

## Reagan, Congress okay more millions for war

### Socialists hit bipartisan aid to Salvador regime

The following is a statement by Socialist Workers presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González.

Recent events in Washington have drawn the United States further into war in Central America.

On May 9, Pres. Ronald Reagan gave a speech slandering the political aims of Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Salvadoran rebel forces with the aim of undermining widespread opposition to escalating U.S. aggression in the region.

Less than 24 hours later, under the phony cover of "aiding democracy" in the region, the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives voted 212-208 to authorize another \$129.4 million in U.S. military aid, mostly for the dictatorship in El Salvador.

While the Democratic Party leadership

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Militant



Militant/Rachel Knapik

Mel Mason and Andrea González, 1984 SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates, blasted President Reagan's May 9 speech as "slandering the political aims of Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Salvadoran rebel forces."

## Nicaragua: the toll of U.S. aggression

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua, the fourth poorest country in Latin America, says that even if it is driven back to the Stone Age it will not surrender to U.S. imperialism.

The most recent (and only partial) calculations of the damage inflicted in the no-longer-secret U.S. war show the price Nicaraguans have already had to pay to remain free. The toll from air, sea, and land attacks by CIA-run counterrevolutionary ter-

rorists has been high.

Civilian war victims in 1983 and the first three months of 1984 total 1,799 killed, wounded, and kidnapped. (A comparable figure for the United States, adjusting for the difference in population, would be 108,000 — twice the number of U.S. soldiers killed during the entire Vietnam War.)

An additional 114,000 farmers have been moved from the war zones and resettled in safer areas, at an initial cost of nearly \$40 million.

To date, economic damage caused by war totals more than \$200 million — equivalent to half the country's yearly exports.

Twenty-five cents out of every dollar in the Nicaraguan national budget is now devoted to defense. Improvements in health, education, child care, housing, and nutrition have had to be scaled back to make these funds available.

These sobering figures, along with the steps the workers and farmers government must take to confront the real cost of the war, were explained to the Nicaraguan people May 4 by Government Coordinator Daniel Ortega.

In a nationally broadcast radio and TV address opening the 1984 session of the Council of State, Ortega explained that the country must consciously shift to a wartime economy. The watchwords, he said, must be "Defense of the economy and an economy of defense."

Ortega explained that taxes on the rich and on luxury items had already been increased. (Since the revolution those with incomes under \$500 a month — that is, the vast majority of all Nicaraguan farmers and workers — pay no taxes.)

Prices of basic consumer goods would soon have to be increased as well, he said, on top of the 40 percent cost increase last year on non-price-controlled items. But a crackdown on hoarding and speculation was promised to help soften the blow.

Ortega explained how the war has affected virtually every aspect of the gradually improving standard of living brought by the revolution.

**Health care:** "The aggression has forced us to slow down the gradual development of health care projects," Ortega said. Some medical centers have been shut down. Construction of others has been postponed. Some vaccination campaigns in the war zones have been suspended. Terrorists have destroyed 17 health centers, killed 15 health workers, and kidnapped 11 others.

**Education:** A total of 138 schools and 647 adult education collectives in the war zones have been closed. Fifteen schools have been damaged or destroyed in attacks. Construction has been halted at 27 more. More than 150 teachers and adult education

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## Convicted for helping Salvadoran refugees

BY HARRY RING

The government has obtained its first conviction of a church worker for the "crime" of assisting Salvadoran refugees seeking political asylum here.

Stacey Merkt, a worker at a church-sponsored refugee center in the Rio Grande Valley, was convicted in Brownsville, Texas, May 14. She faces 15 years in prison.

A nun who had been arrested with her did not contest the charges and is expected to receive a year's probation.

Meanwhile, on April 13 federal agents entered church property to arrest the head of the center, Jack Elder. He was indicted for "transporting illegal aliens."

The Oscar Romero refugee center, operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, is in San Benito, near the Mexican border.

### Fled El Salvador

Mauricio Valle, Brenda Sánchez-Galán, and Sánchez-Galán's infant daughter had fled El Salvador after relatives and friends suffered atrocities there. They made their way to this country and were given haven at the Romero center.

The center is near an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) station in McAllen. But they feared applying for political asylum there because other Salvadorans who did so were promptly arrested.

Instead, Merkt and the nun agreed to accompany them to the INS office in San Antonio where they believed it would be safer to make the asylum bid.

They were arrested at a highway traffic stop by Border Patrol cops.

Merkt was convicted on two felony counts — "conspiracy to transport" undocumented aliens, and "transporting" undocumented aliens.

At her trial, she stoutly defended what she had done.

Citing international covenants agreed to by the United States regarding political refugees, Merkt declared she had a legal right to help Salvadorans "escape from oppression."

The Brownsville jury deliberated 17 hours before returning the guilty verdict. Observers attributed the verdict to the federal judge's loaded instructions to the jury.

In his instructions, he asserted that if the facts were as charged, which, he gratuitously emphasized, "they seem to be," then the jurors had "no choice" but to bring in a guilty verdict.

### Director of refugee center also arrested

The case against Jack Elder, director of the center, is as outrageous as the one against Merkt.

A federal grand jury indicted him on three counts of transporting illegal aliens on the basis that he had driven three other Salvadoran refugees from the Romero center to the bus station in nearby Harlingen!

Merkt is due to be sentenced June 27. Meanwhile her attorneys are preparing to appeal the verdict.

In a telephone interview, Diane Elder, a worker at the Romero center, said a defense group, the Rio Grande Defense Committee, had been established to support Merkt's fight.

Meanwhile, she declared, "our refugee assistance program will continue as in the past. We feel the law is on our side and we're confident that justice will triumph. We feel Stacey Merkt's wrongful conviction

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## Mason to tour Britain, Ireland to meet working-class fighters

BY ANDREA MORELL

NEW YORK — The Socialist Workers National Campaign headquarters announced today that presidential candidate Mel Mason will tour Britain and Ireland May 25 through June 9.

Mason has been invited to visit Britain by supporters of *Socialist Action*, a Marxist newsweekly.

He will make stops in several Irish cities at the invitation of the People's Democracy, a socialist organization active in both the north and south of that divided country. People's Democracy is the Irish sympathizing section of the Fourth International.

Mason's trip will coincide with protests planned by broad forces on the occasion of visits set for early June to England and Ireland by Pres. Ronald Reagan.

The joint decision by London and Washington to place cruise missiles, armed with nuclear warheads, in Britain has been the focus of massive protests there. The Committee for Nuclear Disarmament, which has played a leading role in organizing opposition to the nukes, is planning a major demonstration June 9. Mason will take part in the action.

Washington's war in the Caribbean and Central America is unpopular among working people in Britain and Ireland, where opposition ran deep to the U.S. war in Vietnam. Many workers there solidarize with the embattled workers and farmers of Nicaragua and El Salvador, who they rec-

ognize are struggling for a decent standard of living and national self-determination.

The Irish people are themselves engaged in a fierce struggle to rid their country of centuries of British imperialist exploitation and political domination. Mason makes opposition to imperialism a theme of his campaign and is a supporter of a united, free Ireland. He has protested the detention of Irish freedom fighters in U.S. prisons.

While in Britain Mason will express his continuing solidarity with British coal miners, now in the 10th week of a bitter strike that pits them directly against the central government, which runs the nationalized coal industry. British Marxists have been helping to win much-needed solidarity for the British miners among other unionists.

The U.S. presidential elections are a major issue in world politics. How to approach them politically is a subject that is being discussed by class-struggle minded unionists, national independence fighters, opponents of nuclear war, and socialists all around the world.

As the only presidential candidate campaigning for socialism in the 1984 elections — instead of promoting a perspective of reforming capitalism and supporting one or another reform Democrat — Mason is eager to discuss how to combat Washington's reactionary policies with workers and other fighters throughout his tour of Britain and Ireland.

The *Militant* will carry coverage of the Mason tour.



# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY VALERIE JOHNSON

BOSTON — Regular weekly sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM) in front of factories in this area have begun to build up a readership of the socialist press among workers. These workers, organized by key industrial unions, have also been introduced to the Socialist Workers' presidential campaign.

Two months ago, when the *Militant* reprinted an internal General Motors document containing management's bargaining goals for the 1984 contract with the United Auto Workers, 95 copies of the paper were sold at the GM plant in nearby Framingham. The document described GM's plans to lay off up to 120,000 workers over the next two and a half years.

Plant gate sales teams since then have found that auto workers have an ongoing interest in the *Militant*. In one week at the end of April, 19 papers were sold at the plant; the

next week, 10 more were sold. A number of workers have also received literature on the campaign of Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, Mel Mason and Andrea González.

The team at the Framingham plant sells to workers driving by in cars, which leaves little time for discussions. However, a number of them have come to expect the *Militant* to be there.

At one gate, two Black workers who ride together have had their money ready every week, and have expressed interest in the Mason-González campaign.

Another carload of Black auto workers stopped, bought the *Militant*, and took a lot of literature, including the SWP campaign platform. In response to the salesperson asking if they were going to read all that literature, the driver responded, "Our lives depend on

reading this stuff."

A young white worker stopped to buy the *Militant*. He explained that because of GM's attacks, he was putting money aside because he felt auto workers would be forced to strike this fall.

While the GM sales have been more or less continuous over the past two years, in the last two months there has been an increase in the number of papers sold.

A total of 30 *Militants* have been sold there in the past month.

The General Electric plant in Lynn, a town north of here, is organized by the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 201. Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance members and several party supporters did a lot of campaigning there over a three week period, culminating in a plant-gate rally for Mel Mason and Christine Gauvreau. She is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate

from Massachusetts and works at the GE plant.

Leading up to the rally, teams passed out campaign literature, reaching first and second shift workers at each gate. The socialists got the company's permission to campaign on its property, which made it possible to talk to more workers. Back issues of the *Militant* were distributed, along with 1,700 copies of an open letter from Gauvreau addressed to fellow IUE members. The letter explained the socialist campaign's proposal for a labor party based on the trade union movement and also introduced the *Militant* as the campaign's newspaper.

The plant-gate rally was very successful. Many workers stopped and shook Mason's hand, wishing him luck. The large number of white workers who stopped shows that it's not only workers who are

Black that are attracted to a fight-back program.

A key to our success in the plant-gate work has been the participation of campaign supporters who are not members of the SWP or YSA. One of these sells the *Militant* regularly at the GM plant gate. Others participated several weeks in a row in building the plant-gate rally at GE.

In addition, sales at the ViMill plant, a small garment shop organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, have introduced several Spanish-speaking workers to PM.

Last month, the ViMill sales team met a Nicaraguan worker who fought with the Sandinistas during the civil war which ended with the overthrow of the dictator Somoza in 1979.

At our last sale, 6 of the 30 garment workers who walked past bought copies of PM.

## Nicaragua: the toll of United States aggression

Continued from front page

instructors have been killed. One result: "Thousands of children have been left without primary schooling."

**Housing:** "Construction of more than 2,000 housing units has had to be suspended to divert material resources to re-settlement areas for those displaced by the war."

**Employment:** Of the national fishing fleet of 116 boats, only 47 are actually at work. The rest are either laid up for lack of spare parts or have been converted into homemade coast guard vessels.

Gold production dropped by 11 percent for lack of spare parts and because of the

bombing of the mining region's hydroelectric power plant.

Manufacturing has suffered from the shortage of hard currency for imported raw materials.

Timber valued at \$6 million couldn't be cut because of counterrevolutionary attacks.

"If all these sectors were able to work at full capacity," Ortega pointed out, "10,000 jobs could be created."

**Food:** \$40 million in damage has been done to cash crops, cattle herds, and cooperatives. Three grain silos, representing 8 percent of the country's total agricultural storage facilities, were burned to the ground.

"The supply of basic consumer goods to the population has been seriously affected by the war," Ortega acknowledged.

"Production of both corn and beans is concentrated in the regions where the [counterrevolutionary] bands are active. Delivery of these products, as well as of essential imported goods, has met with great difficulties, resulting in an inescapable decline in the supply of goods available to people."

The revolutionary government's initial response to the shortages has been to give the war zones top priority for delivery of scarce goods. Here in Managua and in the other large southern cities unaffected directly by the war, the result has been short supplies and soaring prices in the private markets. Toilet paper is selling at \$3.50 a roll, toothpaste at \$8 a tube, razor blades at \$2 to \$3 apiece.

"The situation of shortages cannot be overcome in the short-term," Ortega said, "even less so in the present conditions of

war. But distribution, yes, can be improved greatly."

To do so, Ortega said, we must "deal a heavy blow to the speculators" and "advance further in the social structuring of the economy."

This is "perfectly compatible with the mixed economy so long as producers agree to produce what the economy needs under production contracts with the state. And so long as businessmen dedicate themselves

— in association with the mass organizations — to distribution and not to speculation."

What the revolution cannot permit, Ortega concluded, "is that while the people are fighting and while workers live on insufficient wages, some individuals take advantage of the shortages to speculate and enrich themselves."

"This cannot be tolerated!"

## 1,500 at Pierre Frank memorial

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Fifteen hundred people turned out in Paris April 27 to pay tribute to Pierre Frank, a longtime leader of the Fourth International and its French section, the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR). Born in 1905, Frank died April 18.

Members of the LCR, delegations from sections of the Fourth International, representatives of other groups on the French left, and prominent individuals accompanied Frank's coffin on a march to the Père-Lachaise cemetery.

The May 4 *Rouge*, newspaper of the LCR, reported that among those participating were Marguerite Métyer, Frank's longtime companion; Vladi, son of Victor Serge and a well-known painter; Mohamed Harbi, who was a leader of the Algerian National Liberation Front in 1958; Zbigniew Kowalewski, an exiled leader of Polish Solidarity; and Lautaro Sandino, a leader of the Nicaraguan Sandinista Youth-July 19.

*Rouge* reported that prior to Frank's cremation, speeches were given by Ernest Mandel, for the United Secretariat of the Fourth International; José Iriarte Bikila, for the Revolutionary Communist League in

the Spanish state; Barry Sheppard, for the Socialist Workers Party of the United States; Jakob Moneta, for the International Marxist Group of Germany; Charlie van Gelderen, for the British section of the Fourth International; and Alain Krivine, for the French LCR.

A revolutionary communist from age 15, Pierre Frank joined the French Communist Party in 1925. He became a pioneer leader of the French Trotskyist movement, a secretary to Russian revolutionist Leon Trotsky, and a longtime member of the elected leadership bodies of the Fourth International. He was imprisoned in a British detention camp during World War II, and jailed by the French government for his support to the Algerian revolution and for his activities during the May-June 1968 upsurge in France. A first-rate communist journalist, he wrote numerous articles for the press of the world Trotskyist movement and was a contributing editor of *Intercontinental Press* at the time of his death.

The May 4 *Militant* carried an appreciation of Frank's life and the message of solidarity sent to the French LCR by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

## Salvadoran refugees

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tion will prove a rallying point."

The prosecution of Merkt and Elder reflects the government's determination not to grant political asylum to Salvadoran refugees. Doing so would be an admission of the totalitarian nature of the regime that Washington keeps in power in El Salvador.

The government is equally determined to push back the sentiment against U.S. involvement in El Salvador which is so dramatically reflected in the steady growth of the church sanctuary movement.

According to government estimates, there are more than half a million undocumented Central Americans here, the majority from El Salvador.

The INS says that since 1980 it has deported more than 29,000 people to El Salvador. The State Department admits that some of those turned over to the Salvadoran regime have been killed, but claims this is the result of "random violence."

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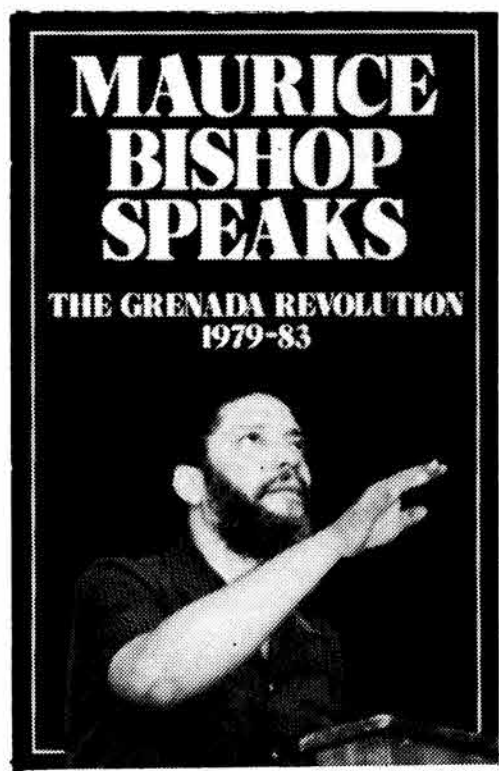
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Editors: CINDY JAQUITH  
DOUG JENNESS

Business Manager:  
LEE MARTINDALE

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

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## BY BILL ARTH

More than 100 Litton workers signed the socialist petitions. One worker who signed and also bought the *Militant* said, "I think the union should get this." She took a subscription blank for the union. Litton and Morell workers bought 11 copies of the *Militant* and a copy of the *Young Socialist*,

A spring blizzard in western South Dakota killed thousands of head of livestock in late April. This has further aggravated the plight of farmers, and many face foreclosure. Several were attracted to the

## BY RUSS PANECKI

A central issue in his campaign is the U.S. war against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador. "Right now at this very hour, U.S. ships, planes, and soldiers are prowling the waters, air, and land of Central America and the Caribbean. I demand

A young woman who used to farm signed a petition in Rapid City and explained the problems facing her family. "For three years we didn't make any money," she said. "We had to sell. Now my husband and I have minimum-wage jobs, and we're making more money than in the last three years we had the farm."

Over the course of the petition drive, close to 100 *Militants*, 20 *Young Socialists*, and several socialist books and pamphlets were sold. Twenty-seven people signed cards for more information on the socialist campaign.



Militant/Harry Ring

**Ed Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in Illinois' First Congressional District in Chicago. Illinois socialists are petitioning to get Warren and Senatorial candidate Nelson González on the ballot, as well as presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González. Nearly 7,000 of the 35,000 required signatures were collected on May 12, the first day of the drive. To help the Illinois effort, call the campaign headquarters at (312) 326-5853.**

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# Congress okays more millions for war

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pretends to favor a Central American policy that is different from Reagan's, the facts prove otherwise. The vote for the Salvador aid was *bipartisan*, with many Democrats backing it. Other Democrats, who voted against it, made plain that they also support U.S. intervention. They simply think more cover should be given by tacking on empty phrases about human rights.

Democrats and Republicans alike justified their action with the claim that José Napoleón Duarte's election as El Salvador's new president signaled the birth of democracy in that country.

What hypocrites! El Salvador under Duarte will be no more democratic than before Duarte.

Duarte will continue fighting the civil war on behalf of El Salvador's tiny handful of wealthy landlords against the popular revolution that seeks to bring justice to Salvadoran workers and farmers.

Duarte will do just what he did when he headed the country's ruling junta from 1980 to 1982: clamp down on trade union rights, oppose meaningful land reform, and allow the death squads to operate freely.

In his May 9 speech Reagan tried to bolster this fiction of the U.S. government as agent of democracy. The world must be made safe for the free enterprise system, Reagan argued. U.S. policy must aim to stop "communism."

Taking the cue, Reagan's "national security advisor," Robert McFarlane, announced "we" face "a determined effort by the Soviet Union to subvert friendly governments... using great violence...."

He echoed Reagan's charges that Cuba plans to "double the violence" in El Salvador. He claimed "we" had to accept a policy of "covert action" to stop this.

Reagan and McFarlane resort to the old game of anticommunist lies as a smoke-screen to prevent the people of the United States from learning the truth about U.S. policy in Central America and what the people there are really fighting for.

The truth is that the working people of El Salvador live in conditions of misery and oppression. Led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) they are striving to make a revolution to end those

conditions. And it is their right to do so.

In Nicaragua workers and peasants have already done this, and today they are defending their revolution and the popular government it brought to power, against counterrevolutionary terrorists supported by Washington.

What is Cuba's role? The Cubans did not make the Nicaraguan revolution. They are not orchestrating the Salvadoran revolution.

What Cuba does offer is its *example*. The example of a poor country that overthrew a U.S.-backed dictator and established a government of workers and farmers.

What the Cubans did — which is so inspiring to millions of workers and peasants in our hemisphere and elsewhere — is to uproot the system of political domination and economic exploitation of their human and natural resources by the ruling rich of the United States and their cronies in the

Cuban capitalist class.

It took a *revolution* to accomplish this and make the huge strides forward that Cuba has made in a short 25 years in the areas of education, medical care, Black rights, women's rights, rising living standards, and political democracy.

It's this road — the road of breaking imperialism's grip on the people of the world — that represents humanity's future.

U.S. policy is on the wrong side of history. It defends the "right" of exploitation and the "right" of domination. *But those are not rights*, and the Cubans, Nicaraguans, and Salvadorans are making that clear today.

While Democratic liberals in Congress often sound a note that seems different from Reagan's more open and strident anti-communism, there is less and less difference between them over what the U.S. government should do.

That's because they *all* agree on funda-

mentals — protect capitalist profits, by any means necessary. And that means war.

Our campaign opposes sending U.S. working-class youth to kill and be killed for big-business interests against the right of other peoples fighting for self-determination.

We oppose dragging the workers and farmers of our hemisphere into what will be a long and bloody war against each other. We all have the same enemy — the U.S. employers and their political representatives who run the government. U.S. working people should be fighting here — not in Central America — against the exploitation, racism and oppression we face.

Our campaign calls for a workers and farmers government in this country. A government that would reorganize society to put human needs, not private profits, first. Which would stretch out a hand of friendship — not the hounds of war — to the people of Latin America.

## 'Militant' sales counter Reagan war speech

BY BILL SCHEER

As Washington moves toward massive military intervention in Central America, the government and big-business media have stepped up their war on the propaganda front, trying to use anticommunism to break down antiwar sentiment. This battle of ideas heated up on May 9 when Reagan took the offensive on network television to sell the U.S. war.

Socialist workers are using the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM) as their chief weapons in this battle of ideas. In most areas of the country, war and its link with problems facing working people here are often at the heart of discussions socialists have when selling the *Militant* and PM.

Mark Emanation, a garment worker in Philadelphia, reported that some workers who are against the U.S. war in Central America were influenced by Reagan's "red menace" campaign against the Nicaraguan government. They said: sure, Reagan is a liar, but how do you know that the Sandinistas aren't liars too?

Emanation found that the more people

know about the Grenada revolution, the more they saw through Reagan's lies about Nicaragua. Emanation has been explaining the gains made by working people in Grenada under the People's Revolutionary Government led by Maurice Bishop before the U.S. invasion. This example has helped him to explain why U.S. working people should support revolution in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

San Jose socialists working in plants that produce war matériel reported that Reagan's speech stirred very little discussion. Nevertheless, they find a deep concern among coworkers about a new war. Jim Burfeind reports that he sold the *Militant* in a working-class area of San Jose by approaching people and talking about the need to stop the U.S. war in Central America and prevent more Vietnam wars.

"The people who stopped to buy the paper were against the war," he said, "but they wanted facts. They wanted information about Nicaragua, they wanted to know why Reagan is going after that country." Burfeind found that the first-hand coverage from Nicaragua by the *Militant-PM* bureau there made the papers more attractive to people.

Scott Ware, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Cleveland, noted that "there is a general skepticism about the government's Central America policy. Most people suspect that the mass media and Reagan are not telling the truth, even if they can't answer the liars. The *Militant* and PM arm working people to take on Washington's lies point by point."

The results from Cleveland are impressive. In the second week of May socialists collected more than 1,000 signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party candidates on the November general election ballot. More than 10 percent of those who signed also bought a copy of the *Militant* or PM. "The fight against war is one of the two main themes we talked about while petitioning," said Ware. "The other theme is the need to break from the Democratic and Republican parties and to fight for a government of workers and farmers."

Cleveland socialists are using the petitioning effort to reach beyond the city's boundaries. A team of petitioners cam-

paign in Lorain, Ohio, an important steel and auto town with a large Puerto Rican community. They were able to collect 88 signatures and sell 23 *Militants* and 5 PMs. They plan to return next week.

Socialists in Miami face a special challenge in countering Washington's war propaganda. An organized, violent right wing based in the Cuban exile community hates the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions and actively supports the U.S. war. These right-wingers falsely claim to speak for all Spanish-speaking people and are touted by Reagan and others as "Hispanic leaders."

But socialists have found that they have been able to get a serious hearing for their antiwar ideas. Some of the socialists' Spanish-speaking coworkers read PM. As part of the spring sales drive, the socialists decided to increase their sales of PM. They have been selling in communities with a mixture of people from all over Latin America, including Puerto Rico, Colombia, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

While still modest, these sales are an important way of breaking through the pro-war, right-wing climate imposed on this city. Through sales, Miami socialists have attracted some revolutionary-minded Latinos, including three who have helped to sell PM.

A different type of challenge in Miami is to reach the large Haitian community where Creole and French are spoken. The Miami branch of the Socialist Workers Party decided to order a bundle of *Lutte Ouvrière*, a revolutionary socialist French-language newspaper published in Montreal where the majority speaks French. They try to sell 20 each week and report that so far they have sold out every issue. Last week 16 copies of *Lutte Ouvrière* were sold at a picket line called to protest racist treatment of Haitians by a grocery store in the "Little Haiti" section of Miami.

The scoreboard on this page reflects sales during the first half of the eight-week sales campaign. Fifteen areas have sold more than half of their goal. A majority of others are confident that they will make their goals. Areas that have sold less than they had planned to by the halfway mark are discussing special efforts to narrow the gap in the second half of the drive.

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #4: Totals as of Militant issue #17, PM issue #9)

Area	Eight-week Goal Militant/PM	Sold So Far Militant/PM	Total Goal/Sold	%
Toledo	800/40	574/3	840/577	69
Milwaukee	800/160	538/70	960/608	63
Denver	515/85	325/45	600/370	62
Chicago	900/300	583/131	1,200/714	60
Albany, N.Y.	704/56	413/40	760/453	60
Seaside, Calif.	320/200	188/117	520/305	59
Dallas	400/200	184/161	600/345	58
Newport News, Va.	400/0	223/0	400/223	56
Greensboro, N.C.	360/0	199/0	360/199	55
Seattle	760/40	393/30	800/423	53
Los Angeles	840/880	499/405	1,720/904	53
San Diego	375/125	183/72	500/255	51
Philadelphia	640/160	316/88	800/404	51
Cleveland	675/70	348/32	745/380	51
Houston	555/195	261/113	750/374	50
Miami	720/80	340/55	800/395	49
San Jose	480/80	200/68	560/268	48
Birmingham	600/0	286/0	600/286	48
St. Louis	533/0	253/0	533/253	47
Baltimore	800/20	386/2	820/388	47
Washington, D.C.	515/105	234/51	620/285	46
Virginia, Minn.	500/0	229/0	500/229	46
San Francisco	755/325	337/153	1,080/490	45
Phoenix	600/320	289/124	920/413	45
Louisville	450/0	198/0	450/198	44
Minneapolis/St. Paul	1,120/80	497/23	1,200/520	43
Portland	320/160	144/58	480/202	42
Salt Lake City	400/40	149/27	440/176	40
Detroit	1,040/40	423/13	1,080/436	40
Oakland	800/120	297/65	920/362	39
Morgantown, W. Va.	440/0	170/0	440/170	39
Atlanta	760/40	295/14	800/309	39
Albuquerque	480/120	181/40	600/221	37
New Orleans	720/80	262/28	800/290	36
Price, Utah	336/24	118/9	360/127	35
Indianapolis	760/0	242/0	760/242	32
Pittsburgh	850/0	249/0	850/249	29
Kansas City	650/25	175/4	675/179	27
Cincinnati	600/0	155/0	600/155	26
Charleston, W. Va.	450/0	114/0	450/114	25
Newark	1250/250	272/90	1,500/362	24
Boston	640/160	163/15	800/178	22
New York City	1,600/550	339/95	2,150/434	20
<b>Total sold</b>		<b>12,224/2,241</b>	<b>14,465</b>	

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# Big interest in Grenada among Blacks

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

"Pathfinder Press has compiled an instructive, challenging collection of speeches that dynamic Maurice Bishop had made during the years Grenada was the young revolutionary upstart marching forward with Nicaragua and Cuba."

That's how Mel Tapley begins his review of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* in the May 12 issue of the New York *Amsterdam News*, one of the most prestigious Black newspapers in the United States. This favorable review of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* is yet another boost to the campaign to distribute this book.

*Maurice Bishop Speaks* is a collection of speeches by the slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who headed Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government in the years 1979-1983. His murder last fall and the subsequent U.S. invasion of the Caribbean island sparked a discussion among working people — especially Blacks — about Grenada and its revolution.

In addition to Tapley's review, the *Amsterdam News* has carried the review of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* contained in a recent issue of *Dawn Magazine*. This magazine, published by the *Afro-American* chain, is a monthly supplement to more than 45 U.S. Black newspapers, with a total circulation of 875,000.

In April, the national committee of the Socialist Workers Party launched an intensive 10-week campaign to aid Pathfinder Press' effort to widely distribute *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Branches of the SWP, with the support of the Young Socialist Alliance, have backed special activities sponsored by the publisher to promote this compilation of speeches by the slain revolutionary leader.

One such event is scheduled for New York on June 17. (See ad on this page.)

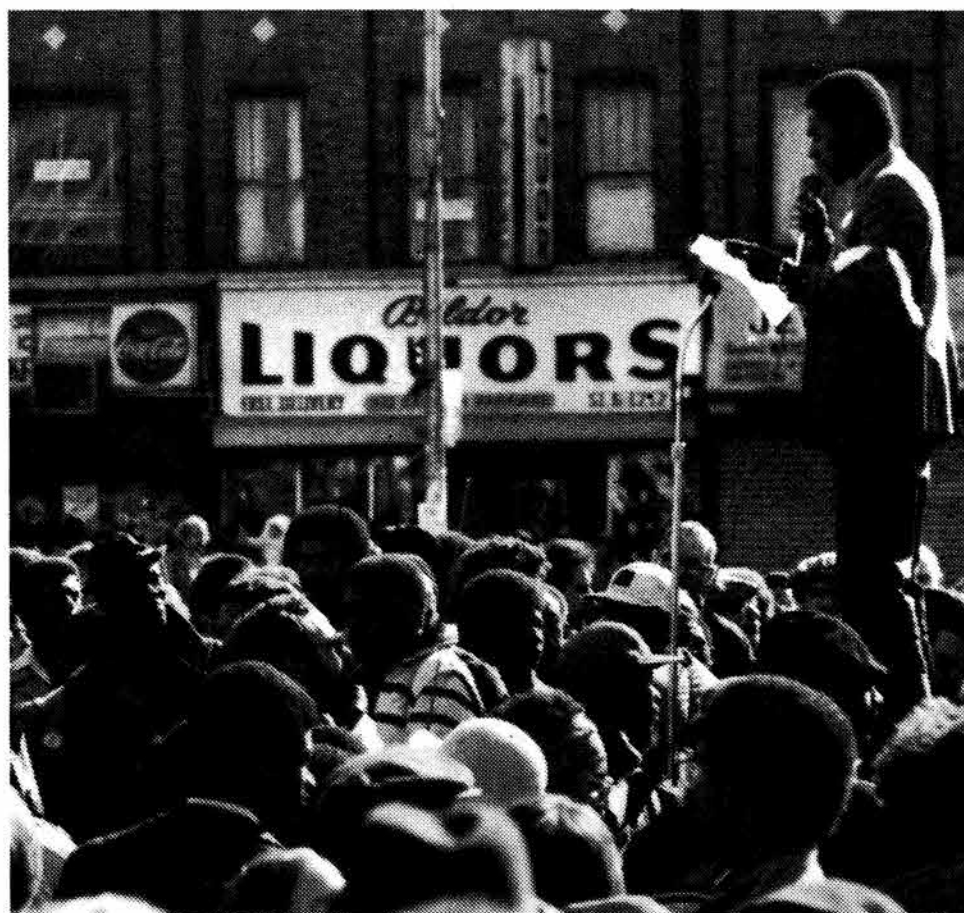
The Grenada revolution — made in a country with an overwhelmingly Black and English-speaking population — had a special appeal to U.S. Blacks and other people of African descent. This helps explain the good reception *Maurice Bishop Speaks* is receiving from Black publications such as *Dawn Magazine* and the *Amsterdam News*.

Blacks' interest in the Grenada revolution can also be seen in the breadth of support for the June 17 New York meeting. Among the speakers at the event will be: Joachim Mark, a noted Grenadian historian; Adeyemi Bandle, vice-chairperson for international affairs of the National Black United Front (NBUF); Elombe Brath, from the Patrice Lumumba Coalition (PLC); and Safiya Bandle, director of Medgar Evers College Center of Women's Development. Medgar Evers College is overwhelmingly Black and female.

NBUF, the PLC, and the Medgar Evers women's center are all cosponsors of the event with Pathfinder Press.

One thing the reviews of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* show is that Blacks are impressed with the numerous achievements of the revolutionary government of Grenada.

"Under Maurice Bishop's leadership,"



Demonstration in Brooklyn's Black community last October protesting U.S. invasion of Grenada. Sympathy for Grenada revolution is reflected in recognition by Black publications of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*.

explains Tapley in the *Amsterdam News*, "important steps had been made in improving the condition of the people: Wages had risen 10 percent; as unemployment fell 38 percent, family income had started climbing.

"Land reform brought underutilized acreage into production on [a] cooperative or state-owned basis; small farmers and farm co-ops got low-interest loans; free medical and dental care; free school books, hot lunches, scholarships — all raised educational horizons for Grenadians."

U.S. working people face all the same

social ills that sparked the Grenada revolution and can learn many lessons from how workers and farmers there began to solve these problems.

Helping to ensure the widest possible distribution of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* will aid Blacks and other workers in drawing the lessons of the four and a half years of the Grenada revolution. It is also an act of solidarity with the Grenadian people, whose country is still occupied by U.S. troops.

Building meetings like the one in New

York is the most valuable way of gaining more exposure for the book. Great potential exists for holding such broadly-sponsored rallies, receptions, and similar events to celebrate the publication of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Black rights activists, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other Black elected officials, and prominent individuals can be approached to endorse these events.

Winning their support will help in gaining the endorsement of trade union leaders, fighters for women's rights and the rights of Latinos, and activists in Central America solidarity organizations. Such events will be attractive to working people, and can be publicized by socialist workers on the job.

Socialists are already finding speeches by Bishop useful in their discussions with other workers. Mark Emanation, for example, who works at the large Stanley Blacker garment factory in Philadelphia, reports that he has been selling the *Militant*, which has carried extensive coverage of Grenada, to coworkers there regularly since Washington invaded Grenada.

"There's a lot of interest in Grenada among workers here — many of whom are Black," said Emanation. In addition to the *Militant*, Emanation reports he's sold several copies of the pamphlet *Maurice Bishop Speaks* to U.S. Workers.

Following President Reagan's May 9 speech on Central America, where Reagan ranted about "communist subversion" in the region, several workers approached Emanation.

"One of them," said Emanation, "asked, 'Mark, you're a communist. What do you think about Reagan's talk?'"

"Several of us went to a bar after work and discussed the U.S. ruling class' plans in Central America. I explained that what the U.S. government did to Grenada is exactly what the bosses want to do to Nicaragua. My coworkers could see this better because of the material on Grenada that we had been reading and discussing."

Emanation and another worker plan to read *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and discuss the speeches together as they go along.

## Bishop interview in 'Black Scholar'

An example of the ongoing discussion in the Black community about the Grenada revolution is the January-February 1984 issue of *The Black Scholar* magazine.

That issue is entirely devoted to coverage of the Grenada revolutionary government's achievements, its overthrow, and the U.S. invasion and occupation.

Included in the magazine are the October statements of the Cuban government and Communist Party on the events in Grenada and the U.S. invasion.

Also in the issue is an eyewitness report of Grenada under U.S. occupation,

a personal account of Grenada in the days leading up to the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and an introductory essay on "The Struggle in Grenada" by Robert Chrisman, the editor and publisher of *The Black Scholar*.

The following are excerpts from an interview with Bishop that appeared in that issue of the magazine. The interview was conducted in August 1983 by Dr. Kwando Kinshasa, a New York journalist who traveled to Grenada with the National Association of Third World Journalists.

*Ques: Yesterday I visited the Free West Indian newspaper, and saw a poster on a wall which stated, "After the rebellion, the revolution begins." What stage do you see the revolution in, at this moment?*

*Bishop: Well, you know, I don't know what that poster means to tell you the truth ... because the revolution as far as I'm concerned began from the first day. The reason why we call it a revolution is first and foremost because it was not a coup d'etat in any of the classical definitions that you would use for that term. No soldiers were involved, no small minority was involved and the actual vanguard involved in the attack was very small as you know, only 46 of us in fact. But the action of the vanguard was only a catalyst and really would have been completely unimportant if there was not a popular support and a popular base.*

*When 46 of us went down to the barracks and went down to the radio station, then put out a call to the people, if there would have been no response by the people, there would not have been a revolution. We all would be dead from the start. So the fact is, the popular insurrectionary character of the revolution was imprinted from day one.*

To look at your question a different way,

we think the stage we're on right now, we define as being the national democratic anti-imperialist stage. When we speak of a stage, we are speaking of a path, and we describe the path as of socialist orientation which is a pre-socialist path. [ ... ]

Seen dialectically, I'm sure you would appreciate the new shoots of the revolution that are coming up, ... they are co-existing with all of the old shoots, and all of the old culture, old values and old habits, old prejudices and old difficulties. So, as you really can imagine, it is a major struggle and sometimes it is not always possible to separate the old shoots from the new shoots. Furthermore, if you think about our location, you may have even a deeper understanding of what I mean.

Just think of it this way. Grenada is situated at the tip of the southern Caribbean. We are surrounded by English speaking neighbors. Some of them are hostile to us. ALL of them have radio stations, ALL of them have television stations.

Likewise of course, the United States is right around the corner. In many cases, it is only hostile propaganda directed against the revolution, and sometimes indirectly. That is to say indirectly only in the sense that they continue to spread out only the old values, the old materialist conceptions, outlooks, which we are precisely struggling now to change so as to instill new values in our people. [ ... ]

Obviously we are trying to build several revolutions at the same time. Outside the political revolution which was basically consummated on the 13th of March 1979, there is the economic revolution, and we have a long long way to go on that one. There is the cultural revolution ... and again we have a good road to travel there.

We have wiped out illiteracy. It's down to 2 percent of the population. UNESCO says if you have under 5 percent you don't have illiteracy ... so let us say we don't have illiteracy. But what we have is *func-*

Continued on Page 9

### Celebrate publication of "Maurice Bishop Speaks"

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# Kampuchea: survivors recall holocaust

BY DIANE WANG

CHEUNG EK, Kampuchea — The old woman was bundling firewood. "Who am I?" We had asked her name. "Kout. Call me Kout."

The words "mouy kout" mean "the only one" in the Khmer language of Kampuchea. Kout is the only one left in her family. During the Pol Pot years she lost her husband and two children.

Behind Kout was a field of mass burial pits, 129 of them. "The stench was terrible when they dug those up," Kout recalled. Only 86 of them were unearthed. The nearly 9,000 skulls recovered were carefully stacked in a wooden pavillion as a memorial.

Mass graves like this are found throughout Kampuchea. The remains of more than a half million victims have been found in them. These graves date from the late 1970s. From April 17, 1975, to January 7, 1979, the Khmer Rouge regime headed by Pol Pot ruled with unchecked brutality over this country of 7 to 9 million people.

Today Pol Pot is the key figure in a coalition government-in-exile on the Thai border. Despite his past crimes and despite his complete lack of support inside Kampuchea, Pol Pot's coalition is the government officially recognized by the United Nations and the United States.

No one that Steve Clark and I met during our 10-day visit to Kampuchea in March had lost less than three people in their family. Everyone had stories to tell, from which we could put together a picture of the the Kampuchean holocaust.

## April 17, 1975

Pol Pot came to power as a leader of Kampuchea's national liberation struggle. When the Khmer Rouge forces entered Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975, crowds cheered and welcomed them. They cheered the overthrow of the U.S. puppet Lon Nol who had seized power in 1970. It meant an end to the U.S. war, and to the U.S. air raids that had dropped one-half million tons of bombs on this country, which is only the size of Missouri.

"But right away, within a few hours, they told everyone to hurry and leave the city," recalled Cham Borey, a young man in his twenties who served as our guide. At first people believed the Khmer Rouge story: that an evacuation for three days or so was necessary because U.S. bombers might strike.

"But then we saw the corpses on the side of the road and in the river. Soldiers from the former Lon Nol regime who turned themselves in were shot on the spot. People who had done any kind of work for the government, clerks, were shot," said Borey.

"At check-points along the road they asked everyone's job," Borey said. "One man answered that he worked at the bottling plant, which was called BGI. The Khmer Rouge guard said, 'BGI, CIA, KGB — it's all the same!' and shot the worker right there. So I knew when it was my turn not to admit I was a student. I said I drove a pedicab."

## No socialist revolution

All of the cities were evacuated. Although Pol Pot claimed to be a socialist, he had no interest in combating class divisions in society or in exposing how the ruling rich exploit working people. Instead he whipped up a fanatic hatred of all the "city people" and their "decadence." He incited his followers against workers and people with formal education.

This was no socialist revolution. Far from being a revolution by and for the people, it immediately turned upon the workers, to destroy them as a class. Pol Pot and the clique of middle-class intellectuals that made up his wing of the Khmer Rouge leadership could not tolerate the possibility of a challenge to their policies by workers with some experience, education, and organization.

But workers and other urban residents were not Pol Pot's only targets. Peasants, too, were moved from their villages. Virtually everyone outside Battambang province in the northwest was subjected to forced migration, herded into huge agricultural labor camps.

In the camps, people told us, each per-



The woman named "Only One" lost husband and two children during years of rule by Pol Pot.

son was stripped of everything but a set of black clothes and a scarf. Family houses were pulled down, so that all sleeping and eating was done communally.

## Pol Pot's schema

Families were torn apart and people were driven to compete for food, even against their own family. Conditions varied from one region to another, and over time. But during the last two years of Khmer Rouge rule, the repression became particularly intense and conditions especially severe.

"We had barely a tablespoon of rice a day," one peasant told us. "We survived by eating leaves from the forest or anything we could catch in secret."

Although Tonle Sap in Kampuchea is one of the world's largest and richest freshwater lakes, the Khmer Rouge drove people out of many fishing villages. "We forgot what fish even tasted like," recalled one fisherman.

The Khmer Rouge plan was to keep domestic consumption to such minimal, starvation levels in order to boost the rice crop available for export. The export revenue, according to this schema, would then be used to transform Kampuchea into a modern, industrialized country as rapidly as possible. The country would then be completely self-reliant and need no international ties.

"Everyone was sick," a doctor told us. "And nothing could be done." There were no real medicines. Instead, the Khmer Rouge gave children injections of so-called vitamins from dirty soda bottles. This accounts for a number of paralyzed young people we saw.

But in addition, doctors and others had to hide the fact that they could read and write. "If you could read even the label on a bottle of aspirin, you could be executed as an agent of the old regime," said the doctor. So, people often stood by in silence as others died.

## Breakdown of human solidarity

"There was a complete breakdown of any human relationship," one person told me. "You were only allowed to relate to the authorities."

"One day I had word from my brother," Borey told us. "My father, my mother, and nine brothers and sisters had all died or had been killed. I already had malaria at the time. That was too much, and I fainted. Fortunately, the chief at our camp had pity on me. That was usually dangerous, because if the Khmer Rouge were not harsh enough, they themselves would be killed and replaced."

"But he had pity on me, until the time came for the big wedding." It was common for the Khmer Rouge to pair people and have them married in mass ceremonies. "I refused, so I was sent to a prison camp."

At the prison camp Borey was set to breaking up rocks. His entire work brigade

of 40 people had to share a small tin of rice for food. At night groups of prisoners were tied together at the wrist with thread. If the thread was broken in the morning, all would be killed. So the group had to crouch together and take turns sleeping and guarding the thread.

Starved and exhausted, without weapons and isolated, it was hard for the Kampuchians to fight back. Several rebellions against Pol Pot in those years were crushed.

## Tuol Sleng

Less fortunate prisoners — 20,000 of them — were sent to Tuol Sleng, a former high school converted into an interrogation center. Today Tuol Sleng is the Museum of Genocidal Crime.

Inside are the tiny cells where people were held; a collection of grisly torture instruments; and the floors where prisoners were piled four deep in manacles, as in the galley of a slave ship. There are paintings of the torture done by the only seven victims who survived the ordeal.

The walls are covered with photographs. The Khmer Rouge wardens kept meticulous records: files of "confessions," pictures of each person when he or she arrived at the center, and pictures after the victims died in torture.

The prisoners were a cross-section of Kampuchea: workers, peasants, intellectuals, women, even children.

Foreigners from India, Australia, and the United States who were picked up on Kampuchea's territory or waters were brought here and disposed of.

And as Pol Pot's purges of his own forces reached deeper after each attempted rebellion, many of the Khmer Rouge themselves ended up here.

In one room are pictures of the wardens

and torturers. Most are boys or girls about 13 years old. Pol Pot relied on organized gangs made up largely of very poor and politically inexperienced peasant youth. They were used to carry out the brutality that kept down the mass of Kampuchea's peasants and workers.

## Liberation

Ing Pech, curator of the Tuol Sleng prison, is one of the seven who survived. He was kept alive because he could repair motors. "There was no news in the prison, and no one could talk to anyone," he said. "There was no hope at all. All that we hoped for was the day we would finally be killed. No one could think we would survive or be freed."

When liberation did come, it was a complete surprise.

Lach Chhorn had been moved from his fishing village to a distant area called Region 2. "People were very glad to hear shots," he recalled. "The natural thing for people is to run away from the sound of gunfire. But we were enslaved and being killed. So when we heard shots, we ran toward the noise. We knew someone was fighting back, and that was all that mattered."

Others were not so sure what to think as the Vietnamese came over the border to help drive out the Pol Pot forces. "At first I hid in the bushes," one person told us. "But when I saw they were with Kampuchians and especially when they started handing out food, I knew they were on our side."

Many Kampuchians were marched toward the Thai border by the Khmer Rouge fleeing from the liberation forces. "They tried to use us as a human shield," a man named Son Sen from Kbal Chrouy told us. "But the Vietnamese didn't fire at us." Instead they used flanking maneuvers to separate and free the refugees from their captors.

After such an experience it is not surprising that the Kampuchians do not regard the Vietnamese as "invaders." "We are all grateful to the Vietnamese," Son Sen said. "Because of the Vietnamese we survived — not just me, but all of Kampuchea."

When we asked how people felt about the Vietnamese "occupation," people often responded with a question: have you seen our orphanages? Each province has an orphanage with about 200 children, and Phnom Penh has four, caring for about 2,000 children. In 1979 there were about 200,000 orphans. Since then, many have found relatives or have been adopted. "Have you seen our orphans?" several Kampuchians asked us. "Nearly every single one was rescued by the Vietnamese troops."

The fighting was over very quickly, coming within a month after the Vietnamese aided the Kampuchians who had organized as the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation. "The Pol Pot forces just ran," Son Sen said with contempt. "They knew all the people hated them. Once we could fight back, they ran very quickly."

Diane Wang and Steve Clark spent 20 days in Vietnam and 10 days in Kampuchea in February and March as correspondents for the Militant and Intercontinental Press.

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## SPEAKERS

### STEVE CLARK

Editor, *Intercontinental Press*. Recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Vietnam and Kampuchea.

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# Copper strikers tell story of cop attack

BY ELEN LAUPER  
AND KEVIN JONES

CLIFTON-MORENCI, Ariz. — "This is a civil liberties nightmare," declared Antonio Bustamonte, attorney for 10 copper strike supporters arrested during a May 5 police assault on a picket line held following a successful strike solidarity rally here.

Local cops and Department of Public Safety (DPS) police attacked strikers and their supporters, who have been struggling to defend 13 local unions on strike against Phelps Dodge Corp. since July 1, 1983. Following the police attack, Democratic Gov. Bruce Babbitt sent in the National Guard.

The *Militant* returned here to talk to victims of the strike-breaking violence. Interviews shed further light on the events and the antiunion climate created by Phelps Dodge and state authorities.

"We feel," explained striking unionist and Clifton Vice-mayor Eduardo Marquez Sr. at a May 7 press conference with Bustamonte, "that the governor, instead of persecuting the strikers, should prosecute the DPS for provoking everything." He accused the cops of brutality and civil rights violations.

Bustamonte took photos of those arrested the night of the incident while they were in jail. The pictures reveal many bruises. All were held for at least 24 hours, although in at least one case no formal charges were ever filed.

Bustamonte asserted, "There are films of the incident. People had their arms folded and were not resisting arrest."

Moreover, Bustamonte explained, although the cops did make one announcement calling on protesters to disperse before they charged the picket line, "the people who were arrested came to the location after the announcement about it being an 'illegal assembly' was made." Many other demonstrators also never heard the cops' announcement.

The *Militant* interviewed several workers who were at the scene of the police attack. "Cops started pushing people back," explained one young worker, "then started throwing tear gas canisters. The kids picked them up and threw them back."

One canister was fired "right between the legs of a Clifton priest," this eyewitness continued. "He'd been trying to calm people down."

"Cops bring it on themselves," he continued, referring to strikers' hostility to the police. "They just harass you. They don't even ask you to move anymore. They just grab you."

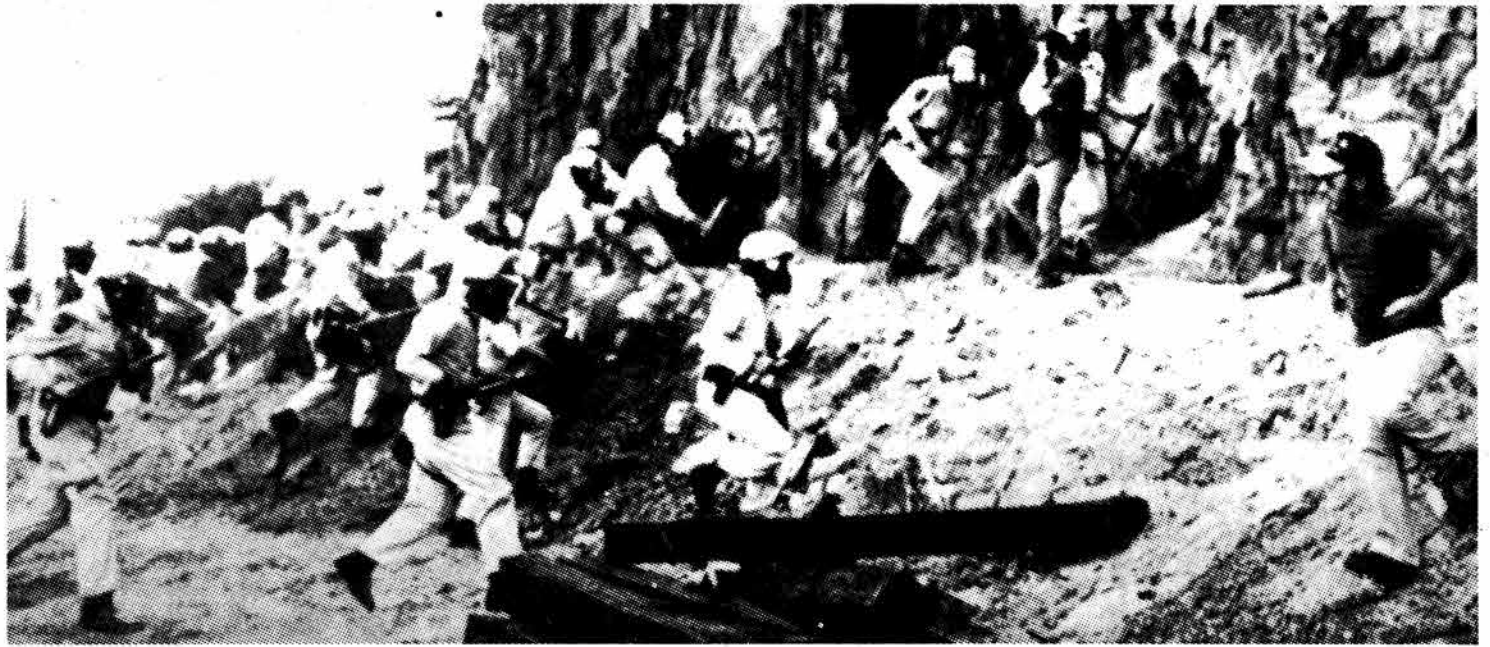
The influence of Phelps Dodge's union-busting is felt everywhere here, including in the schools. School age youth prefer not to give their names for fear of victimization by the authorities but were anxious to tell what's going on.

The local Board of Education has issued a directive prohibiting caps, shirts, buttons, or insignia in school that are "offensive and vulgar." Students see this as an attack on their right to wear items that demonstrate their pride in the unions their parents have fought to build. Union related items were, in fact, confiscated by school authorities, who also consider the use of the word "scab" to be "vulgar and offensive" as well.

An older woman told the *Militant* of the double standard of "justice" in Phelps Dodge territory. "We get stopped for driving too slow," she said, yet "the DPS allows scabs to drive way over the speed limit. How come we don't have the right to defend ourselves when the scabs have the right to carry weapons?" she asked.

The workers arrested May 5 still face legal action. Meanwhile Joe Epperson, a scab who brandished a gun at strike supporters on May 5, was released from jail with all charges dropped.

Although by May 7 the radio announced that the National Guard was not on the streets of the town and claimed the DPS was keeping a low profile, this reporting team observed several National Guard MPs armed with automatic weapons accompanying DPS officers in their vehicles as they patrolled the town. A group of young people told the *Militant* that on May 6 National Guard helicopters flew over the town in formation — a clear message of intimidation aimed at the strikers.



Arizona state police assault copper strikers and supporters. Eyewitnesses told *Militant* cops first fired tear gas at peaceful pickets. When youth threw tear gas canisters back, cops charged, arresting 10.

Intimidation and provocation intended to break the spirit and determination of the strikers is what lay behind the May 5 police assault and Babbitt's deployment of the National Guard. Phelps Dodge is keeping up that pressure.

A company representative hand-delivered a letter to Dr. Jorge O'Leary (a former company doctor fired for his support to the strike) terminating his medical privileges at the only hospital in town — operated by Phelps Dodge. This means O'Leary, who operates a People's Clinic for strikers and others, will not be able to perform neces-

sary surgery for his patients at the hospital here.

Meanwhile a temporary restraining order has been issued restricting the size of gatherings on the town's main road, as well as parking within 100 feet of the road for 10 miles on either side of the gate to the company's mining operations.

Clifton mayor and striking unionist Tomás Aguilar was given a copy of the injunction. The DPS, Aguilar told DPS Major Ernie Johnson, "is here to protect Phelps Dodge, not to protect the interests and citizens of Arizona and Clifton."

Speaking at a May 8 news conference Bustamonte termed the injunction "overbroad and vague enough to be subject to too much interpretation." For instance it does not specify that the "gate" is that of the Phelps Dodge mine, although that appears to be what is intended. To strikers, police "interpretation" means arbitrary victimization.

The temporary injunction was to have been reviewed at a hearing on May 11. However it was postponed until May 30, leaving the undemocratic order in place until then.

## Tractorcade dramatizes farmers' plight

BY ERLING SANNES

BISMARCK, N.D. — Up to 100 farmers organized a day-long tractorcade demonstration at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, on April 16 to dramatize the serious plight of financially-strapped Minnesota farmers. These farmers are making desperate requests for a last-chance loan, for more credit, for refinancing, or for whatever they can get to avoid foreclosures on their farms and bankruptcy.

The tractorcade was under police escort on a three-mile route through Detroit Lakes before parking in front of the local office of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA).

Jim Langman, a Starbuck, Minnesota, farmer and president of the American Agriculture Movement in Minnesota, told the *Militant* in a telephone interview that the angry farmers staged a symbolic mock foreclosure on the FmHA office in Detroit Lakes and auctioned it off to a jackass.

Organizers passed out printed auction bills for the FmHA office which declared: "Because of mismanagement and unprofessional conduct and harassment of professional farmers, we have deemed this FmHA office is without equity and is a drain on the taxpayers of this nation."

Terry Bjerke, a Goodrich, Minnesota, farmer paraded around a jackass which eventually "bought" the FmHA office with a high bid of 99 cents.

The jackass was brought to the demonstration by Warren Rittenbach, a Jamestown, North Dakota, farmer who helped organize a two-day tractorcade in Jamestown last month that effectively blockaded the main entrance to several banks and federal loan offices.

"He (the jackass) is a fool for buying the office even at 99 cents," Langman said, but "he says he's going to use the building to store farmers. That's so they'll have a place to go when they go broke."

"We tied a big red bow on his tail as a symbol of the stubbornness of the FmHA officials and farm politicians," Vicky Hale, a tractorcade organizer who farms with her husband, Victor, in Menahga, Minnesota, told the *Militant* in a telephone interview.

Hale said, "We have to draw attention to the serious plight of the small family farmer who is struggling to survive in a climate of low prices, high interest rates, an ever increasing number of farm foreclosures and unsympathetic FmHA officials."

According to Hale, state FmHA Director Russ Bjorhus had earlier been presented with a petition bearing the signatures of 147 Detroit Lakes-area farmers who demanded the removal of James Johnson, local FmHA County Supervisor, for harassing and intimidating farmers who applied for urgently needed operating loans for spring planting. However, Johnson had apparently been hastily transferred to another Minnesota FmHA office before the tractorcade arrived on Monday.

Victor Hale told the demonstrators that farmers are the only business people who buy retail and sell wholesale. Farmers can't continue to sell below the cost of production, he said. Hale estimates that there are 25,000 Minnesota farmers that are on the

verge of bankruptcy and foreclosure and who will be forced off their farms unless help comes soon.

Hale quoted from a recently released U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Census that reports the number of Minnesota farms at less than 100,000 — the lowest number of farms in Minnesota in more than 100 years.

The farmers loudly cheered when Bjerke announced plans to begin organizing a 40-mile team which he said will make its way from northwest Minnesota to Washington, D.C.

Vicky Hale told the group, "We'll fight for what we believe. It's not just a matter of desperation. It's a matter of wanting to keep a way of life we enjoy."

## Hawaii protest of Reagan policies

BY MARC VIGLIELMO

HONOLULU — More than 300 people gathered at the state capitol in downtown Honolulu on April 22 to protest Washington's domestic and foreign policies. President Reagan was making a two-day stopover here on his way to the People's Republic of China. The state capitol is about a hundred yards from St. Andrew's Cathedral, where Reagan was scheduled to attend Easter services.

Brian Greaves, a minister at St. Andrew's Cathedral, gave the opening speech at the rally. He blasted the current administration's aggression in Central America, the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, the U.S. nuclear buildup, and the slashing of social welfare programs in the United States.

Anna Macanany, a Maryknoll nun and personal friend of the U.S. nuns killed by death squads in El Salvador, addressed similar issues.

Ah Quon McElrath, a former official of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, listed social programs that have been cut since Reagan's inauguration.

Kawehiokalani Kanui-Gill, a member of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana (PKO), attacked the U.S. government for turning Hawaii into a military superbase and a springboard for U.S. aggression in Asia.

The PKO is an organization of aboriginal Hawaiians dedicated to stopping the bombing of Kahoolawe, one of the eight major Hawaiian islands. The U.S. Navy

routinely uses Kahoolawe for bombing practice in spite of the fact that many historical and archaeological artifacts have been found all over the island and the bombing is destroying these valuable records of Hawaiian culture.

Regularly over the past several years, the combined navies of the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have conducted war games, known as RIMPAC, involving the bombing of Kahoolawe.

In a victory for the PKO, the Japanese government announced recently that it would not participate in the bombing.

Dr. Willis Butler, a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, gave the final speech and then the crowd moved down the street to take up positions immediately opposite the cathedral.

A substantial number of signs and banners targeted Reagan's Central America policy. Two of the largest banners read "U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua" and "Jobs Not War."

Reagan's motorcade came in the back of the cathedral, but when the cars left after the service, they had to pass several banners and a crowd chanting "Money for jobs, not for war; U.S. out of El Salvador!" During the brief stop at the governor's mansion to meet Gov. George Ariyoshi and his wife, a large crowd immediately opposite the mansion began chanting, which continued all through the meeting.



# Cuban union congress shows gains for workers and all of society

BY ILONA GERSH

"Practically every problem was discussed in this congress, problems concerning workers in general, problems to do with the revolution, with the life of our society, with the country's internal and external affairs, because the working class is the backbone and soul of the revolution." This is how Fidel Castro summed up the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) when he addressed its closing session.

The congress, held February 20-24 in Havana, was attended by 2,180 delegates. They had been elected from among more than 51,000 candidates who had been nominated in local trade unions. The main proposals to the congress had been discussed for months prior to the congress in every workplace across Cuba.

The March 4 and March 11 issues of *Granma*, newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, carried extensive coverage of the congress, which this article is based on.

Cuba's internationalist solidarity with workers and peasants around the world was shown by the large number of international guests at the congress, who came from 86 countries including: Nicaragua, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Spain, and Portugal.

An interview with Kenneth Toom, the oldest executive member of the National Union of Mineworkers of Great Britain, was featured in *Granma* as part of the congress coverage.

## 'Amazing experience'

A central theme of Castro's speech to the Congress was the contrast between the situation facing workers under capitalism and their situation in Cuba, where there is a government that represents the interests of the workers and peasants. And though Cuba still faces immense problems caused by the U.S. government's economic blockade, sabotage, and military threats, progress is being made in solving those problems.

While workers in Cuba have confidence that their needs and interests will be at the center of their government's efforts, workers and farmers in the United States see their standard of living and democratic rights crumbling before their very eyes.

"This amazing experience, this strange experience of seeing a labor movement discussing all that has been brought up here, all the problems and issues that have been brought up here, the interests that have been put forward here, can only be possible when the working class sees itself as the owner of the means of production and wealth of the country!" said Castro.

"Only then will the workers meet to discuss economizing, productivity profitability, . . . better services. This is because it is their economizing, their productivity, their profitability, their wealth, their services; and this is only possible under socialism."

The congress discussed such far-reaching topics as health care, social security,

education, the role of women and youth, how to defend Cuba against U.S. military threats, and Cuba's international aid to underdeveloped countries. The biggest topic of discussion, however, was the state of the economy and living conditions of the working class.

"If we were asked what has been the main achievement of the work of the unions since the 14th congress," said CTC General Secretary Roberto Veiga, "we would not hesitate in saying that the main achievement of the unions during these years has been the profound understanding which has developed in the ranks of the need to struggle tirelessly to help solve pressing economic problems."

He explained that the unions in Cuba have built a strong mass movement, and have a big impact on Cuba's national goal to increase productivity. In Cuba, 99.2 percent of the working class belongs to the CTC.

## 'Innovators and rationalizers'

In Cuba, when workers have ideas about how to carry out their work more efficiently, those ideas are investigated and implemented. *Granma* reported on the "tremendous contribution of the work innovators and rationalizers' movement, organized in 5,200 committees with over 60,200 members." In 1982, *Granma* reported, "there was a total of 9,892 inventions and cases of work rationalization with an economic value of 320 million pesos [a Cuban peso is roughly equivalent to \$1.40], and in 1983 the value was more than 400 million pesos."

In the United States, "rationalization" means fatter profits for the owners and layoffs and more unemployment for the workers. So even though workers know that there are better ways to produce things, they shy away from making proposals to implement them because they may be working themselves out of their job. In any case, workers' ideas usually fall on deaf ears. But in Cuba, rationalization and increased efficiency don't lead to loss of jobs.

"There was no talk of unemployment," Castro reported in his closing talk at the congress. "The stress was on productivity, when we know full well that in other underdeveloped countries of the Third World and Latin America you can't talk of a machine because that means unemployment, profits for the capitalist to the detriment of the worker. Here everyone knows, every worker knows, that the machine means benefits for the people to the detriment of none. The greater the productivity and technology, the greater the production for the people and more benefits for the people."

In the developed capitalist countries, Castro explained, the problem is that the "need for technology and modernization clashes with the interests of the workers."

Discussion of the sugar cane harvest, in progress at the time, dominated the congress. The sugar production industry, basic



Militant Harry Ring  
Lab technician in sugar mill. Congress discussed how to bring more women into work force and into leadership of unions.

to Cuba's economy, has been the central target of modernization, productivity, and profit campaigns.

Cane cutting is grueling labor. The percentage of cane cut by combine harvesters increased from 25 percent in 1971, to 45 percent in 1980, and 62 percent in this year's harvest.

Cutting energy costs increases profitability. In Cuba, consumption of fuel oil at the sugar mills amounted to 430,000 tons in 1979. In 1983, it was down to 23,000.

In the United States, saving energy means that workers have less heat in their homes, plants are closed, jobs are lost, schools and hospitals cut their services. And bills get higher for the workers anyway.

But in Cuba, saving energy and increased profitability has meant better working conditions, higher pay, and higher living standards for all the workers.

Veiga explained to the congress how conditions have improved because of the greater profitability and efficiency of sugar production.

Beginning in 1981, sugar mill workers got a weekly rest period during the sugar harvest, unheard of before more modern equipment was introduced.

Wages for sugar workers increased by about 40 percent in the past three years. In addition, sugar workers who excel in their job are awarded incentives. Last year 300 homes, along with hundreds of cars, motorcycles, and vacations were received by workers in the fields and mills.

In 1980, Veiga's report said, a general wage reform law was approved. The reform benefited more than 2.5 million workers, especially those in the lowest income brackets. It represented an average wage increase of almost 15 percent.

More than 300,000 workers get compensated for difficult working conditions. This includes night workers and those who have to live away from home to carry out their job.

So while real wages have dropped in the United States due to inflation and takeback contracts, wages and living conditions have improved dramatically in Cuba. In Cuba, the future for workers is economically secure, whereas in the capitalist world, workers are afraid of what the future will bring.

## Right of all workers to a job

*Granma* reported that "before the triumph of the revolution in 1959, 50 percent of the workers lacked social security rights. At present these rights are enjoyed by all workers to the tune of over 800 million pesos annually. What was paid out in

social security in a year in the past is paid out in 12 days now."

Considerable discussion took place concerning the right of all workers to a job. Decree-Law No. 56 was passed several years ago to guarantee that if raw materials run out for a job, or if production plans change, workers will be guaranteed a decent wage until production can continue or until they can find another job. The law stipulates that a worker will be paid 70 percent of their wages if their job is temporarily interrupted.

Several delegates raised questions about shortcomings in the administration of the law.

A construction worker reported, for instance, that on some construction sites, extra workers are hired while workers with other skills sit at home receiving 70 percent of their pay. Another construction worker explained that individuals with enough money can buy the materials to build themselves a home, and then hire a construction crew to build it. This means that while private construction is carried out with the labor of laid-off workers, a big construction project that will benefit everyone might grind to a halt because construction materials are not available.

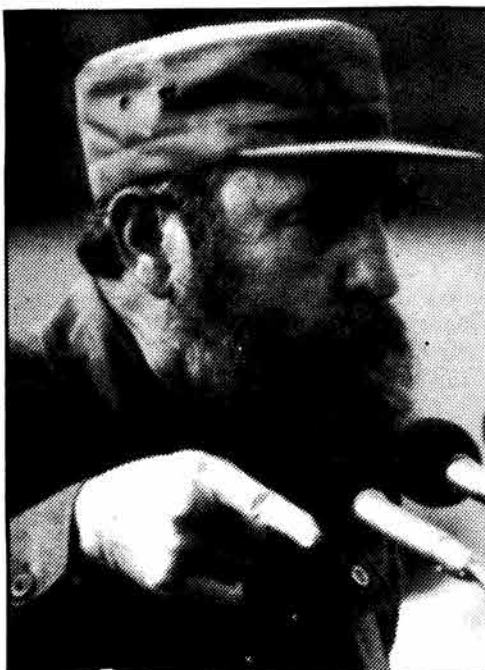
Castro pointed out in his closing speech that running out of raw material can affect some workers more than others. Construction workers, for instance, can generally find a temporary job. But women in the predominantly female textile and garment industries usually can't find contract work and have to rely on the 70 percent wage guaranteed them by the law. It was decided that the new leadership of the CTC should study this issue and assign a commission to make proposals to correct the weaknesses of the law's application.

While the congress concentrated on the progress and problems facing industrial workers, there was also discussion about how socialization of the land and agriculture will improve life in Cuba.

## Cooperative movement in agriculture

Castro said that progress had been noted in bringing individual peasants into cooperative farming. In the last few years, 2.35 million acres of land and thousands of peasants have come into the cooperative movement.

"This was pleasant news for us all," said Castro, "because we are familiar with the prospects and possibilities, with the advance of the cooperative farm movement among our peasants. It is developing methodically, without rushing things and with the utmost respect for the principle of



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this being a voluntary step, which, in our opinion, is the key to the present and future success of the movement.

"The way it is progressing we can assume that, in the next five or perhaps six or seven years, almost 100 percent of peasant land will form part of the cooperative movements. This, along with state farm land, enables us to say that, without rushing things, with intelligence and sagacity, on the basis of the Agrarian Reform Law whose 25th anniversary will be celebrated this year, all the land in our country will, like industry, be completely socialized."

#### Role of women

The role of women in production, defense of Cuba against U.S. military threats, and leadership was a special concern of the congress. Women are 38.9 percent of Cuba's industrial work force, as compared to 30 percent in 1979. In urban areas like Havana, women make up as much as 44 percent of the labor force. It was reported that women make up 53.9 percent of the country's technical work force, which includes the field of medicine.

Castro pointed out how important this development is in Cuba. "We once said that when society learned to recognize and utilize the qualities of women, its possibilities would be unlimited," he said.

"We've gone so far," he joked, "that now we have to start worrying about men's equality! We have observed women's attitude to study, and Comrade Veiga told me that in the labor movement, in spite of family obligations and tasks that weigh heavily on women, they were more applied in their studies than men. We have observed that in the Territorial Troop Militia the women have a greater sense of discipline and punctuality than the men. And if one day our country would have to defend itself against an imperialist attack, I'm sure that in combat women would never be inferior to men."

"If these facts are so evident and irrefutable," Castro continued, "why is it that we don't have more women in the Party and state leadership and in the leadership of the mass organizations? It's a matter of logic, not a whim or simple slogan. Nevertheless, in spite of this, we have no doubt but that we are making progress in that direction." Twenty-seven percent of the delegates at the congress were women.

The concern to bring more women into production and leadership was evident in many of the discussions that took place. The delegates were enthusiastic with the plan, for instance, to lengthen the school day so that children whose mothers worked would not be left alone during the afternoon.

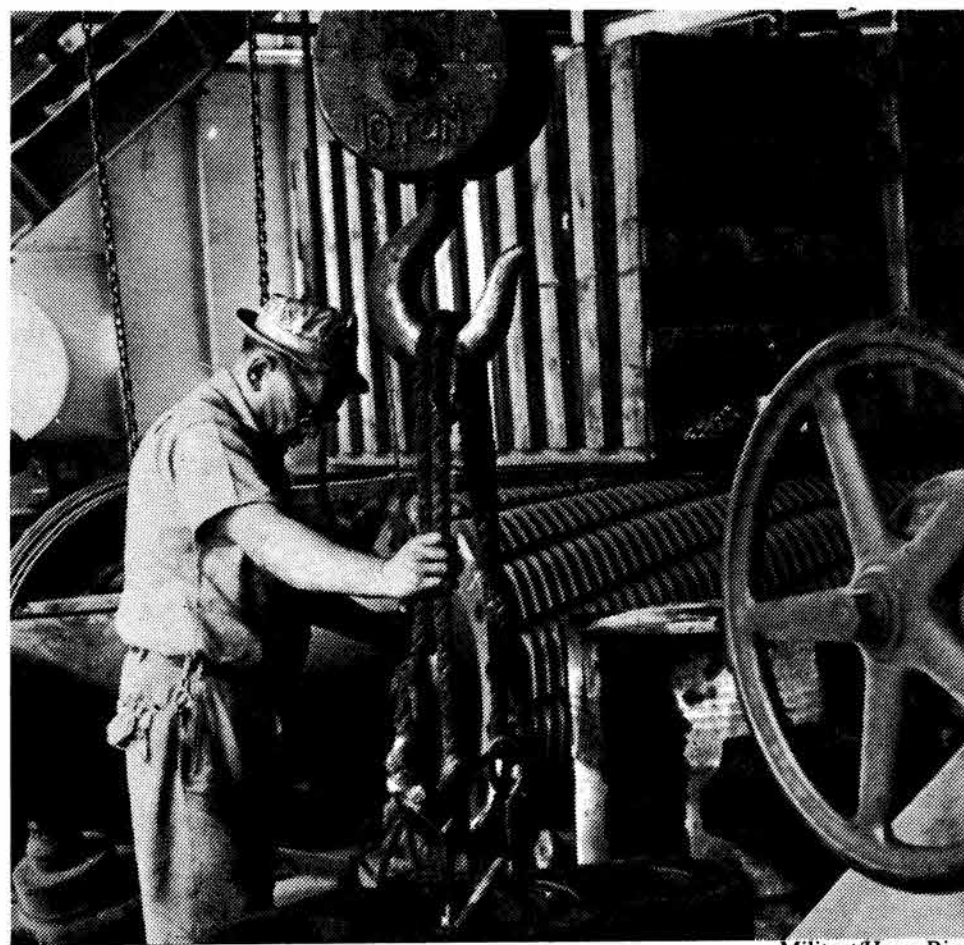
*Granma* reported that one of the resolutions passed "calls for intense struggle to prevent any form of discrimination against women, facilitating their joining the work force and staying in it. Joint work with the Federation of Cuban Women will be continued to increase participation of women as active members of the Territorial Troop Militia. The resolution also demands respect for existing measures on jobs in which women are given priority and their right to those jobs."

#### Internationalist workers

Adult education continues to be a priority as well, and efforts continue to increase enrollment and graduation in both elementary school and the university levels.

Health care is now more readily available in Cuba, which is reflected by the increase in life expectancy. In 1953 life expectancy in Cuba was 60 years. Now it is nearly 74. An experimental pilot plan to assign doctors and nurses to schools and factories was greeted by the delegates as a way to make good medical care more convenient for working women and their children.

Among the delegates were 134 who had participated in international military brigades, and 89 who had been part of



**Worker at older Cuban sugar mill. Congress discussed modernization of Cuban industry. In Cuba new technology resulting in higher productivity has produced better working conditions, higher pay, and higher living standards for entire working class.**

Cuban cooperative personnel, such as construction and medical workers, in other countries.

In salute to these internationalist workers, the opening ceremony ended with a symbolic roll call of the 24 construction workers and cooperation personnel who

died during the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

One of the high points of the Congress, *Granma* reported, was when Veiga presented a check to Castro for 20 million pesos, collected from the workers in 1983 to help finance the Territorial Troop Militia.

## Bishop interview in 'Black Scholar'

Continued from Page 5

tional illiteracy! You know you can read and write, yes, . . . scratch your name, yes, . . . but interpreting and applying this to your daily life in a serious creative way is still a major task.

That is why we have embarked upon this program, that is, the Center for Popular Education which as you know is a massive program. It is extremely difficult to implement in practice, because you are calling upon thousands of people to voluntarily give up two nights or six hours a week to come out and receive education in a classroom setting. People who have always been taught, coming out of colonialism, that education is only important during your early period when you're in so-called school, and that once you have finished with school and have become a big man or woman and started to work you no longer had to have an education. People who have been accustomed for so many years to just going to the field and reap the cocoa nuts, eggs and bananas and go home to play dominos or go to the rum shop, or even still go on to sleep . . . getting people like that to come out consistently on a voluntary basis over two years is in itself a massive task. It is that task which we are engaged in right now.

**Ques:** Could you outline the preparations for the Constitutional Convention, and how the commissioners for this convention were selected?

**Bishop:** In terms of the selection of the members, . . . the Chairman, Allan Alexander was chosen because he is an outstanding Caribbean jurist. We felt it was important in the drafting of our constitution commission to rely on the best expertise we could, . . . I'm talking about in the technical sense now, and Alexander just happens to be one of the most equipped people in that area with a very very wide experience. He acted as a judge for a while in Trinidad . . . has been a leader of the bar for a long time, . . . yes, quite an outstanding lawyer.

The other two were fairly obvious. One is our Attorney General who happens to be Jamaican, Richard Hart. The third one is another Grenadian lawyer, Ashley Taylor, who again is a lawyer with a great deal of experience in this area.

Outside of these three technicians there are two other people. One is a worker who was selected by the Trades Union Council,

an umbrella organization for all of the labor unions in our country. So the workers have their own man.

One more person was elected by all of the mass organizations, the National Women's Organization, the National Youth Organization, and the Farmers Union. These three bodies got together and chose their own person . . . that's really how the five were chosen. [ . . . ]

Of course, once [a] draft [constitution] comes back, they will have to do a re-draft that will take into account views, opinions, proposals, criticisms and so on. After that, what we will like to do is to submit it to a plebiscite or popular referendum for the views of the people. Once it is approved by way of referendum then that new constitution will become the law of the country.

**Ques:** What is the political significance of the Constitution Convention at this point in time, in advancing the revolution?

**Bishop:** We think the revolution, four and one half years later had to begin to, . . . rather has experimented with a number of forms, new democratic forms . . . all of them still embryonic, but all of them right now have a very clear outline. If you think of the workers parish councils, or the farmers councils or the women's and youth councils, . . . they are now fairly well understood by our people. Fairly well institutionalized.

People have demonstrated in practice that these organs of popular democracy are organs that they can relate to, that they feel comfortable in, that they go to in large numbers. The people have begun to understand that this is more than just a question of principle to us, it also has practical application. The principle of course is fundamentally important . . . that is the principle insuring the widest possible democratic participation by the widest possible number. But from the practical application they learn from experience which is that when they make strong demands in any of these councils, then these demands are implemented by the government.

It was for example in August 1981 following a call in a workers parish council for a public transport system that we had to go out and buy some new buses. So the people understood that. We feel that four and a half years later the time has come for us to try to institutionalize a number of these organizations. We think that the time

In his closing remarks, Castro addressed the workers from capitalist countries. "Our brothers and sisters from the capitalist countries, I imagine," he said, "must be taken aback and surprised to see a workers movement, more than 2,000 delegates, talking about productivity, profitability, reducing production costs, increasing production both quantitatively and qualitatively, improving the services.

"This would be unheard of in a society with the insurmountable contradiction between the capitalists, owners of the means of production and wealth produced by the honorable toiling hands of workers and the working class. This insurmountable contradiction between the interests of the capitalists and those of the workers used to be apparent in our congresses before the revolution. . . .

"In closing this congress I express our gratitude to [the international guests] for the privilege of having been able to share these days with prestigious representatives of the international workers movement, with representatives of hundreds of millions of workers throughout the world. We express our gratitude for the encouragement of their presence and the hopes they have given us that the principle that workers throughout the world must unite and must remain closely united will be fulfilled."

has come when people have become sufficiently accustomed to the new democracy they're trying to promote and institutionalize, for us to try to put it down. Therefore we will have a national framework that would be clearly understood by all . . . and it would be understood to be what they had chosen, as they recognize their country.

**Ques:** The issue of human rights was one that is used to discredit the Grenadian revolution? Was or is it necessary to create a response to this argument? What were your responses, your reactions to these charges?

**Bishop:** It is our view that after the revolution when you are attempting to consolidate, there has to be a certain measure of dislocation.

The main point I'm making is; you don't really have a revolution if there is no dislocation, . . . otherwise, it (revolution) must be wrongly named. The revolution is always to dislocate what is in existence, otherwise it's not a revolution. That is why you call the American revolution a revolution, . . . precisely because it was a tremendous dislocation. It was the end of a certain level of exploitation by those who supported the British. That is also why of course, 600,000 of them had to flee for their lives, . . . 100,000 as you know, in the first few days. That is why so many were executed, so many jailed. That's why it was a revolution . . . it wasn't any Boston Tea Party as your textbooks tell you. It was a bloody revolution, and a very bloody one indeed. [ . . . ]

So what we do in the meantime, is to exercise the maximum humanity we can, by insuring them all of their rights are in fact protected, . . . and insuring that even for the Mongoose Gang that killed so many people, they were able to reach Richmond Hill prison without a single scratch. That's because our people understood what we stood for, and what we stand for and that we're against torture and revenge. That's why these things happen. That is why even today these rights are maintained. But, humanitarian treatment is one thing — allowing people to operate freely in a context where they are going to try and overturn the revolutionary process, . . . that we cannot allow. The first law is that the revolution must go on.



# World Court hits U.S. attacks on Nicaraguan people

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — News of the unanimous World Court ruling ordering the United States to stop mining Nicaraguan ports was received here in the Foreign Ministry as a step forward in revealing the real nature of U.S. "democracy."

At a news conference held hours after the May 10 court decision was handed down, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto explained why:

"The U.S. has always presented itself as a country respectful of the law. . . . The insistence of the Reagan administration of not recognizing the jurisdiction of the World Court only serves to reconfirm for public opinion that the Reagan administration has no way to legally justify its action."

By its behavior, D'Escoto said, the United States had become an "international outlaw."

Not unrelated to the World Court decision was President Reagan's address on Central America the evening before the decision was announced.

D'Escoto said Reagan was "talking about Latin America as if it was part of the U.S."

He characterized Reagan's speech as an "act of desperation," using "slandering accusations against our government and the nature of our revolution in an effort to get support" for his policies.

The foreign minister said that Reagan "underestimates the intelligence of his own people" who, D'Escoto said, "know a lie when they hear one, even if it's from their own president."

Of the situation in the region, D'Escoto said, it "is becoming quite tense and I would say quite dangerously so."

In particular, the foreign minister was referring to events surrounding the fact that Sandinista soldiers were forced to down a helicopter that flew over their territory May 8. Eight Hondurans aboard were killed. (See story elsewhere on page.)

The downing occurred in the context of U.S.-Honduran military "maneuvers" taking place some 10 miles north, in the Gulf of Fonseca.

Honduras responded by 1) charging that the copter was downed in Gulf of Fonseca waters, 2) telling the world they were denied permission to send a commission to view the crash site, and 3) ordering Nicaraguan Ambassador Edwin Zablaj to leave their country.

D'Escoto pointed out that reporters had themselves already visited the site of the helicopter downing and that Nicaragua has

nothing to hide. Honduras' charges are nothing but lies, he said.

"We are still curious to know why that helicopter was there. One cannot accept what the foreign minister of Honduras told me," D'Escoto said. "He said the weather conditions were such that the helicopter didn't know where it was flying."

Yet, D'Escoto pointed out, there was unlimited visibility reported over the area that day.

"We still don't know under whose orders and with what purpose that military craft was flying in the depths of our territory," concluded D'Escoto.

Nicaragua's response to Honduran charges will be to bring the facts of the matter before the UN Security Council, the Contadora Group (the countries of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela seeking to negotiate a peace settlement in the region), and the Movement of Nonaligned Countries.

## U.S. copter downed over Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Proof positive of direct U.S. intervention in the war against Nicaragua and of the real nature of the U.S.-Honduran "military maneuvers" came with the crash May 8 of a U.S. army helicopter well within Nicaraguan territory.

The helicopter, marked "U.S. Army Materiel Command, Corpus Christi, Texas," was shot down by Nicaragua's Sandinista forces. It crashed and burned five miles northeast of the northern port village of Potosí, some 20 miles from the nearest point in Honduran territory. All eight persons aboard died in the crash.

Four of the eight were later identified by the Honduran government as members of its armed forces. They did not contest the fact that the aircraft was downed in Nicaraguan territory, but claimed that it was a Honduran helicopter.

"At first we thought it was a Honduran helicopter" too, said Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

"We found on the body of one of the crew members a card identifying him as a member of the Honduran Air Force. But later investigation showed that part of the fuselage, near the tail of the helicopter, was marked 'U.S. Army Materiel Command.'"

D'Escoto expressed condolences to the



Militant/Jane Harris

World Court condemned U.S. support to counterrevolutionary attacks on Nicaragua. Photo shows destruction of militia headquarters in San Rafael del Norte by U.S.-financed contras.

family members of those who had died, whom he called "victims of the policies of the Reagan administration." But he pointed out that they would still be alive if the Honduran government were not deeply involved in the war against Nicaragua.

The helicopter, one of the two that violated Nicaraguan air space in that area at the time, had flown in from the Gulf of Fonseca, where U.S.-Honduran "war

games" are currently taking place. All civilian flights are prohibited in the gulf for the duration of the maneuvers.

The maneuvers, which under one name or another have been under way now for nearly two years, are in part aimed at providing supplies and reconnaissance information to U.S.-trained and Honduran-based counterrevolutionaries seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government.

## Ortega counters Reagan war speech

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "President Reagan is seeking support for his policy of war in Central America. . . . He wants approval for the funds he has requested to continue financing the CIA mercenaries, murdering our people, mining our ports, violating our territory, sabotaging our economy, and causing shortages of food and medicine."

This was the response of Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of Nicaragua's revolutionary government, shortly after Reagan's May 9 speech.

Addressing the opening of a conference of labor ministers from more than 50 governments that are members of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, Ortega denounced Reagan's attack on Nicaragua as a "series of baseless and absurd slanders."

Appealing to the delegates for support and solidarity, Ortega pointed out that Nicaragua was under attack by the United States precisely because of its commitment to the chief principles of the nonaligned movement — national independence and self-determination.

"I want," Ortega said, "to take advantage of this important conference of the nonaligned movement to reiterate to you tonight that — regardless of what Mr. Reagan would like the world to believe —

the Sandinista people's revolution is profoundly democratic.

"Despite the aggression by the present U.S. administration, we are advancing in giant steps in construction of the first authentic democracy in our country — something that could never have been attempted while Nicaragua remained under Washington's control."

That is why, Ortega said, "our revolution enjoys political support from our people that is much broader than anything Mr. Reagan could ever dream of obtaining in his own country."

## N.J. chemical workers locked out after rejecting contract

BY ZENA McFADDEN

RAHWAY, N.J. — Merck and Co., a chemical producer, expanded its lockout of members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-575 to its second New Jersey plant.

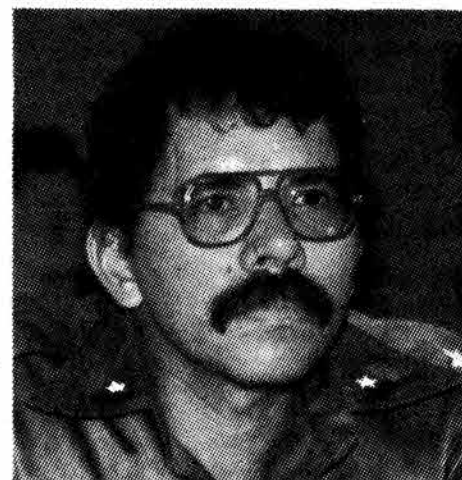
The lockout began May 4 at the Rahway plant, which employs 700 OCAW members, days after the union's rejection of a final company offer on a new three-year contract.

On May 7, Merck extended the lockout to its Hawthorne plant.

The national contract covers 4,000 workers in three unions at five plants in Danville, Virginia; San Francisco; West Point, Pennsylvania; and Hawthorne and Rahway, New Jersey. The other unions involved are the International Chemical Workers Union and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Nonunion and supervisory personnel are operating the Rahway and Hawthorne plants.

Workers on the picket line in Rahway explained the lockout has destroyed the image that Merck and Co. has attempted to paint of itself as the "fair employer." The union had favored more negotiations with the company while continuing work under the terms of the previous contract, which had expired.



Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega

## Celebrate 5th Anniversary of Nicaragua's Revolution

Tour Nicaragua July 18-August 1

Visit Managua, Masaya, Esteli, and Bluefields (Atlantic Coast)

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc. invites you to join us in celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Sandinista revolution in a tour to Nicaragua. Participants will visit factories and farms, meet with activists from the unions, women's, and youth organizations; learn about economic planning, health care, education, and culture.

Tour cost: \$950 from Miami

Tour price includes: roundtrip airfare from Miami to Managua, all transfers, three meals daily, hotels, and guide service. A \$150 deposit reserves a space with full payment due June 18. Space is limited to 20 people. Participants must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after the date of entry into Nicaragua.

Write to: Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone (212) 929-3486.



Militia women of Bluefields, Nicaragua



# U.S. farm organizer visits Nicaragua

Carol Hodne is coordinator of the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA), a coalition of farm organizations and other groups.

At the March meeting of NAFA, Hodne reported on her participation in a one-week tour to Nicaragua. Reprinted below are major excerpts from that report. Plans are currently under way to organize a farmers tour to Nicaragua in August.

I was in Nicaragua March 5-13 on a tour sponsored by MADRE with 13 other women from the United States. MADRE is a U.S. group in solidarity with women and children in Nicaragua and Central America. One of our goals was to bring material aid in the form of one ton of cereal and rice and one ton of dry milk.

To me, despite the poverty, it was wonderful to see what the Nicaraguan people were able to accomplish since the insurrection in 1979, when they overthrew the Somoza dictatorship — three generations and 45 years of dictatorship.

The primary request we had from the Nicaraguan people was to take back home the truth and reality of the revolution. I hope to be part of that truth campaign.

## Nicaraguan women

It's inspiring to learn what Nicaraguan women have done. Women make up one-third of the military. Those women who didn't take up arms in the struggle kept agriculture going. What I experienced in Nicaragua demonstrated the level of participation of Nicaraguan women, how they are integrated into the political process in Nicaragua.

Now the Nicaraguan people are gaining the right to vote. Sixteen-year-olds can vote. They have gained the right to be part of the decision-making process, partially through their contributions in winning and defending the revolution.

The opposition parties to the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front], which we met with, have few young participants, so they opposed the youth having the right to vote. Large numbers of youth in Nicaragua are part of the Sandinistas.

We talked to Comandante Tomás Borge. He said Nicaragua was developing a good model for democratic elections.

The U.S. claims there is a dictatorship because there are no elections. The sophisticated, democratic plans for the elections make clear to me that the planned Nicaraguan elections are more advanced than in this country.

On International Women's Day we were part of a huge celebration in Managua. Women are much more respected there, they do not take the back seat to men like in this country.

We met Dora María Téllez, a military leader who liberated the first city, León. After nearly achieving her lifelong ambition of becoming a doctor, a very difficult task, Dora María recognized the main health hazard in Nicaragua was Somoza. Rather than spending her life "applying band-aids," Dora María decided to join the Sandinistas to confront the economic and

## North American Farm Alliance launches biweekly newspaper

The North American Farm Alliance (NAFA) has decided to launch a biweekly newspaper, the *North American Farmer*.

Carol Hodne, coordinator of NAFA, told the *Militant* that the newspaper will "focus on activities and analysis of the movement to save the family farmers in the United States, Canada, and other countries around the world." Hodne said the *North American Farmer* "will include discussion and debate on farm policy and farm program."

For subscriptions to the *North American Farmer* contact Carol Hodne, editor, NAFA, 310 E. 38 St., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55409. Six-month subscriptions are \$10 and one-year subscriptions are \$18.

political roots of her people's diseases and misery.

The cosponsor of this tour was AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's organization. AMNLAE focuses on all aspects of women's leadership and participation in the revolution. AMNLAE works extensively with rural women, including farm women. Through AMNLAE's leadership, Nicaraguan women have gained several victories, including child-support payments and a ban on the use of women's bodies for commercial advertising.

We went to the northern border, seven kilometers from Honduras, the main area of counterrevolutionary attacks against Nicaragua, and where the CIA pumps in the money to the *contras*.

I went to Puerto Corinto where fuel tanks had been destroyed. This is a real example of the destabilization of the economy by the counterrevolutionaries because Puerto Corinto is the main port. Through aid from Venezuela and Cuba, the Nicaraguan fire fighters stopped a potential complete blowup.

## Farming in Nicaragua

I had one direct farming experience. The farm cooperative I went to was directed by 10 women and two men. All had been farm workers before the revolution. They described how owning land has given them a power over their lives they had never before experienced. They know the counter-revolution is absolutely against this control.

Farm cooperatives are not the primary way of organizing agriculture in Nicaragua. There are unions of small and medium-sized farmers.

The new agricultural system has developed the productive capacities of Nicaragua, both for export and domestic production. Cotton and coffee are their main exports. The production of primary staples, corn and beans, has increased dramatically to increase food self-sufficiency.

Comandante Borge explained to us that Nicaraguan farmers face the near universal problem of increasing costs of farm input and decreasing prices for farm products.

Nicaraguan farmers face the price-depressing effects of international market forces, so the Sandinistas subsidize farm prices to help farmers. This is a big problem and shows the impact of U.S. trade policies on farmers and agriculture in Nicaragua.

## BY JOHN STAGGS

EAGLEVILLE, Mo. — "Labor has never been [farmers'] problem. The problem is that management has built a brick wall between unions and farmers. What we have to do is walk down to the end of that wall and figure out how to break it down," said Lloyd Albers, a long-time Grundy County, Missouri, farmer.

He was speaking at a meeting in Trenton, Missouri, called "Building Alliances for a New Farm Policy." More than 40 farmers attended this April 5 meeting. They heard presentations from Carlos Welty, national spokesperson for American Agriculture Movement (AAM); Stan Pursley, lobbyist for Missouri National Farmers Organization (NFO); and Carol Hodne, coordinator for the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA).

This was one of more than a dozen meetings held across northern Missouri recently. The drought last year burned up the pasture and crops on the rolling hills here. With everyone in debt followed by poor crops last year, the banks and federal loan agencies are calling in their notes early. The farmers at these meetings feel the situation is critical and estimate that more than 50 percent of the farmers in the northern counties are in big trouble with their debts.

The turnout has been encouraging — 30 in Plattsburg, 70 in Chillicothe, 40 in Trenton, more than 100 in King City, and 50 in the small American Legion Hall here in Eagleville. Some of the farmers have been active in NFO or AAM before, but for



Militant/Michael Baumann

Carazo, Nicaragua, celebrating distribution of land to landless peasants. Banner reads: "The FSLN fulfills its historic pledge — land to the campesinos!"

Comandante Borge also described the destructive impact of U.S.-backed military attacks on agriculture. The Nicaraguans had to take \$713 million from the budget to defend their Honduran border, just for the basic act of defense.

Farmer's I met with on the northern border described how they can't go to the fields because they could be killed. Trucks bringing in food to their villages get blown up.

## Food is not a weapon

The Nicaraguan people are strong advocates of peace, although they must daily face the terrors of war. The Sandinistas do not use food as a weapon as the U.S. government does.

The Nicaraguan agricultural policies are unlike the U.S. agricultural policies, which are designed to drive family farmers out of farming. The Nicaraguan agrarian reform puts people back on the land. U.S. farmers have much to learn about progressive agrarian reform, which is one reason we are sponsoring a farmers tour to Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan farmers also confront serious health problems, like U.S. farmers. Even though chemical usage and its related health hazards are decreasing, I heard one report of an area where, every month, one-fourth of the cottonfield workers must seek treatment for chemical poisoning.

Agriarian reform included debt reform. Farmers' staggering debts were written off or forgiven by the government as a neces-

sary first step. Now, affordable credit is made available for small, medium, and larger farmers.

Confiscation of land focused only on the land owned by Somoza and his friends, equal to 20 percent of the total land in Nicaragua. Currently, only idle, nonproductive land is confiscated, which is relatively rare. The Nicaraguans took this land and put some into cooperatives, some into state farms.

From seeing the great gains made since 1979 and the Nicaraguan people's courage and determination, I think the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua will become another Vietnam.

I visited a women's hospital in Nicaragua. The legacy of Somoza is the legacy of horrible health care for the people, only health care for the elite.

Now the focus of health care in Nicaragua is on prevention and on making it available to all people. No polio has been reported in four years. They have made strides against malaria and against malnutrition.

## Mothers' committee

In Nicaragua, I learned about the Committee of Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs. The Nicaraguan people lost 50,000 people in the battle to overturn Somoza. Now they lose 10 lives a day defending their country.

The mothers' role is remembering the struggle and what happened to their children. The strength of women organized to-

Continued on Page 12

# Missouri farmers see Blacks, labor as allies

most it was their first meeting of this type.

Carol Hodne pointed out that it has been the conscious policy of wealthy businessmen and the government as expressed in statements from the Council on Economic Development to get rid of half the farmers in the country. They represent "excess resources on the farm," which, when pushed off the farm, become unemployed workers in the cities. Hodne explained that with the latest figures showing farm net income at \$20 billion but interest on farm debt at \$23 billion, foreclosures would continue increasing.

She explained several ways to fight back. Using examples of NAFA's united protest actions of unionists and farmers in Minnesota and Iowa, she said a powerful national coalition of unions and farm organizations could stop the foreclosures of farms and unemployed workers' homes.

Having just returned from Nicaragua, Hodne described how the government there had canceled the old farm debts so exploited farmers could modernize and increase production (see story on Hodne's Nicaragua tour elsewhere on page).

In this country the debts should be canceled so farmers can survive, said Hodne.

Carlos Welty explained how he had been speaking to various union and Black groups and getting a good response to his explanation of farmers' problems. One idea was to mobilize enough farmers and supporters to stop a farm sale. Another was to lead a caravan to New Orleans and stop

the importation of beef until 90 percent parity price is reached for domestic beef.

Welty also urged farmers to support Jesse Jackson for president in the Democratic Party primary. Jackson deserves support, he said, because he favors 90 percent parity prices for farm production and proposes that farm activist Wayne Cryts be appointed secretary of agriculture to implement that program.

Stan Pursley outlined NFO's "grain block" program. Already the NFO has several million bushels committed to its "blocks" of corn, soybeans, and wheat. It hopes the "block" will give it bargaining power to negotiate a limited price increase to help farmers out right now.

Discussion at the Trenton meeting centered on specific local problems and on how and with whom to make alliances.

One farmer objected to Stan Pursley's characterization of the farmer as the first owner of the grain. He said in the 10 years he had been farming he had never owned a single bushel of grain — it had always been the bank's.

An older farmer seconded the idea that farmers should work with Blacks. He had worked to get a farm relief bill passed a couple of years ago and said the most consistent support he got was from the Black communities in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Roger Allison of NAFA and Missouri AAM chaired the meetings, and each meeting picked a coordinator to organize a follow-up gathering 30 days later.



**His eye on the ball** — While others wrung their hands about the Soviet pullout from the Olympics being a blow to the lofty ideals of the game, Paul Ziffren, chairman of the organizing committee, ad-



Harry Ring

dressed himself to a different point. He quickly advised there would be no ticket refunds. "When people sent in their money," he noted, "they signed a

contract."

**Pinkos in high places?** — Citing the thought assertedly voiced by Lenin, that capitalists will sell communists the rope with which to hang them, an Exxon stockholder regularly submits resolutions flaying the directors as supporting treason. He says they contribute corporate money to educational institutions which he detects as advancing communism. Unmoved, the directors regularly recommend a no vote.

**How suspicious can you get?** — "Hudson River Study Finds Fish Cancer — Chemical Pollution of New York Harbor Suspected" — News headline.

**Think you've got troubles?** — Prices were reported as up 3.8 per-

cent last year. But the things rich people need were up 10.8 percent. True, a Mercedes 500 was up only 6 percent to \$56,800. But a simple mink coat jumped 10 percent to an even 11 thou. A decent Rolex watch was also up 10 percent, \$7,995. One bright spot, premium Beluga caviar held steady at \$457 a pound.

**Snack bar tip** — Doing the Big Apple and want something besides java and sinkers for that afternoon break? Check out the Trump Tower champagne-and-caviar bar. A quality caviar will set you back \$22 for a 1 oz. portion, plus \$120 for a bottle of decent champagne. But you can pig out on the domestic caviar at \$10 an oz., plus \$5 a glass for the cheapo champagne.

**Most likely story of the week** — "WASHINGTON, May 8 — The nation's air quality has improved significantly in recent years, according to a report released today by the Environmental Protection Agency." — News item.

**They're flexible** — To ensure the confidentiality of medication records of members of Congress, the Congressional physician switched from a Naval pharmacy to a private supplier. Congress, of course, will have no part of socialized medicine, but its members do enjoy free medical care and medication.

**Gang busters** — Gun-toting

cops busted a suburban Philadelphia pet store on grounds that its 99 cent frogs were members of an endangered variety. The defense attorney said they used "storm trooper tactics." The jury voted for acquittal. One prosecution problem was lack of evidence. Only two of 37 frogs survived police custody. Two others escaped.

**Thought for the week** — "We are trying to convert a need item into a want item. . . . We think nothing of adorning our wrists or our necks with jewels. Yet the eyes, the most important real estate on the body, we neglect." — Dr. Larry Darrow, of Manhattan Eyeland, an "optical department store" which offers specs from \$200 to \$32,000.

## —CALENDAR—

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Support the British Coal Miners Strike: an Eyewitness Account.** Speaker: Bruce Kimball, member, United Mine Workers of America, recently returned from reporting on strike for *Militant*. Sat., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Brother Malcolm X: Reminiscences of a Black Revolutionary.** A play by Frank Greenwood performed by the Langston Hughes players in commemoration of the anniversary of Malcolm X's birth. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Ausp: Langston Hughes Players and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

#### Oakland

**Socialist Campaign Rally: Stop the U.S. Wars At Home and Abroad!** Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president; Ken Collins, SWP candidate for Seaside, California, city council, former member of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 2; Miguel Zárate, SWP candidate 8th Congressional District (Oakland), member International Association of Machinists Local 1327. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 20, 6 p.m. 3808 E 14 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

#### San Francisco

**Socialism: a Future Worth Fighting For.** Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president; Marilee Taylor, SWP candidate for 16th Assembly District, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 20. Champagne brunch and reception, 1 p.m.; program, 2 p.m. 3284 23 St. (off Mission). Donation: brunch, \$3; program, \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

**Meet the Socialist Candidates.** Discussion in Spanish with Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president and Marilee Taylor, SWP candidate for 16th Assembly Dis-

trict. Thurs., May 24, 7 p.m. 3284 23 St. (off Mission). Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

### 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.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**The Civil Rights Movement: Its History, Its Meaning For Today.** Two classes presented by Mac Warren, member of National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Class 1: "The Rise of the Civil Rights Movement and the Defeat of Jim Crow." Sun., May 20, 2 p.m. Class 2: "The Growth of Independent Black Politics and the Lessons For Today." Sun., May 20, 4 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation requested. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

**The Truth Crushed to Earth Will Rise Again.** A videotaped interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop, slain prime minister of Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Malcolm X — El Hajj Malik-El Shabazz: The Evolution of a Revolutionary; His Legacy.** Film: *El Hajj Malik-El Shabazz-Malcolm X* and presentation by Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress. Sat., May 19, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**The Socialist Alternative in the '84 Elections.** Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers candidate for president; Priscilla Schenk, SWP candidate for Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 26. Reception, 5 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner Raymond, 1 block from Broad). Ausp: New Jersey Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

**Support the Guatemala Coca Cola Sit-in Strikers.** Videotape of Guatemala Coca Cola strike. Introduction by Duane Stilwell, staff writer for *Perspectiva Mundial*. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 25. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. (corner Raymond, 1 block from Broad). Donation: \$2, \$3 dinner. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### New York City

**Black Politics in 1984.** Meet the Black candidates running for U.S. president. Speakers: Representative of Jesse Jackson campaign; Larry Holmes, Workers World Party candidate; Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate; Dennis Serrette, New Alliance Party candidate. Film: *Malcolm X — the Struggle for Freedom*. Mon., May 21, 6:30 p.m. Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building, 125th St. and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd., room 8B. Ausp: Manhattan National Black Independent Political Party.

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

**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 to follow. Speakers: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers candidate in 22nd Congressional District; August Nimitz, professor of African studies, recently returned from fact-finding tour of Grenada. Sat., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Guatemala: the Revolution Deepens.** Eyewitness report from Guatemala. A forum in Spanish with English translation. Fri., May 25, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

### UTAH

#### Price

**Mountain States Socialist Educational Weekend. Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speakers: representative of Mason for President Committee in Arizona; Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from New Mexico; Cecelia Moriarity, SWP candidate for governor of Utah. Sat., May 26, 7 p.m. Donation: \$2. **From Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery.** Two classes by Kibwe Diarra, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 27, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Donation: \$5. Child-care provided. Translation to Spanish. 23 S Carbon Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (602) 268-3369, (505) 842-0954, (801) 637-6294, (801) 355-1124.

## Boudin sentenced to 20 years

BY STEVE CRAINE

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Kathy Boudin was sentenced May 3 to 20 years to life in prison, after pleading guilty to robbery and one count of murder in the politically-motivated 1981 holdup of a Brink's armored car.

The guilty plea was entered in exchange for having the 11 other charges against her dropped and thus avoiding the much harsher sentence she would have almost certainly received.

District Attorney Kenneth Gribetz admitted in court that Boudin had been unarmed and that no witness could place her at the scene of the robbery in Nanuet, New York.

He emphasized in his final statement to the judge, however, that Boudin "knowingly and actively participated in the robbery in which a Brink's guard died. She knew the plan was for robbery, and that's why she came to Rockland County," he said. Gribetz claimed that therefore Boudin was as responsible for the death of the Brink's guard "as the person who fired the lethal bullet."

Boudin explained to the court her motives in participating in the robbery. "I was there out of commitment to the Black liberation struggle," she said. Her father, noted constitutional attorney Leonard Boudin, also made a statement to the court.

The harsh sentence meted out to Boudin — she will be ineligible for parole until

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Grand Opening of Socialist Workers Campaign Headquarters.** Speakers: Socialist Workers candidate for D.C. delegate to U.S. Congress; Joey Rothenberg, SWP candidate in 7th Congressional District of Maryland; Ted Leonard, SWP candidate in 2nd Congressional District of Maryland. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 19, 5 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant, NW. Donation requested. Ausp: D.C.-Maryland Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

**Demonstrate Against U.S. Intervention in Central America.** Sat., May 19, 2 p.m. Lafayette Park. Ausp: Coalition Against U.S. Aggression in Central America. For more information call (202) 265-3800.

2001 — was preceded by a two-and-a-half-year campaign of slanders carried out by the cops, courts, and the news media against Boudin and the other defendants. The witch-hunting atmosphere whipped up in two previous trials of Brink's defendants, in which some were sentenced to 75 years' imprisonment, effectively denied Boudin the right to be assumed innocent until proven guilty and to be tried on the facts of her case.

The trial was used to smear Black and other political groups and to set a precedent for a variety of violations of defendants' rights.

### Activist visits Nicaragua

Continued from Page 11

gether is expressed in their revolutionary slogans. The women are part of the deep determination of the Nicaraguan people to defend Nicaragua and to maintain political power, no matter what cost they have to bear, including death.

The Nicaraguan people said we should awaken the American people to what is going on in Nicaragua. Nicaraguans distinguish between the U.S. government and the U.S. people. The Nicaraguans are very articulate about the problems facing U.S. citizens.

They understand that the money our government puts into bombs pushes people out of jobs and takes food from babies.

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# Miami forum on plight of Haitian workers

BY MARTY ANDERSON

MIAMI — In the last 20 years, tens of thousands of Haitians have risked their lives attempting the dangerous voyage from Haiti to the United States in small boats. For them, it is worth the risk to escape the poverty and repression of their country.

Both the situation in Haiti and the problems of Haitian immigrants in the United States were discussed at the April 27 Militant Labor forum here. The meeting featured two speakers, a Miami-area garment worker and a Haitian community activist.

The sewing machine operator described conditions faced by Haitian workers in the clothing industry here.

While the Haitians share with other workers the bad conditions and low pay, they also face special discrimination — as Blacks and non-English speaking immigrants, often without legal papers.

The garment worker described the virtual Jim Crow segregation of bathrooms, lunch rooms, and job categories in factories here. She also reported on a united job action at her plant where the Haitians and other, mostly Cuban-born, workers organized a brief plant shutdown to defend working conditions against company attacks.

The speaker, who has been learning the Haitians' Creole language from her co-workers, ended her talk by singing a Creole song of struggle she had learned at work.

The other speaker, a militant Haitian community activist, detailed imperialist domination of Haiti and the popular resistance to it.

About 80 percent of the country's 6 million people are peasants tied to the land in some way.

Like other countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia, Haiti does not grow enough food to meet its own needs. The speaker estimated that 60 to 70

percent of the land is owned by a handful of rich landowners and foreign investors. Malnutrition is common, while a large part of agricultural production, such as coffee, cocoa, and sorghum, is grown for export.

He described a peasant sharecropper system called "half and half." The landowner gets half of what is grown. The peasant family does all the work and has to buy seed, fertilizer, tools, and pay taxes.

Industrial production is controlled by foreign investors. The owners of Reynolds Aluminum exploited Haitian bauxite until five years ago when they had mined out the best of the ore used to produce aluminum.

Light industry, such as clothing, is the main employer in Haiti. The work force is 75 percent women. They average \$2.65 a day for 10 hours of work.

A typical garment-industry transaction involves the cutting of goods in Miami, shipping them to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for the labor intensive sewing, then sending them back to Miami to attach "Made in USA" labels.

Haitian workers are often involved on both ends. They may be in the shipping department in Miami at \$3.35 an hour to work on goods sewn by their relatives in Haiti for less than \$3 a day.

Another trick by U.S. businessmen is to require a three month, unpaid "training" period in Haitian factories. Only desperation born of massive unemployment lets them get away with such a crime.

The political history of Haiti in the 20th century closely parallels Nicaragua, with many years of occupation by U.S. troops and a U.S.-imposed family dictatorship — President-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

Haitians strongly identified with the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua in 1979. Posters were distributed with pictures of deposed dictators Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua, the shah of Iran, and others —



Demonstration outside Haitian consulate in Miami. Consul Alexander Paul terrorizes Haitians who have fled their homeland to escape hated Duvalier dictatorship and denounces Afro-Americans as 'racists.'

along with a picture of Duvalier.

The speaker also discussed the impact of the revolutions in Cuba and Grenada on Haitian revolutionaries. He said there is a big discussion there now as people evaluate what happened in Grenada.

He reported that the Grenada government led by former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop had offered Haitian left

groups access to a radio station that could be heard in Haiti.

While many opponents of Duvalier have been killed, imprisoned, or driven into exile, the struggle within Haiti continues.

Last year in Cap Haitien, the second largest city, two radio announcers reported that a U.S. military base was being built in Haiti. While they were on the air, Duvalier's secret police, the "tonton macoute," showed up to arrest them. But the announcers reported the arrival of the hated cops on the air and a large crowd gathered, surrounded the building, and chased the cops away.

During the forum discussion period, the Haitian speaker refuted the claim that Haitians suffer discrimination at the hands of U.S.-born Blacks.

This has become an important issue. The official Haitian government representative here, Consul Alexander Paul, recently denounced U.S.-born Blacks at a public meeting. Paul said he respects U.S. whites more because U.S. Blacks are prejudiced.

Paul's remarks were strongly condemned by leaders of both the Haitian and Afro-American communities. Two days after the forum, Haitian and Black groups, led by Operation PUSH, picketed Alexander Paul's home in the exclusive suburb of Coral Gables.

According to a front-page article in the April 15 *Miami Herald*, Alexander Paul is known to have directed terrorist attacks against Duvalier opponents in Miami.

## Missouri lead miners forced out on strike

BY ROBERT BUSCH

VIBURNUM, Mo. — Nearly 600 lead miners, members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 6242, have been on strike for more than a month against the St. Joe Lead Co. headquartered in St. Louis. The strike, which began March 31, affects mines located in Viburnum, Brushy Creek, and Fletcher, Missouri. A similar strike here in 1981 stopped mining for 85 days; miners fought a nine-month-long battle in 1962.

We met with Dale Hickman, president of Local 6242 at the USWA union hall in Viburnum, a town of 800 located in the Ozark mountains about 100 miles southwest of St. Louis. "The way I look at it," Hickman told the *Militant*, "St. Joe's forced us out."

Since the last strike, the company has set

production records while laying off miners and closing its Indian Creek mine. Along with this productivity drive, St. Joe's wants to double workers' health insurance costs and put a cap on cost of living payments.

Hickman believes that greed is one of the company's main motives for forcing miners on strike. "If they can force the price of lead up one cent a pound," he noted, "they can make millions of dollars in profits."

In addition to St. Joe's, the giant Amax and Kennecott Corporations own mines here also; together they account for 80 percent of U.S. lead production. St. Joe's, which also owns a gold mine in Chile and tin mines in Brazil, netted profits of \$40 to \$80 million in each of the last three years despite the depression in the metals industry.

During our stay, some 15 miners came into the union hall at one time or another and sat in on the discussion. They laughed as they passed around an article in the big-business media containing a glowing biography — plus the résumé — of St. Joe's chairman, John Wright. They informed us that their U.S. Congressman, Bill Emerson, is bought and paid for by St. Joe's.

Lead miners here in the Ozarks are familiar with the copper miners strike in Arizona. They deplored the use of National Guard troops to aid Phelps Dodge's strike-breaking.

As an issue of the *Militant* made its way around the room, one miner read out loud the account of the Las Vegas hotel workers' strike. "Sounds about right," he nodded. "It's beginning to look more like the 1930s."

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# Death penalty victim's message

In this week's editorial column we discuss three developments which point up the escalating attack on democratic rights by the rulers of this country.

The first involves the increased use of the death penalty. The second, a legislative move to further gut the Freedom of Information Act. And third, the use of "spy" charges against diplomats from Eastern Europe to undermine the right to bail and to promote anticommunism.

On May 10 the State of Florida electrocuted James Adams, the son of a Black sharecropper accused of killing a wealthy white rancher.

Adams spoke to reporters after being strapped to the chair.

He sent a powerful message: "To all the men on death row, keep on fighting because it is wrong and immoral."

Adams' own fate indicates why his words should be heeded.

There were no witnesses to the killing for which he was charged and, throughout, he and his family insisted on his innocence.

Adams had been a fugitive from Tennessee where he had served 10 years of a 99-year sentence for a rape conviction.

In both cases, he declared, he had been railroaded because he was poor and Black and the victims were white.

Some 90 people protested his execution, about 40 out-

side the prison and another 50 in Tallahassee, the Florida capital.

Rev. Ernie Brunelle, a Catholic priest, was among the protesters at the prison. He pointed to the fact that Adams was tried by "a male, all-white jury."

That fact had been considered by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. That court is currently considering a case involving the charge that Georgia's death penalty is applied in a racist way. The appeals court granted Adams a stay of execution because he was making the same charge about the State of Florida.

But the Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, arbitrarily set aside the stay of execution and ordered Adams to be killed immediately.

The Supreme Court action made Adams the 19th person to die since the high court reactivated the death penalty in 1976.

In this racist society, Blacks are disproportionately the victim of the death sentence.

The ruling rich intend these public executions to be an example to all working people of what lengths these rulers are willing to go to to defend their system.

Adams' advice to the people on death row, "Keep on fighting because it's wrong and immoral," is a message for all working people. We all lose each time the reactionary death penalty claims another victim.

# New move to hide CIA crimes

First-time recipients of files under the Freedom of Information Act are invariably astonished at how much of the information is blotted out.

The act requires that information in government files be made available to those who request it. A significant qualifier is that information may be withheld if release is deemed injurious to "national security." With that, an awful lot of information is simply declared "classified."

Now bills are pending in Congress that would make the withholding of information even easier for government agencies. The bills would exempt a broad range of files from "search, review, publication or disclosure."

The CIA, for example, could exclude from public disclosure documents they decide deal with such murky areas as "foreign intelligence and counterintelligence" and "scientific and technical means" of gathering information.

If these bills are enacted, the "flow" of information — already reduced to a trickle — would be doled out with the proverbial eyedropper. The act would be virtually gutted.

Originally adopted in 1966, the Freedom of Information Act was amended by Congress in 1974 to placate the public anger aroused by the Watergate revelations, which had begun in 1972. The amendments gave ordinary citizens freer access to files from government agencies, including from cop outfits like the FBI and CIA.

The revelations confirmed that the prime function of these agencies was not ferreting out "spies" and gangsters, but combating and seeking to muzzle political dissent, here and abroad — and without letting legalities stand in the way.

Secret cops and their informers, it was established, didn't simply compile information. They acted as political provocateurs in labor, civil rights, and political movements. They smeared, disrupted, framed up, provoked violence against, and otherwise victimized countless individuals and organizations.

And they're still doing it today.

That's the reason for the "classified" stamps and heavy censorship of the government documents that are pried loose. That's why Washington wants to further gut the Freedom of Information Act. The rulers of this country want to keep all the government's dirty secret police activity hidden.

A bill to exempt major FBI categories from disclosure

under the act has already been approved by the Senate. An equally crippling version relating to the CIA is now on its way to the House floor.

Testimony on the House bill was heard May 10. Many people must have rubbed their eyes on reading that the CIA and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had both endorsed the measure.

A CIA honcho said approval of the bill would free the agency from the "burdensome" task of reviewing thousands of pages of documents that are ultimately not released anyway. (He made no complaint about the obviously far greater burden involved in compiling that vast mountain of dossiers.)

An ACLU representative said enactment of the bill would give the public greater access to records by helping the CIA reduce its backlog of requests under the act. Besides, he testified, virtually all the information the bill would exempt from disclosure was already being withheld.

That's undoubtedly a fact. But that's a good argument for demanding teeth in the act, *not for gutting it.*

By supporting this bill — and the CIA's lying justification for it — the ACLU is aiding this monumental violator of civil liberties in the CIA's efforts to increase its latitude to operate against foes of the status quo at home and abroad.

The ACLU's position on this issue is a result of pressure from those who want to convince people that the function of these police agencies really is to protect the public good; that these police agencies really do have some function beyond protecting the narrow interests of a tiny handful of ruling families.

In accepting this, the ACLU ends up offering suggestions to the CIA on how to improve its "legitimate" functioning without committing "undue abuses."

But the voluminous record compiled since Watergate proves that the claimed purpose of these police agencies is a smokescreen for their true function, which is to protect and preserve the capitalist status quo, by any means necessary.

The current move to largely bury the Freedom of Information Act is part and parcel of that function. It underlines the need for every supporter of democratic rights to oppose these police agencies and their undemocratic, illegal activities.

# 'Spy' scare used to curb rights

Penyu B. Kostadinov, a Bulgarian trade official stationed in New York, has been imprisoned without bail for the past eight months.

He is charged with espionage, having assertedly paid a graduate student \$300 for a classified document.

Arrested last September despite his claim of diplomatic immunity, Kostadinov was denied bail. Four months later, the very judge who denied him bail found the charges against him were illegal since he did in fact enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Nevertheless, the judge ordered him to stay in prison without bail while the government appealed his decision.

Now, on May 10, a federal appeals court has upheld the government's assertion that Kostadinov does not have diplomatic immunity. The espionage charge has been reinstated and he continues to be held without bail.

Kostadinov faces a life term if convicted. He insists on his innocence, as well as his right to immunity.

This case is one example of how the constitutional right to bail is being steadily encroached upon. Initially, those denied the right to bail are singled out on the assumption that their victimization will not spark a public outcry. In some cases, it is those branded as "dangerous criminals." The treatment of Kathy Boudin in the Brink's robbery case is one example of this.

But it is the right to bail itself that is consciously being undermined.

The lurid stories about "spies" from the "Eastern bloc" are also used to build hostility toward these countries. That dovetails with Washington's anticommunist justification for its war drive.

Washington hopes there will continue to be little outcry against this and other "spy" frame-ups so that it can extend its assaults on democratic rights more broadly. That's all the more reason to strongly condemn each one.

# Farrell Dobbs on lessons of 1934 Teamsters strike

May 16 is the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the 1934 Teamsters strike that turned Minneapolis into a union town and helped pave the way for other labor struggles that forged the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). Farrell Dobbs was one of the revolutionary socialist workers who helped lead that strike.

In July 1980 Teamsters Joint Council 32 and others in Minnesota held a ceremony to commemorate "Bloody Friday," the day police opened fire on unarmed Teamster strikers. Below are excerpts from the message sent by Dobbs to that gathering.

It is especially pertinent today to recall the reasons why Local 574 was able to wage so valiant a struggle. The central key was its policy of functioning on the basis of full democracy. The membership participated actively in the organization's internal affairs. Freedom to express

# OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

all points of view was upheld. After everyone wishing to speak had been heard, union policy was decided by majority vote of the membership.

Proceeding accordingly, the rank and file decided what demands would be made upon the trucking companies, how the battle for those demands would be carried on, and what would be considered acceptable terms for working agreements with employers. These democratic practices unified the workers; gave them maximum strength in opposing the bosses; kept them solidified on a class basis no matter how difficult the battle; and made it possible for the union to establish itself as a power in the industry.

After standing up against the murderous police assault on Bloody Friday, Local 574 went on to fight off a strikebreaking attack by the National Guard. The trucking employers were finally defeated by the union, and workers throughout the city were inspired to emulate the truck drivers in other industries. The way had been opened to transform Minneapolis from its previous status as an open-shop paradise for the bosses into a strong union town.

The 1934 Teamster victory in Minneapolis gave indirect impetus to the rise of the CIO in basic industry. With that dramatic advance the trade union movement nationally developed unprecedented scope and inherent power such as had never before been seen in this country.

As it turned out, though, that great potential was never used effectively. Policies followed by the top union officials played into the hands of the bosses and their government, which they run through the Democratic and Republican parties. The working class upsurge of the 1930s was tied politically to the Democratic Party, thereby becoming reduced to seeking favors from politicians representing the employing class.

Frustrations resulting from this self-defeating course brought mounting unrest among the workers, leading in numerous instances to so-called wildcat strikes. To curb this protest movement the bosses' government imposed harsh restraints on the unions through anti-labor laws, and top union officials undermined rank-and-file democracy by acting dictatorially against dissidents within the unions.

Today the workers are paying a heavy price for the mistakes in union policy. Price inflation and cutbacks in social services are reducing their living standards. Mounting unemployment is eroding job security, and those still working are subjected to intensified exploitation on the job. The government is deepening its assault on the civil liberties of those who seek to act in defense of their legitimate interests. Capitalist exploiters are raping the environment at increasing peril to public health. There is growing danger of new wars like the one in Vietnam against which the people of this country rose up in massive protest, and always in the background lurks the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

Under these blows combative moods are today growing more intense among the workers. A fresh opportunity thus exists to strengthen the trade unions through restoration of rank-and-file control in order to revitalize them as direct instruments of struggle within industry.

Still another major step is also needed. Industrial conflicts are now assuming more and more of a political character. Trade union action in industry usually brings government intervention in support of the bosses. As that experience shows, labor's so-called friends among the capitalist politicians have become a myth, despite the lying promises they make when seeking election to public office. Hence, the time is clearly at hand for the trade unions to quit subordinating themselves to the capitalist parties and launch their own independent political organization.



# N.Y.C. out to housebreak Transport Workers Union

BY GERRY KERR

Another step in the continuing national attacks on the unions is being taken by the new "management team" of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the New York City Transit Authority.

The Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 is the object of a serious housebreaking campaign organized for

## UNION TALK

the city's rulers by David Gunn, a professional union buster.

Gunn, onetime general manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), outlined his perspective for Philadelphia railroad workers in 1983: "SEPTA will require about three years of reducing total wages and changing work rules before commuter rail division costs per employee are in line with those of SEPTA's city transit workers."

At the time, those city workers started at \$3.35 an hour.

Gunn is now working for the New York City Transit

Authority and is using his union-busting tactics against TWU Local 100. Gunn's arrival has triggered a serious wave of attacks, primarily on workers at the 207th Street shop.

To set the tone, General Superintendent Ronald Davis has refused to recognize the union shop committee.

More than 170 written warnings and disciplinary actions have been issued in two weeks for such activities as arriving late on delayed trains, sitting down, not producing enough work when parts are not available, or not standing at your immediate work location.

Discipline has included days in the street without pay, payroll deductions for lateness, and temporary suspensions.

Even though Local 100 suffered a severe setback with the defeat of the 1980 transit strike and the suspension of the union dues check-off, the spirit to fight back and the sense of solidarity has held firm.

Daily outbursts of horn-blowing and booing occur at the sight of Davis and his henchmen. Everyone is following the safety rules and there's a refusal of overtime. Workers have also responded by wearing TWU 100 buttons and regularly attending union shop-gate meetings to discuss management's moves.

The major New York City media has marched in line with management's attacks on the TWU by printing stories about the supposedly overpaid transit workers. It's necessary to wage a "crackdown on goof-offs" according to these ruling-class mouthpieces.

The TWU membership perceives these antiunion moves as part of the general offensive against the labor movement. This offensive escalated during the 1981 air traffic controllers' strike and has continued against the airline workers, Arizona copper miners, and steelworkers.

Workers in the TWU, like all workers, must begin to see our fight against the employers as the political battle that it is. The attacks on the TWU are sanctioned at the highest level of city and state government, which is run in the interests of the ruling rich by the Democratic Party.

Key to responding to these attacks would be the formation of a labor party based on the unions.

A labor party would be an important tool to help lead a militant fightback by transit workers and all the victims of the employers' offensive.

Gerry Kerr is a member of TWU Local 100 and is the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in New York's 11th Congressional District.

## LETTERS

### Holly Near concert

Holly Near, the feminist folk singer, and Inti-Illimani, an exiled Chilean musical group, performed to a full house of 5,000 in New York on May 5.

It was the third stop on a 16-city concert tour with the theme "Singing for Peace in the Americas." The purpose of the tour, which is sponsored by Cultural Work, Inc., is to raise funds for humanitarian projects in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Chile.

Many solidarity groups, including the National Network in Solidarity With the Nicaraguan People and Medical Aid for El Salvador, are helping to distribute the money.

The concert included songs with English and Spanish lyrics. Inti-Illimani grew out of the New Chilean Song Movement of the early 1970s. Their performance reflected the rich musical heritage of Latin America, using a mixture of European, African, and indigenous sounds.

Holly Near referred frequently to her recent tour of Nicaragua. She described the impact on her of singing for soldiers, many of them teenagers, who were fighting to defend their country against U.S.-sponsored aggression.

During the intermission literature tables and leafleters promoted upcoming events in solidarity with the people of Central America and the Caribbean.

A special collection raised \$5,900 for medical equipment.

Bill Scheer

Jersey City, New Jersey

### Central America Week

"The elections are intended to convince the U.S. public, not Salvadorans. This will be the eighth time in 50 years the people of El Salvador have been subjected to this cruel joke," stated Victor Rubio at a meeting of 250 people

at the University of New Mexico.

A representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FDR-FMLN), Rubio was the featured guest here for Central America Week, March 18-25, and was greeted with a standing ovation.

He described the suffering of the people of his country: one-half of the children under five die of malnutrition and childhood diseases. One-half the adults cannot read or write. Eighty percent earn less than \$10 per month, while 1.5 percent of the population owns 60 percent of the land and earns over one-half the income.

"We do not believe this is essential or the will of god. Its causes can be found in history — the last 50 years when the people were dispossessed."

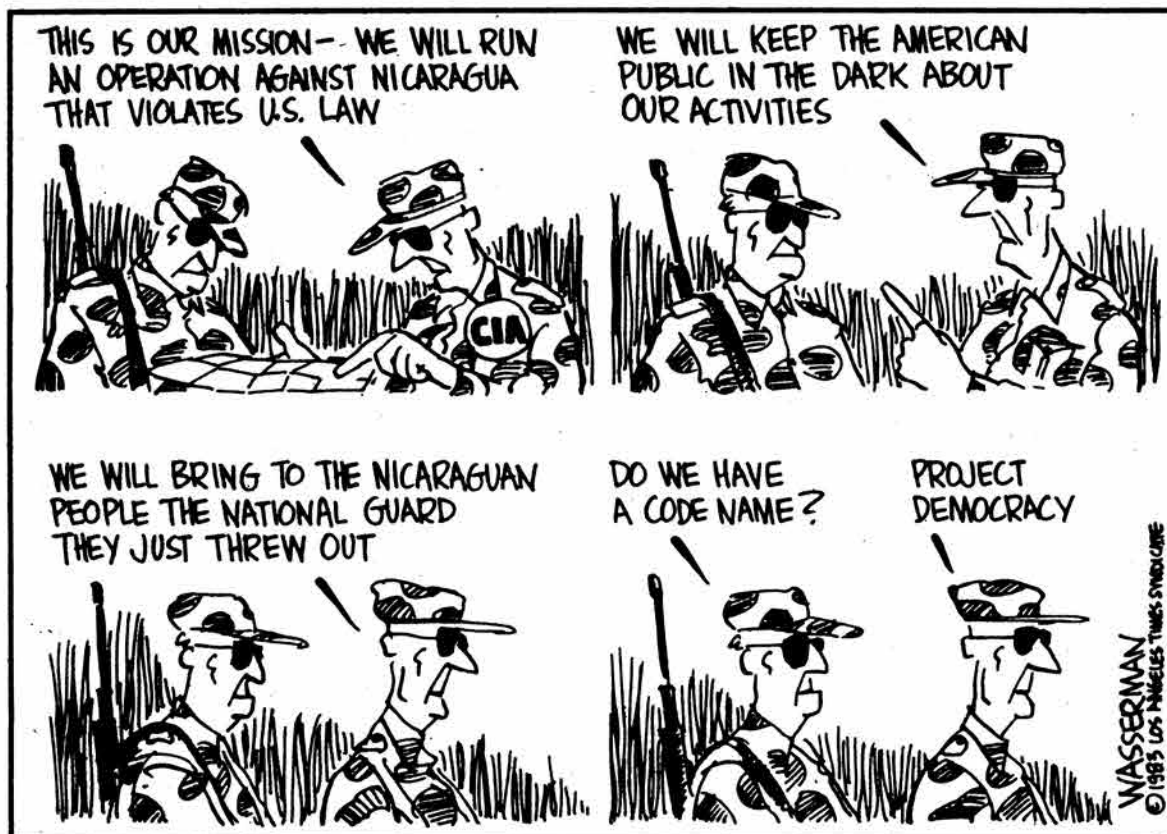
Rubio explained that the United States was preparing a "conflagration the likes of which has not been seen since Indochina. This is a fact, not rhetoric."

He appealed to the people of the United States, "We have faith that should the U.S. people know the truth about what is happening in El Salvador, they would not stand for it."

Rubio also spoke in Santa Fe and Espanola and received prominent coverage in the Albuquerque Journal.

Other activities taking place during Central America Week included an interfaith service commemorating the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, a slide show on Honduras, and a meeting with Sister Pat Kronner, executive director of the Archbishop Romero Relief Fund. She discussed her personal experiences with the struggling and fighting people of El Salvador and Honduras and with the revolutionary society in Nicaragua.

Groups organizing Central



America Week included the Coalition and the Campus Committee for Human Rights in Latin America, the Peace Center, the Interfaith Advocates for Justice, and the United Campus Ministry.

Brenda Brdar

Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Marroquín in Dallas

Héctor Marroquín's case received extensive coverage in the Dallas-Ft. Worth news media during his three-day visit here. He was the guest of the Ed Busche Show, a one-hour live radio program that is aired in 14 major U.S. cities, and another community radio talk show. Chicano Productions, a cable TV program, devoted a half hour to his case, and he was prominently featured in the Ft. Worth Star Telegram and El Sol de Texas, the largest circulation Spanish language weekly in Dallas, as well as on public TV's news program.

While speaking on Sunday to members of an all-Black church in Dallas, Marroquín met a woman who has been fighting against deportation to South Africa for seven years.

That evening she explained her case to a public meeting in support of Marroquín's right to stay in the United States. Like Marroquín, she was a political activist in her own country. Because she was a vocal opponent of the racist apartheid government in South Africa, she knows she will be victimized if forced to return to her homeland. She told the audience how her extensive court battles, which have cost her thousands of dollars, still have brought her no closer to obtaining a green card.

Five right-wing thugs attempted to break up the meeting by shouting racist and anticommunist remarks at Marroquín and his supporters and threatening him with physical violence. They were successfully isolated and the meeting was able to proceed as planned.

Another speaker, Jill Nations, president of the Dallas County National Organization for Women, voiced her opposition to the INS's efforts to deport Marroquín. His case concerns her, she said, because of the thousands of refugees from El Salvador, who flee to the United States to escape a brutal dictatorship.

She pointed out that these refugees are denied the right to live and work in the United States, because the U.S. government is more concerned with protecting its corporate interests in El Salvador than in human lives.

Kathy Rettig,

Dallas, Texas

### Dispute on Farrakhan

Mel Mason's statement in the April 27 *Militant* defending Jesse Jackson and Louis Farrakhan is ludicrous and insulting to the intelligence, coming from a man who would be president.

Jesse Jackson as a Democrat is a member of the capitalist class. Jackson at first denied, then admitted, the "Hymie — Hymietown" remark.

Jackson took money from the Arabs who were the principal slave traders. What should Blacks think of him now? The money came from Arab oil nations, not from oppressed Palestinians. Whose interests will he represent?

Jackson's refusal to repudiate Farrakhan's remarks of "death to

Coleman" and "Hitler was a great man," is Pro-Facto racism and condemns him with guilt by association.

As to Farrakhan's remark that there might be some superficial likeness between himself and Hitler, he is right. Hitler appealed to the misfits, hooligans, brawlers, and the lunatic fringe.

Farrakhan's attempt to duplicate Malcolm X is just a sham. Farrakhan, like Hitler, is a rabble-rouser.

Max Mantele

Brooklyn, New York

### Dominican Republic

Apropos the recent rebellion in the Dominican Republic, I came across a 1982 clipping from a local Spanish-language weekly reporting on the election campaign of Dominican Pres. Salvador Jorge Blanco. It's an account of some fund-raising efforts held, not in the Dominican Republic, but in New York City.

While in town Jorge Blanco marched in a parade, made a speech at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and met with Mayor Koch. He then attended a private dinner held in his honor organized by U.S. business groups. Present at the affair were sugar company execs, bankers, and other industrialists. No wonder the price per plate was \$1,000.

S.W.

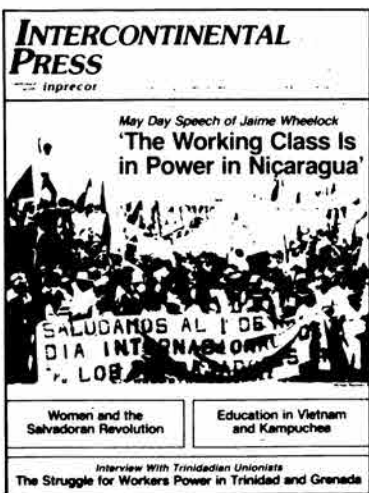
Brookline, Massachusetts

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.

### Read Intercontinental Press

The May 28 issue of *Intercontinental Press* has several articles of interest to *Militant* readers. The text of Sandinista leader Jaime Wheelock's May Day speech appears in full. An article by William Gottlieb analyses the debt crisis in Latin America, and two articles by Diane Wang examine advances in education in Kampuchea and Vietnam. This issue also carries an interview with oil workers in Trinidad, which covers, among other subjects, an evaluation of the events in Grenada.

IP, a biweekly, can be purchased by sending \$1.25 for a single copy, \$12.50 for six months, or \$25 for one year to: Intercontinental Press, 408 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.





## Canadian UAW prepares contract fight

The following article appeared in the May 7 issue of *Socialist Voice*, a revolutionary socialist biweekly published in Montreal.

BY GAIL HURMUSES

TORONTO — "The period of concessions is behind us!" That was the message of the Collective Bargaining and Legislation Conference of the United Auto Workers (UAW) in Canada held here April 14-15. The UAW is gearing up for a battle to regain what auto workers were forced to give up in the last round of negotiations in 1982.

The conference discussed union policy for contract negotiations with all major employers of UAW members. The key showdown this year will be with General Motors and Ford. Contracts covering 36,000 workers at GM and 14,000 at Ford expire in September.

The upturn in the industry has meant record profits for the auto companies and a growing militancy among auto workers. Inspired by the victory of the Chrysler strike last year, the UAW recognizes that now is the time to fight hard for gains.

The more than 300 delegates, representing 120,000 union members mainly from Ontario and Quebec, laid out a series of demands for the bargaining table and for political action in preparation for the expected federal election. Bargaining priorities include:

- A substantial immediate wage increase and restoration of the "annual improvement factor" (the yearly wage increase, traditionally 3 percent, that was given up in the last contract).

- Improvements in the cost-of-living allowance.

- Reduced work time to combat high unemployment. In the 1982 contract the union was forced to give up 10 paid personal holidays per year. The delegates were determined to recoup this loss in one form or another. An important aspect of the fight for reduced work time is the fight for the right to refuse overtime. Workers at many Ford and GM plants have been plagued by forced overtime.

The union is also demanding improvements in supplemental unemployment benefits and pensions and the elimination of "new hire" rates. The last contract allowed the companies to pay newly hired workers less than the full wage for their first 18 months on the job.

The conference firmly rejected profit-sharing schemes currently being promoted by the auto companies with the agreement of the UAW leadership in the U.S. These programs, UAW Canadian Director Bob White said, add "uncertainty to workers' lives, leaving our wages more directly contingent on the success of management's decisions, interest rate fluctuations and the general direction of the economy."

The conference also rejected phony "Quality of Work Life" programs designed to undercut the union.

In general, the conference struck a militant and confident tone.

Women's issues were highlighted at the Toronto conference. Demands for mandatory affirmative action in hiring and job upgrading were adopted. The conference supported company-sponsored, union-controlled child care, a demand already won by UAW Local 1325 in Stratford, Ontario.

A delegate from Quebec explained the need to defend the workers' movement from the corporate blackmail of companies moving or threatening to move out of Quebec.

The conference came out strongly for the defense and improvement of the medicare system. It proposed the elimination of user fees and extra billing.

In the keynote speech, Bob White urged UAW members to get involved in politics. He stressed the need to defend the New Democratic Party (NDP), Canada's union-based labor party, against the current attacks from the bosses and the media and

called for stronger UAW support for the NDP in the coming federal election campaign.

Ontario NDP leader Bob Rae and federal leader Ed Broadbent both gave major talks to the conference.

White, Rae, and Broadbent all argued that the key solution to the problems facing auto workers and workers in other industries is a protectionist campaign for increased Canadian content. This mistaken view, which provides no real answer to the fight against unemployment, was shared by most of the delegates.

UAW members at the conference were encouraged to get more involved in international issues. The main conference resolution supported "the long struggle of the Black workers in South Africa for freedom and justice and the desire of the Nicaraguan people to defend their revolution against the hostility and intervention of the U.S." The Canadian Labor Congress's peace petition and caravan were presented as priorities for the union.

At the end of the conference delegates joined the picket lines of striking Toronto hotel workers in a show of solidarity.

All in all, the conference was marked by a genuine fighting spirit.

Gayle Hurmuses is a member of UAW Local 303.



In 1982, Canadian UAW members at Chrysler led fight for decent contract for all Chrysler workers through militant strike. Union's bargaining conference in Canada decided time is over for concessions at GM and Ford too, discussed how to win new gains in upcoming contract.

## New Jersey nurses strike St. Mary's hospital

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

HOBOKEN, N.J. — Since March 23 more than 200 nurses have been on strike here against St. Mary's Hospital.

The nurses held a strike meeting May 10 and rejected by 94 percent a takeback contract offered to them by St. Mary's management. Following the meeting, the nurses marched to the hospital singing "Solidarity Forever" and chanting "Scab, scab, scab." Of the 235 nurses, some two dozen have crossed picket lines. Hospital management has also hired outside nurses to replace those on strike.

The evening before the strike vote, the negotiating committee of the nurses' union, the Jersey Nurses Economic Security Organization (JNESO) offered management many concessions on wages, overtime, and work rules. Management, however, did not budge.

JNESO nurses, who make between \$9.51 to \$10.40 an hour, want wage increases that would give them between \$10.35 and \$12 an hour. Hospital management has refused to alter its proposal for a mere 30 cents an hour increase. The strikers answered that with the slogan: "30 cents, 30 cents, no way — if that's what I'm worth, on the streets I stay."

The hospital says it can't afford the wage increases being demanded by the nurses. In response, the nurses have called for an independent audit to examine hospital financial records. The hospital has not warmed up to this idea. "That would be setting a precedent," complained a hospital representative. "I don't think the hospital is going to take the position of letting their books be shown, because the next time there is a strike, the union involved can say, well, you showed your books before."

The nurses are also strongly opposed to the hospital's proposal to arbitrarily "float" nurses from unit to unit. Such a move, argue the nurses, would worsen the quality of health care.

From the outset the hospital has tried its best to sow divisions among the nurses. In the week leading up to the May 10 strike vote, the hospital made it clear to the 61 Filipino nurses who work here on "preferred alien status" visas that if they didn't cross the picket lines and return to work they would be subject to deportation.

The hospital asserted that if these nurses

went on strike they would be violating immigration law. The JNESO has challenged this claim.

This racist union-busting move by the hospital has had some effect: nine Filipino nurses, out of fear of deportation, have returned to work.

In addition, Filipino nurses are prohibited from working another job during the strike, while the majority of the nurses who are U.S. citizens have gotten other jobs.

Without any strike benefits, the Filipino nurses are thus subject to additional pressures. The overwhelming majority, however, are standing up to this vicious attempt to divide the nurses. The INS is currently investigating all the foreign-born nurses. For example, the INS has begun to investigate two striking Irish nurses.

After the nine Filipino nurses returned to work, the union argued that the nurses vio-

lated immigration law by working while on strike. The JNESO says that if they continue to work they should be deported.

This move by the union plays into the hands of the hospital, and the antiunion Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and weakens its fight for a just contract. Fighting to deport the nine Filipino nurses who crossed the picket line can only serve to threaten Filipino and other foreign-born nurses who are still on strike with deportation. It lends credence to the dangerous idea that racist immigration laws are just and should be enforced. By instead fighting to defend the rights of its undocumented nurses to work in this country free of INS harassment, the JNESO could set an important example of solidarity for the rest of the labor movement and strengthen its fight against St. Mary's management.

## Marroquín and supporters press fight for his right to remain in U.S.

BY HOLBROOK MAHN

Attorneys for Héctor Marroquín filed legal papers on May 4 in U.S. District Court to force the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to allow Marroquín to remain in the United States until his application for a green card is completed.

Marroquín, a Mexican-born trade-unionist and socialist, applied a year ago for a green card based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen. Permission to remain in the country to pursue a green card is routinely granted by the INS in cases such as Marroquín's but they are treating him differently because of his outspoken opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America and to Washington's attacks on working people at home.

The INS has stalled on processing his application at every stage.

In the legal papers filed on May 4, Marroquín's attorneys argue that the INS's treatment of Marroquín is arbitrary and discriminatory. They ask the court to order the INS to allow him to remain in the United States to pursue his application for his green card.

This fight takes on added importance because the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule any day on Marroquín's plea for political asylum. Should the Supreme Court rule against Marroquín, the INS has given him 48 hours to leave the country on his own before they deport him back to Mexico where his life would be in danger because of activities in defense of democratic rights in the late 60s and early 70s.

A favorable decision on the papers filed May 4 would eliminate the 48-hour deadline and instead allow Marroquín to pursue his fight for a green card to the end, even if the Supreme Court rules against his political asylum case.

Because of the importance of this latest legal move in Marroquín's fight to remain in this country, the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is coordinating his defense, is urging supporters to step up the campaign to get letters sent to the INS demanding that they give Marroquín his green card.

Such letters should be sent to INS Commissioner Alan Nelson, INS, Washington, D.C. 20536, with a copy to PRDF, Box 649, New York, NY 10003.