with six shiny new hammers. He got the idea after hearing a newscast



Harry Ring

about the government paying \$400 for an \$8 hammer. "If a hammer is worth \$400 to them," he declared, "then I've got six here to pay my taxes." Unfortunately, the ham-

merheads at the Revenue office said no.

Doesn't keep you awake either — Employers who hire "disadvantaged" youth for the summer enjoy tax breaks of as much as 85 percent of what little wages they pay. "By the time you figure in the tax credits," enthused the manager of the D.C. Capital Hilton, "it brings down these kids' cost to not a lot more than a cup of coffee per hour."

Supersleuth — "We have intelligence that the Cubans in Nicaragua shave their mustaches and hide their dog tags." — CIA direc-

tor William Casey.

Clever, those Cubans — A different CIA intelligence report has it that the Cuban soldiers in Nicaragua shave off their Fidel-like beards. And, we'll bet, don't smoke cigars.

Judicial crackdown — LOS ANGELES, April 25 (UPI) — A judge has sentenced a doctor to four years in prison and fined him \$70,000 for filing false insurance claims for needless eye operations in which he blinded patients.

A real guy — Baron Enrico di Portanova, who receives \$1.2 million a month in Texas oil income,

is described by friends as a gracious, even lavish host. But he takes a dim view of charity, estimating that of his \$14 million yearly income, he donates "several hundred thousand." However, he assures, "I'm generous, very generous. In restaurants, I always try to get the check."

Simple, but artistic — The check-grabbing baron has a number of homes, including two in Acapulco. One has 28 bedrooms, 26 baths, four swimming pools, a dozen indoor waterfalls, a tower manned by machinegun-toting guards, and a rooftop helicopter landing pad. Neatest touch — next to the landing pad, a herd of

life-sized plaster camels.

The crack of dawn — "I'm up at 10 and out by 11." — Baron di Portanova.

Mournful moment — Ex-GIs will no doubt press for a national holiday marking the recent death of Samuel Hinkle, chief chemist at the Hershey company. He's the fellow who developed the "fortified" chocolate bars first issued as K, C, and D rations in World War II.

Thought for the week — "Honesty can be a dangerous policy." — Right-wing columnist William Safire justifying the covert war against Nicaragua.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Fight to Stop Deportation. A panel discussion on the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, the Roybal proposal, and the recent Supreme Court ruling authorizing factory raids by the INS. Speakers: representatives from International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Central America Refugee Center, and Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee; others. Translation to Spanish and English. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, SWP candidate for vice-president; Mary Jo Vogel, SWP candidate for 41st Congressional District; Mari Hawkes, SWP candidate for 44th Congressional District. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 13, 2 p.m. Barbecue to follow. 1053 15th St. Donation: \$4 for barbecue. Ausp: San Diego Socialist 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

1984 Illinois Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; Nelson González, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Ed Warren, SWP candidate for 1st Congressional District in Chicago. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 19, 6 p.m. YMCA, 1833 E 71st St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: 1984 Illinois Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers candidate for president; Derrick Morrison, SWP candidate for 2nd Congressional District and member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-522. Sat., May 12, 7 p.m. 3207 Dublin. Ausp: Morrison for Congress Committee. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Nicaragua Under Attack: Eyewitness Report

and Slide Show. Speakers: Carol Hodne, director of North American Farm Alliance and participant in recent Madre Tour to Nicaragua; Ramona Olson, participant in Maura Clark Cotton Brigade in Nicaragua; Tom Jaax, Socialist Workers Party, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 168-T and participant in February 21 Cotton Brigade. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president; Bill Caruthers, Procter and Gamble Concerned Black Employees; Diane Shur, SWP candidate for 5th Congressional District; Tonya King, junior high school student and member of Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., May 6. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 901 W 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: 1984 Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Eyewitness Report From British Coal Strike. Speaker: Clare Fraenzl, coal miner, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 13, 141 Halsey St. (corner of Raymond, one block from Broad). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

New York City

Rebellion in the Dominican Republic. Speakers from the Left Democratic Front of the Dominican Republic and the Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks south of Canal). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

British Miners Under Attack: an Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Clare Fraenzl, member of United Mine Workers of America. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 12. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks

south of Canal). Donation: dinner and forum, \$4; forum only, \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cleveland

How to End Violence Against Women: a Discussion of the New Bedford Rape Case. Panel discussion with representatives from the Socialist Workers Party, National Organization for Women, and Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Grenada: Six Months After U.S. Invasion. Videotape: *Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again*, an interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to Grenada's murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Discussion led by Omari Musa, Socialist Workers candidate for 22nd Congressional District. Sat., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Vietnam and Kampuchea: an eyewitness report

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

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

MICHIGAN

Detroit

What Will Reagan's Trip to China Mean for Vietnam and Kampuchea? Sat., May

12, 8 p.m. 7146 W. McNichols. Donation: \$2.

Vietnam's Reconstruction: class and discussion. Sun., May 13, 11 a.m. 7146 W. McNichols. Donation: \$1.

Kampuchea — Genocide and Recovery Amid U.S.-backed Terror: class and discussion. Sun., May 13, 1 p.m. 7146 W. McNichols. Donation: \$1. For more information call (313) 862-7755 or (419) 536-0383 in Toledo, Ohio.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

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

CALIFORNIA: Bay Area District: 3808 E 14th St., Oakland. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 534-1242. **Los Angeles:** SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. **Seaside:** SWP, YSA, 1184 Broadway. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S

Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

INDIANA: Bloomington: YSA, Activities Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405. **Indianapolis:** SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

IOWA: Des Moines: YSA, P.O. Box 1165. Zip: 50311.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013. **Baltimore-Washington District:** 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 7146 W. McNichols. Zip: 48221. Tel: (313) 862-7755.

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

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand,

#22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: YSA, P.O. Box 80238. Zip: 68501. Tel: (402) 464-8933.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 23 Central Ave. Zip: 12210. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 226-8445 or 925-1668.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 301 S. Elm St., Suite 522. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edin-boro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767. **State College:** YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

RHODE ISLAND: Providence: YSA, P.O.

Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054. **San Antonio:** SWP, YSA, 2811 Guadalupe, #100. Zip: 78207. Tel: (512) 432-7394.

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

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

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

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

New antiunion conditions set at Fremont

Continued from front page

homes — will be anything but automatic.

The "New United Motor Manufacturing Inc." letter (reprinted on this page) is the latest move in an ongoing effort by GM and Toyota to reopen the Fremont plant with a contract in place that will be qualitatively weaker than those in effect at GM and other unionized auto plants in the United States.

The explanation of the new situation presented at the April 9 meeting by UAW international staffer Bill Colbath, made it plain that the UAW's top international leadership has agreed to go along with GM's conditions as part of a deal that they believe will guarantee that the UAW will be the exclusive bargaining agent at the reopened plant. Clearly the giant automaker has exacted a high price.

Central to GM's game plan is its contention that when the Fremont plant reopens it will not be a GM plant — but rather one owned and operated by a brand new company — New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.

GM insists on this fiction despite the fact that every new car made in Fremont (at an assembly facility that has been covered by a UAW contract for decades) will be sold at GM's U.S. dealerships and marketed by the giant automaker.

At the April 9 meeting Colbath explained that the UAW leadership chose not to challenge this contention. "We have consulted the best legal minds in the country," he asserted. "Our only choice was to negotiate with them on the basis that they were a new company," he said.

However agreeing to this — without a fight — guarantees that wages and working conditions at the reopened Fremont plant will be substantially poorer than those that formerly prevailed there.

For starters, seniority rights earned before the plant was shut in 1982 mean nothing. No former Fremont employees are guaranteed a job with the new company. Those who may be hired lose their seniority rights with General Motors. "If you are selected for employment," says the New United Motor letter, "you will be considered as a newly hired employee of our company."

The "new" company agrees only to "pay you a competitive wage." Colbath explained this would be about \$9.50 an hour. This is substantially less than the almost \$13 an hour that most GM workers are making today.

"In return," the GM and Toyota bosses arrogantly assert, "we expect excellent at-

tendance, high productivity, and the best quality of work from you."

These are code words intended to mask the big changes in work rules the automaker will institute. The result will be that hard-won union provisions concerning job classifications, safety, and other vital matters of shop floor life, will be thrown overboard before the plant ever reopens its doors.

The message is unmistakable: those workers hired into the Fremont plant will be expected to work harder and faster for less money than other U.S. auto workers.

To cap it all off, before any worker is even chosen to be exploited in this way, candidates for employment are expected to attend a "pre-employment workshop," to be held in California, for which they will receive no pay!

This four-day "workshop" is intended to allow GM-Toyota to weed out "troublemakers," union activists, and others it does not like. Only after passing muster there will any worker be considered for employment. Once this is all over, new hires will still face a 90-day probation period when they can be fired with or without cause.

Health care and other benefits, Colbath reported, have yet to be negotiated. But in the spirit of other terms of employment, the new management expects employees will pay at least part of the cost of any health care plan, according to Colbath.

At the meeting many workers asked Colbath some pointed questions that brought out the magnitude of the predicament faced

by former Fremont workers. These workers were forced to move (many leaving their families behind) as a condition of keeping a job with the company.

If one of these workers now chooses to return to California, he or she must technically quit GM. This step affects benefit rights already accrued.

For instance any GM employee with 10 years of service has earned vested pension rights. But — catch 22 — if one quits GM, for whatever reason, the amount of pension an employee can collect is significantly reduced. A worker who quits GM loses six-tenths of 1 percent of their pension benefits for every month between the day they quit and their 60th birthday.

Thus a 50-year old worker who quits GM to return to Fremont to work for the "new" company can lose 72 percent of his or her pension. A 45-year old worker can lose 100 percent of his or her GM pension rights.

Under the current UAW contract with GM, the company pays for all medical coverage, including dental care, for retirees. Quitting GM means forfeiting these benefits.

One result of this unenviable choice is that many former Fremont workers here are choosing to stay in Kansas City. But their problems do not end there.

Under the current GM-UAW contract, the former Fremont workers who transferred here to work came in as new hires. They have the lowest seniority in the plant

when it comes to protection against layoff. With any reduction in the work force they will be among the very first to go.

When the GM-Toyota deal was first announced over a year ago, UAW Local 1364, which had represented workers at the Fremont plant, proposed that the UAW fight to insure that union seniority rights prevailed and that GM-Toyota rehire former Fremont workers on the basis of seniority. This would have created more favorable circumstances to attempt to force the employers — new and old — to abide by previous agreements with the union.

This proposal was rejected by the UAW's top international leadership. It offered little or no resistance to the company's antiunion schemes. The initial results are now in.

The final outcome is not settled however. Despite the rigid screening process, those workers hired into the reopened Fremont plant will be likely to resist the company's plans in different ways. UAW officials will also be put to the test. So will the company's reported agreement to accept the UAW as the bargaining agent in the plant.

Moreover, all of this will develop in the context of the new contract negotiations that will occur between the UAW and GM and Ford throughout the country this fall.

Jeff Powers works at GM's Leeds Plant in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a member of UAW Local 93.

"New United Motor Manufacturing" letter

Below are excerpts of a letter from the "New United Motor Manufacturing Inc." (the new name GM and Toyota bosses have given the joint venture they are launching at the former GM assembly plant in Fremont, California) to "Members of the Former Fremont Workforce." It "invites" these auto workers to "submit an application for employment," and spells out what some of the conditions of work will be at the "new" plant (see article on page 1).

To Members of the Former Fremont Workforce:

This letter is an invitation to you to submit an application form for employment with New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. — the Toyota/GM Joint Venture. New United Motor is a new, independent company that has been formed to manufacture sub-compact cars in the former GM facility in Fremont.

As a new and independent company, our policies and labor relations will differ from those that existed when General Motors owned the Fremont facility. None of the former agreements with GM apply to us. If you are selected for employment, you will be considered as a newly hired employee of our company.

We want to build an innovative labor relations atmosphere built on mutual trust and cooperation. We seek high morale and motivation among all employees. We consider each employee to be a valuable resource. The full involvement of all employees in the workplace is essential to our mutual success. Our production system relies heavily on the team concept. Each employee will be assigned to a team, will perform all work tasks of that team, and may work within other teams and departments to maximize quality and productivity.

Our company will use an innovative production system based upon Toyota's production methods. Our goal is to build the highest quality cars in the world, at the lowest possible cost to the American consumer, while providing fair wages and benefits.

We recognize that high caliber people are necessary to successfully meet the challenge of this competitive industry. We will pay you a competitive wage. In return, we expect excellent attendance, high productivity, and the best quality work from you. Too many auto plants have become non-competitive because of high absenteeism, low productivity and poor quality. We cannot repeat past mistakes. Each team mem-

ber (salary and hourly) must cooperate to make this plant a competitive and productive facility. It is only through these joint efforts that we, as a team, will be able to secure your future.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Team Groups

Team members will be separated into two major groups:

Division I (Production)

Consisting of production team members in such departments as Stamping, Welding & Body Assembly, Painting, Assembly, Inspection and Material Handling. Team members in Division I have a single job classification. Each team member will be expected to perform his or her assignment and all other assignments within the team group, and also help other team members. Each team member is expected to learn as many assignments as possible. We will not have the rigid job classification system that existed when GM owned the Fremont facility.

Division II — (Skilled Trades)

Consisting of team members in General Maintenance, Power House, and Tool & Die Making functions. Team members in Division II will be placed in one of three job classifications:

- Powerhouse/Facility Control Resource
- General Maintenance Resource
- Tool and Die Making Resource

As with team members in Division I, each team member is expected to perform his or her own assignment and all other assignments within the team group, and also to help other team members.

Team Leader

Each team will be headed by a team leader. Candidates for team leaders will be

expected to learn every operation performed by the team. The team leader must train and instruct team members. In addition, the team leader must be proficient at quality control techniques, including performing quality audits.

Each candidate for team leader must demonstrate leadership ability and be able to prepare a clear, concise, written report to the group leader (supervisor).

PRE-EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP EVALUATION PERIOD

All candidates for employment will be required to attend a pre-employment workshop. This workshop will consist of four days of interviews, job simulations and detailed discussions about our philosophy and objectives. If you are currently employed, we will attempt to schedule the workshop around your work hours. If you are currently residing out-of-state, please advise when you would be available for interview and possible selection for the workshop. During this workshop, your ability to perform required tasks and function as a team member will be evaluated. You must complete this workshop to be considered for employment and will not be paid for your participation in it.

If you are accepted for employment, you will be evaluated over a period of 90 calendar days (excluding any training time you may be required to spend outside the U.S.) starting with your date of hire. This evaluation period will be used to measure your performance based on your ability to perform required tasks, the quality and quantity of your work, attendance, punctuality, and your ability to work as a team member.

You will also have the opportunity to evaluate New United Motor and its philosophy to determine if you wish to continue on and become a member of our team. Upon successfully completing your evaluation period, you will be granted service from your first date of hire.

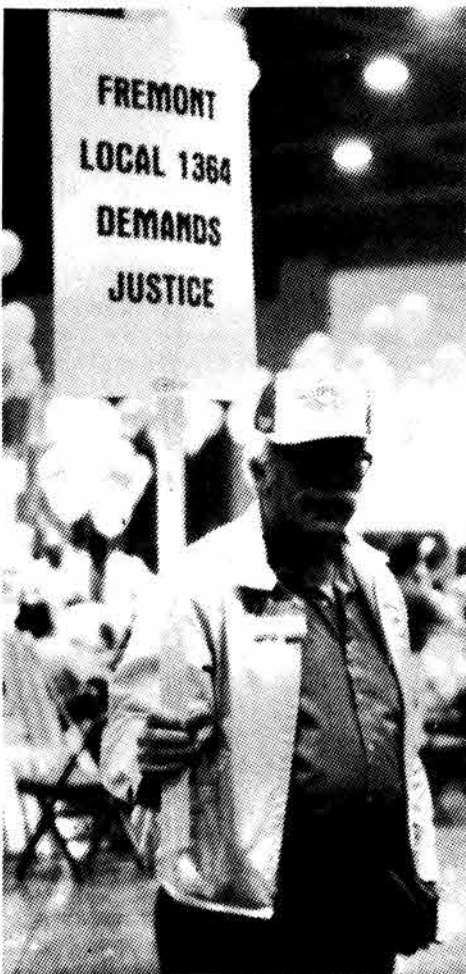
General Motors' not-so-subtle hint

All GM employees at its Leeds plant in Kansas City, Missouri (both those who are former Fremont workers and others) received a copy of the "New United Motor Manufacturing" letter. Below is the brief cover letter sent out by the Leeds plant management.

The attached document is being provided for your information, and we hope you find it interesting from your viewpoint

as an American autoworker. The document attached is an invitation to former employees of GMAD-Fremont to apply for openings with the new joint venture company.

This is an example of some of the new competitive forces that face us and challenge us today. Hopefully, these new competitive challenges will encourage us to find new ways, our own ways, of cooperative effort to reassert our recently lost preeminence in world auto production.



Militant/Elizabeth Ziers

At May 1983 UAW convention, Fremont Local 1364 urged fight to demand that GM-Toyota hire into reopened plant on basis of seniority and previous UAW contract. Top UAW leadership abandoned fight. Company is now driving ahead with antiunion moves.

Sinister 'antiterrorist' bills

On April 26 the Reagan administration introduced a four-bill packet of legislation into Congress purportedly designed to combat "terrorism."

One of the bills is said to tighten laws against airplane sabotage.

A second would make any kidnapping involving hostages a federal offense.

A third would provide rewards up to a half million dollars for information leading to the arrest of a "terrorist" or to the prevention of a "terrorist" act.

The generosity of the reward offer is clearly designed to spark an equally generous flow of "information."

The deadliest of the four bills would provide jail terms up to 10 years and fines up to \$100,000 for those who allegedly assist or "act in concert with" those branded as terrorists by the Secretary of State.

The White House said an initial list of "terrorist" governments would include Cuba, Syria, Libya, Iran, and South Yemen. Other countries and groups would be added after the bill became law.

Introduction of the legislation came on the heels of Reagan's April 3 decree authorizing what Secretary of State Shultz described as "preventive or preemptive action" against "terrorists" internationally.

The decree is intended to disguise the true international terrorists as "counterterrorists."

CIA terrorists who mine Nicaraguan harbors could be declared to be engaged in "preemptive action."

So would the State Department, Pentagon, and CIA terrorists who have proven ties with Salvadoran right-wing death squads.

And all of the very real terrorism involved in Washington's bipartisan war in Central America is carried out in the name of combating Cuban-Soviet "terrorism."

The package of bills before Congress is ominously vague. Under their terms a country or movement could be classified as "terrorist" when "its acts or likely acts" are deemed a threat to U.S. security.

Washington has already smeared the liberation fighters in El Salvador as "terrorist." Under the proposed law,

those active in political solidarity with El Salvador's popular forces could be tagged for prosecution for "acting in concert" with them.

Irish solidarity activists could be similarly targeted. Interestingly, the bill specifically waives criminal penalties "for any activities conducted by officials of the United States government, or their agents, which are properly authorized."

Translated, that's a further license to kill for CIA agents, counterrevolutionary Cuban and Nicaraguan exiles, and other U.S. hired guns.

Under the bill, the Secretary of State would arbitrarily decide which governments and movements are to be listed as "terrorist."

The bill then specifically states that a defendant charged with aiding a terrorist group *cannot challenge in court the accuracy of the secretary's designation.*

All, of course, in the name of defending democracy. The proposed hit list is not simply a wild move by some Reaganite cowboys.

The fact is that the ruling rich in this country are on a stepped-up war against what they see as terrorism. It's a class war, directed against all those fighters — here and around the world — who actively oppose the war and austerity policies of the U.S. employing class.

In the eyes of the employers, and the Democratic and Republican politicians who represent them, *all* working people who fight for their rights are terrorists.

Striking coal miners and auto workers, family farmers protesting foreclosures, Blacks and Latinos opposing racist cop terror, women defending their right to abortion — all are considered a threat to the "security" of those who run this country.

Certainly to every club-happy cop in Las Vegas, the hotel and casino strikers are a gang of "terrorists."

The function of the latest proposed "antiterrorist" measures is to give the employing class yet another handle in its war on the oppressed and exploited of the world. Every supporter of the Bill of Rights should vigorously oppose them.

Auto bosses grab record profits

General Motors, the world's largest auto company, turned a profit of \$1.6 billion in the first quarter of 1984. That's a record, the largest amount of money the company has ever made in three months. It puts GM way ahead of the profit pace it set in 1983, when it made the highest yearly profit in its history.

GM is not the only U.S. automaker doing well. They all are. Combined quarterly profits for GM, Ford, Chrysler, and American Motors totaled \$3.42 billion — another record!

These huge sums of money represent a giant bonanza for the tiny handful of enormously wealthy families who own GM and the other auto companies. This wealth was accumulated on the backs of the labor of auto workers, many of whom have been forced to work long hours of forced overtime to maximize profits for this tiny handful of exploiters.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of other auto workers — and millions of other workers — remain laid off.

Behind these giant profits lies not only forced overtime, but also lowered wages and benefits, poorer working conditions, and unsafe practices in the nation's auto

plants. All of this was imposed on auto workers as part of the long list of concessions the auto plant owners insisted on to aid the "troubled industry."

To add insult to injury the auto bosses continue their poor-mouthing. They still demand import restraints — which help them keep prices up. And they still insist they won't be able to give much in the way of wage increases when the GM and Ford contracts with the United Auto Workers are up in September.

Not only do they intend to attempt to keep wages down, but a GM document released earlier this year shows their plans to cut tens of thousands more jobs!

For many UAW members the new profit figures will reinforce their determination to demand "Restore and more in '84." If there was ever a time for the UAW to fight uncompromisingly to win back what auto workers have lost — as well as for more of what they deserve — the time is now.

If the auto workers decide to give these profiteers a good fight in September, they can win plenty of support from other workers.

No legal rights for Haitians?

"It is our view that . . . the grant of discretionary authority to the Attorney General permits the executive to discriminate on the basis of national origin in making parole decisions."

This nakedly racist declaration, aimed immediately at Haitian refugees, was part of a sweeping court ruling that "excludable aliens" have no constitutional rights.

The decision, reported February 29 by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, is being challenged in the courts. Attorneys for imprisoned Haitian refugees announced April 24 that a motion has been filed for a rehearing and that the issue will be taken to the Supreme Court.

For a period, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had generally granted parole to undocumented Haitians while their status was being determined.

But in the early 1980s the INS began imprisoning Haitians in detention camps. The biggest single number were held in the Krome Avenue camp outside Miami.

In 1982, a federal judge in Miami upheld a challenge to the detentions and ordered some 1,900 Haitians released on parole.

His decision, however, was based on a narrow technicality relating to INS procedures. He specifically held the government had not illegally discriminated against Haitians.

But when the government appealed his release order, the appeals court three-judge panel held not only that the release was proper but also reversed the Miami judge on the discrimination issue.

The appeals panel found "a stark pattern of discrimination" against Haitians and affirmed that they were entitled to the same constitutional rights as all other persons.

It was this that the full appeals court overturned. The court held the government could arbitrarily hold or release the Haitians as it chose, declaring that "excludable aliens such as the Haitian plaintiffs have no Constitutional rights with respect to their application for admission, asylum, or parole."

This reactionary ruling was sharply condemned by Haitian representatives.

The appeals court decision is cut from the same cloth as the government's refusal to grant political asylum to Haitians fleeing the murderous Duvalier dictatorship.

Elementary justice and solidarity require the entire labor movement demand a halt to the outrageous victimization of Haitian immigrants. The current court decision underlines that this is necessary not only to defend their rights, but everyone else's as well. Once it's been decided that constitutional guarantees do not apply to "excludable aliens," can anyone seriously believe it will stop there?

How U.S. crushed 1965 Dominican revolution

BY HARRY RING

The rebellion in the Dominican Republic over austerity measures imposed by the International Monetary Fund (see front-page story) is another page in a long history of struggle against U.S. exploitation and domination of that Caribbean country.

The last massive upsurge took place in 1965. At that time, Pres. Lyndon Johnson dispatched a massive U.S. Marine occupation force, which defeated a popular uprising of the Dominican people fighting to get a military dictatorship off their backs.

It was not the first time marines had landed there. They had occupied the island from 1916 to 1924. Before they

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

left that time they installed Rafael Trujillo as commander of the Dominican National Guard.

By 1930, Trujillo was dictator of the country. With U.S. backing, he ruled until 1961, when members of his machine assassinated him.

Military rule continued until December 1962 when a series of strikes and demonstrations forced the first free elections in decades.

Juan Bosch, a liberal pledged to drastic social reform, was elected by a big majority. He then tried, under the existing social system, to carry out his reforms.

Ten months later, in September 1963, Bosch was overthrown by a military-backed dictatorship.

New mass opposition developed and, on April 24, 1965, an uprising against military rule erupted.

Sympathetic members of the armed forces made weapons available to the people. The army began suffering serious blows.

Four days later, the U.S. Marines landed.

An initial force of 405 was dispatched with the lying claim that they were needed to protect the lives of U.S. citizens. Then, as resistance continued and the U.S. force swelled to 40,000, President Johnson declared the need to prevent a "communist" takeover by "Castroites" — "Cuban agents."

The armed Dominican workers stubbornly resisted the occupation for several weeks.

The May 10, 1965, *Militant* declared:

"They cannot produce a single shred of evidence to support the 'Cuban agent' claim. And as far as the charge that the revolution is 'Castroite' is concerned, it would be a good thing for the Dominican people if that were the fact."

"The hunger, disease, illiteracy, discrimination, and totalitarian rule that Dominicans have suffered so long were also suffered by the Cuban people. But the Cubans abolished these evils with their 'Castroite' revolution and the Dominicans could do the same. And it would be their absolute right to do so."

And the *Militant* of May 31 explained:

"The action by the U.S. Marines demonstrates once again the lesson of the Cuban revolution that every movement for social reform will meet with the unhesitating opposition of the U.S. imperialists."

The article added:

"Whatever the outcome of the Dominican revolution at this stage, the struggle which was put up by the workers in Santo Domingo has more clearly exposed the true nature of U.S. imperialism to the masses of the Dominican Republic and of Latin America. Their example and fighting spirit have shown what a people fighting for themselves can do. These two lessons are bound to raise the level of the struggle throughout the whole of Latin America."

From Havana, on May Day that year, Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro delivered a blistering denunciation of the Dominican invasion.

"Few actions," he declared, "have so exposed the criminality and cynicism of U.S. imperialism."

Castro pointed to the U.S. moves then already underway to force the involvement of other Latin American governments — an effort that several weeks later resulted in the dispatching of troops to the Dominican Republic by the governments of Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Paraguay, and Costa Rica.

Castro declared that the U.S. aim was "to make the other governments of Latin America jointly responsible for its criminal plans, to stain the other governments of Latin America with the blood of this crime, to sanctify and legalize its criminal action."

Pointing to the concurrent U.S. aggression in Vietnam, already well underway, Castro firmly declared:

"We believe that the hands of the imperialists must be tied, their back broken somewhere, running the risks and letting imperialism know that we are ready to run the risk."

Will subminimum wage mean jobs for Black youth?

Summer's on the way and many teenagers will be hitting the bricks looking for work. Of course, a job is a hard thing to find these days. So, the Reagan administration has presented a bill to Congress that will, it claims, help Black and other youth get jobs.

That's a lie. President Reagan is proposing a subminimum wage for youth working summer jobs. Unfor-



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

tunately, this reactionary measure has been endorsed by the National Conference of Black Mayors — helping to portray Reagan's antilabor bill as a pro-Black measure.

On April 20, the Black mayors' group, meeting in St. Louis, adopted a resolution backing the White House plan under which employers could pay workers aged 16-21 an hourly wage of \$2.50! That's only 75 percent of the current minimum wage.

Both the Reagan administration and the Black mayors' convention argue that bosses find it difficult to hire youth

because of the "restraints" of minimum-wage legislation. While it claims to support the minimum wage, the Black mayors' group said it backed the Reagan plan due to "the persistence of the tragedy of youth unemployment, particularly the problem of minority youth unemployment."

Youth unemployment has indeed reached tragic proportions — especially for Black teenagers. The official unemployment rate among Black male teenagers stands at 44.4 percent. The rate for white males aged 16-19 is 19.3 percent.

The situation of Black female youth is even worse. Their unemployment rate is 46 percent compared to the rate for white female teenagers of 16.9 percent.

Black teenage joblessness is actually far worse than these statistics show. Many unemployed workers aren't included in the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' figures. Brothers and sisters, for example, who have been forced into part-time jobs because they couldn't find full-time employment, or those who've simply given up looking for work, are left out.

The National Urban League includes such people in its Hidden Unemployment Index. In its report on "The State of Black America 1984," the Urban League says that this index "has consistently had overall Black teenage unemployment at or just under 70 percent since the third quarter of 1982."

Will the White House proposal for a subminimum wage help solve Black youth unemployment? Not at all.

One reason is the racist hiring practices of U.S. employers. In a recent Urban League study, the majority of employers indicated that they wouldn't hire young Blacks even if their wages were subsidized 100 percent!

Such discriminatory hiring practices should be countered by affirmative action programs — with enforceable quotas. Blacks must be given preferential treatment in hiring to eliminate the gross disproportion between Black unemployment and that of whites.

The actual aim of Reagan's plan has nothing to do with solving Black youth unemployment. Those youth the bosses do hire won't find new jobs, but will be used by the employers to replace higher-paid, older workers. The subminimum wage plan is aimed at driving down the wages of all workers by increasing competition for jobs.

Workers — whether teenagers or older — need protection from unemployment. The jobless should be guaranteed a wage at union scale. The workweek should be reduced with no reduction in pay to spread the available work around, creating millions of new jobs. These demands — along with the fight for affirmative action — should be championed by the entire labor movement.

But, in the final analysis, the scourge of unemployment will plague Black and other workers so long as capitalism exists. Taking political power into their own hands will allow working people to overturn this racist, class-divided system and eliminate the unemployment it engenders.

LETTERS

Cuba and Africa

An April 17 meeting held on the New York University campus featured one Dr. Carlos Moore, a Black Cuban emigré now resident in France. The announced topic was Cuba's policy in Africa. The overwhelmingly Black audience of more than 100 people was very concerned with South African aggression against Angola and the struggle of the Southwest Africa People's Organization in Namibia.

Moore, however, promptly went into a tirade about alleged racist practices in Cuba under Fidel Castro. He denied that Cuba's presence in Africa was motivated by Cuban concern for the struggles of the African people. He insisted it represented an attempt by Cuba to gain leverage with Moscow by making the Soviet Union somehow dependent on Cuba in carrying out Soviet policy in Africa.

Moore tried to add to the confusion by posing not as the classic anticommunist emigré, but rather as a supporter of the Cuban revolution's "social reforms" who was only objecting to continued racism in Cuba.

While Moore succeeded in spreading some confusion, many in the audience were clearly quite upset. They wanted to hear about the struggle against apartheid and imperialism in Africa, not about alleged racism in Cuba.

Moore was asked his position on Washington's demand that Cuba withdraw its troops in Angola before Namibia can be granted freedom.

Moore immediately went into a song and dance about how as a visitor to the United States he lacked "freedom of speech" and therefore could not comment on this question. This drew such a hostile response from the audience that Moore was finally forced to say that he "personally" opposed Washington's "linkage" proposals (that is, linking Namibian independence to Cuban withdrawal from Angola).

Another person asked Moore why, if Cuba is so racist, is the head of the Cuban armed forces a Black man.

Moore stated that he assumed the audience was "sophisticated" enough to understand that people were not denied positions of authority in Cuba on account of their race.

Answering another question Moore echoed Washington's line about the persecution of the Miskito Indians by the Nicaraguan government. This drew quite a

hostile response from some in the audience.

One questioner frankly told Moore he "didn't like" Moore's approach to Cuban solidarity with Grenada, Jamaica, and Angola.

Shortly thereafter the moderator announced that "Dr. Moore does not wish to take any more questions."

W. G.
New York, New York

Likes 'Militant'

Your newspaper provides coverage on issues that I can't get anywhere else. Keep up the good work!

Carl Weinberg
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Haitians

Haiti's top diplomat in Florida is under investigation by the state attorney's office in Miami for conducting a campaign of terror against Haitian rights activists here.

"We have evidence that indicates Alexandre Paul has retained individuals and paid them to commit espionage and terrorist acts," says Thomas Petersen, chief assistant state attorney.

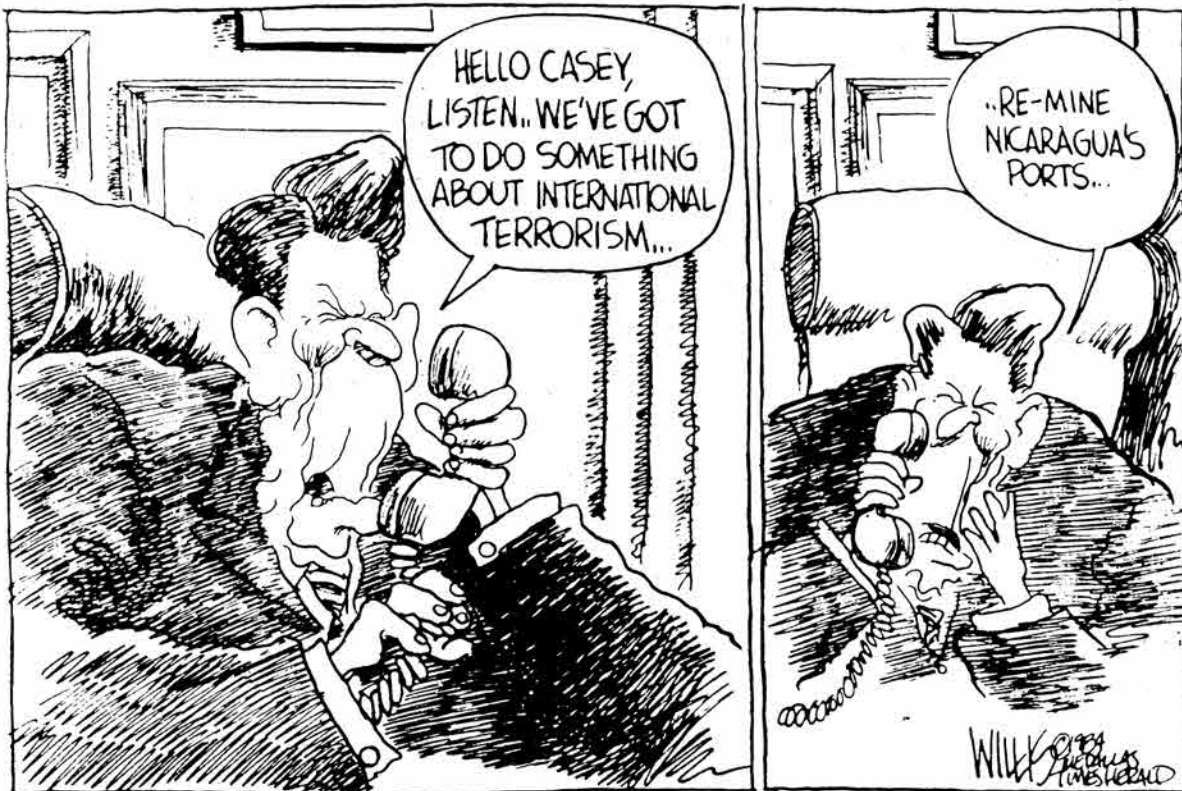
Two men who have now turned state's evidence told the Miami Herald that Paul, Haiti's consul-general, paid them and others thousands of dollars to harass opponents of the U.S.-backed, right-wing regime of Haitian President-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

The two men also say that Paul has organized a Miami cell of Haiti's murderous secret police, the Tonton Macoutes.

The state attorney has been investigating the Nov. 3, 1982, firebombing of the headquarters of the Haitian-American Community Association of Dade County. That investigation has stalled because a suspect and certain witnesses have left town. State attorney Petersen has sought help in locating them from the FBI, but FBI spokesman Dennis Erich says agents here are too busy with other cases to devote time to the probe of consul Paul.

The Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, director of the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc., says that such a response by the FBI proves that Paul "has nothing to fear. He has a green light from Haiti and he has a green light from the Reagan administration."

A front-page article in the April 15 Miami Herald listed crimes against Haitian activists paid for by the Haitian consul. They in-



clude firebombings, burglaries, hold-ups, beatings, vandalism, forcing a car off the road, and disruption of community meetings.

Alan James
Miami, Florida

Eastern Europe

I would like to know if you can say something about two peace workers arrested in East Germany. Their names are Barbel Bohley and Ulrike Poppe. There was an article about them in Amnesty International's *Urgent Action*.

These two women were among five arrested in East Germany for campaigning for peace and against nuclear weapons. It seems terrible that the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact nations talk so much about peace, yet in East Germany there are numerous arrests for campaigning for peace.

Raúl Enríquez
Chicago, Illinois

Demands correction

Many read the *Militant* for information and expression that cannot, or will not, be printed in other papers.

In reference to the article, "What liberals stand for," Geoff Mirelowitz makes a gross error by "labeling" Jesse Jackson in the same class as Mondale and Hart. Geoff is either so used to being against that he cannot see the rose between the weeds, or, and far more seriously, he is using the same uninformative and uneducated propaganda that the white media uses to oppress people.

In 1971 Jesse Jackson organized

Operation PUSH — People United to Save Humanity. Now I don't care what you call yourself — a socialist, communist, liberal, Demokrat, feminist, Republican — or whatever label you choose. Jesse Jackson is not a Demokrat and is not against people. His record and his life proves that.

Your paper must correct that gross error of Mirelowitz'. And, as a white person, I am angered and disgraced that this injustice would be found in a paper that Malcolm X once described as a paper of truth.

Sharon Obuchowski-Halabis
Louisville, Kentucky

Phoenix solidarity

On March 24, the fourth anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, 40 Central American solidarity activists attended a day-long conference initiated by the Phoenix Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Also represented at the conference was the Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean (CAUSA), the Valley Religious Task Force on Central America, the Central American Refugee Project, Medical Aid to El Salvador, Witness for Peace, the Sanctuary Network, the Unitarian Task Force on Central America, the Latin America Committee of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, and the Socialist Workers Party.

The conference was called be-

cause of a rising sentiment among antiwar activists that a massive intervention by U.S. troops into El Salvador and Nicaragua is imminent.

Those attending the conference felt that the Phoenix Central America solidarity movement has been hampered in the past by division and a lack of coordination of activities. The increasing threat of U.S. intervention prompted CISPES and the other organizations to try to rectify this situation in order to build a broader, more effective anti-intervention movement.

The conference decided to form a coalition of all the Central America solidarity groups. The goals of the coalition are to stop U.S. intervention in Central America and support Central American refugees.

Fifty activists picketed a \$125-a-plate fundraising dinner March 26 at which the notorious war criminal Henry Kissinger spoke. The hastily built demonstration received good local media coverage. The pickets felt that it represented a good beginning for the new antiwar coalition.

Andy English
Phoenix, Arizona

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.

Labor Party backs British miners

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

At an April 28 mass rally in Cardiff, South Wales, Britain's National Union of Miners (NUM) Pres. Arthur Scargill called on striking British coal miners and their supporters to "tighten the knot," around other British industries. "The quicker other industries are affected," asserted Scargill, "the quicker the government will change its policies."

Jonathan Silberman, Manchester, England, correspondent for *Intercontinental Press (IP)*, reports that the seven week old British miners' strike is winning new support in its showdown with the government led by Conservative Party Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The strike began over a British government plan to close many of the nationalized coal mines. This would cost thousands of miners their jobs. The battle has been led by young miners, especially those in areas such as Yorkshire, who would be hardest hit by the mine-closing plan.

These miners initially attempted to spread their regional strike across the country by sending "flying pickets" to other mining areas to appeal to miners there to honor the strike and force the government to back off from its plans.

The strike met resistance from many miners in the Nottinghamshire area where incentive pay plans yield higher wages, thereby dividing the union. Mines in this area are not targeted for closure.

As reported in last week's *Militant*, the NUM's National Delegate Conference voted April 19 to officially make the strike a national one. The conference directed a new appeal to all British miners to join the strike.

The fight for Nottinghamshire

This decision gave the strike a boost, according to *IP* correspondent Silberman. He reports stepped-up picketing in Nottinghamshire following the Easter holiday. At the Ollerton mine, one of the biggest in Nottinghamshire, Scargill himself led 500

pickets who managed to dissuade the entire shift there from working.

In his speech to the Cardiff rally Scargill appealed again to the Nottinghamshire miners. "If Notts miners follow the delegate conference decisions," he asserted, "we can win the battle in weeks."

Silberman reports that Scargill called on the 140,000 striking miners to descend on Nottinghamshire. Organizing such an initiative successfully "could be a turning point for the strike," writes Silberman.

Meanwhile solidarity from the rest of the trade union and labor movement continues to grow.

In Dundee and Fife, two Scottish towns close to the coalfields, one-day strike action in solidarity with the miners has already occurred. This led the Scottish Trades Union Congress to call for a May 9 day of solidarity action throughout Scottish industry.

Fire Brigades Union leader Ken Cameron spoke for the Scottish delegates, reports Silberman, when he declared, "Let's wake up and realize this is a class war!"

"We are all coal miners now," said Jimmy Morrell, Scottish secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers' and Allied Trades Union, "a victory for them is a victory for us all."

Early in the strike the miners won support from transport workers, rail workers, and seafarers who have helped to stop the import and transport of coal to break the strike.

Labor Party action

A vital step has just been taken by the National Executive Committee of the British Labor Party which decided to levy its 250,000 members an assessment of 50 p. (75 cents) a week to help the miners. Silberman termed this an "unprecedented move, said to have been instigated by left-wing Member of Parliament, Tony Benn."

"The strike is entering a new and decisive stage," said the Labor Party leadership in a statement on its decision. Pointing to



British cops block National Union of Miners pickets

the many actions taken by the Conservative (Tory) government it said, "all clearly indicate that the Tory government is trying to starve the miners back."

NUM President Scargill welcomed the Labor Party assessment and urged it to be extended throughout the labor movement, to every single union and workplace.

"The question of finance is a crucial one," writes Silberman. "Strikers may claim state social security benefits for their dependents," he explains. "But the government has arbitrarily ruled that £15 [1 pound = \$1.45] per week be deducted from these payments in lieu of alleged strike pay that miners receive from their union."

"In reality," continues Silberman, "the miners receive no strike pay, and these government deductions are causing severe hardships." Unmarried miners receive no social welfare payments of any kind.

Despite these hardships the strike appears to be gaining momentum. One sign is that even more conservative Labor Party leaders have expressed support for it. "If I was a Nottinghamshire miner, I would be on strike," said Roy Hattersley, described by Silberman as the "right-wing deputy Labor Party leader."

MacGregor says he'll talk

The strike's success has led the government's National Coal Board boss, Ian MacGregor, to hint that he may be ready to

offer some concessions to the miners. He called for meetings with the NUM leadership to discuss "slow[ing] down the pace of pit closures," reports Silberman.

"While we are prepared to meet at any time," responded Scargill, "the NUM is not prepared to negotiate a reduction in manpower or pit closures." Thus he made clear that the union will continue to fight steadfastly for its just demands.

Some in the ruling big business circles in Britain are growing increasingly nervous as the strike deepens. In its April 21 issue the magazine the *Economist* asked:

"Is Mrs. Thatcher likely to win her second battle to close uneconomic mines in Britain? As a full miners strike moved a stage closer this Easter weekend, the answer is still yes, but a hesitant one."

"After five years of government," the *Economist* continued, "this is the biggest industrial challenge Britain's prime minister has faced." It noted that Thatcher's strategy "was predicated on enough miners drifting back to work," and other measures that would have undercut the fight.

"This has not happened," observed the *Economist*.

Despite these worries, the Thatcher government and its supporters are not backing off. But neither are the miners. They have set a powerful example for workers in the United States and other countries faced with similar problems of mine and plant closings. They deserve all the solidarity necessary to win this fight.

Farm workers hear Marroquín

BY BARBARA MATSON AND STEVE WARSHALL

EDINBURG, Tex. — Twenty-five supporters of Héctor Marroquín's fight against deportation heard him speak at Pan American University on April 10.

The meeting was sponsored by the Border Area Refugees from Central America and the Pan American University Civil Liberties Union. It attracted students from this overwhelmingly Chicano university as well as farm workers from other Rio Grande Valley towns. The audience warmly received Marroquín's speech concerning his case and the moves by the U.S. government to victimize him and other foreign-born workers.

Mexican-born socialist Marroquín's appeal for political asylum is currently before the Supreme Court. The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is coordinating Marroquín's defense, has launched an emergency effort 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, where his life would be in danger.

If he is forced to leave the country before he gets his 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.

The Supreme Court will reconvene on May 14, after which it could rule on Marroquín's case at any time.

Every participant in the meeting here signed a petition backing Marroquín's right to remain in this country.

The discussion period began with a question from a student who is a supporter of Marroquín's case. Why, she asked, doesn't he tone down his political activities and especially his "unpopular" communist views for a time, gain political asylum, and then resume his political campaigns?

Marroquín responded to her by pointing to the long record of FBI spying against him and other activists in Mexico. "The U.S. government knows very well who I am," said Marroquín.

What is needed, he continued, is a political fight against the INS, not only for his case, but for all the undocumented.

Next José Tulido, a member of the popular Chicano band, *los Clasicos* and brother of Roberto Tulido, the well-known Chicano recording artist, expressed his support for Marroquín's case. He asked whether divisions within the working class prevented social change from taking place. "Is solidarity the way to go? Can we get it?"

Tulido's question sparked a wide-ranging discussion, especially from the farm workers in the audience.

Farm worker Maria Silva addressed herself to the question of why unity among Latinos in the valley had not been achieved. Speaking in Spanish, Silva said it was not the unions' struggle for decent wages and conditions that divides people in the valley. "It is those sell-outs who promise us everything in return for our votes. I am neither Democrat nor Republican, be-

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Klan acquittals condemned

BY KATE DAHER

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Anger runs high here against the acquittals of nine Klansmen and Nazis charged in the Nov. 3, 1979, killing of five Black right and labor activists.

The nine reactionaries were charged with violating the civil rights of the slain activists. All five of the victims were members of the Communist Workers Party (CWP).

Residents at Morningside Homes, the all-Black community where the killings took place, had no illusions that justice would be served in this trial.

"I felt from the beginning that they would let them go free. There is no justice here," was the sentiment of one young Black man about the all-white jury's verdict.

An 11-year-old girl said, "They should have put them in jail because now they're going to do it again. I don't want my grandmother to get hurt."

Everyone agreed that a "big protest" was needed to condemn the not-guilty verdict.

The families of the five people killed

have filed a \$48 million civil suit charging government conspiracy in the slayings. Lewis Pitts, the plaintiffs' attorney, said at a meeting here that the civil suit is the best hope for revealing the full extent of the government's role in the murders.

But following the acquittal of the nine, Judge Robert Mehri, who will preside over the civil suit, filed an order releasing federal and state agencies from the civil suit.

Meanwhile, at a news conference held in Raleigh, Glenn Miller, a leader of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan who is also a Democratic Party candidate for governor, called on the government to prosecute CWP members for violating the civil rights of Klansmen.

Acquittals in the Federal trial encouraged Joe Grady, head of the White Knights of Liberty, to file legal briefs with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. Grady is seeking a probe into what he calls a conspiracy to violate his organization's constitutional rights. Grady named the U.S. Justice Department, the CWP, and the National Anti-Klan Network as conspirators.