

Auto workers hit U.S. war in Central America

BY ED JOSEPHSON

DETROIT — "The U.S. government is on a fast track and hell-bent for an invasion and all-out war in Central America," Bob López, retired United Auto Workers (UAW) international representative, told an audience of over 100 antiwar and union activists here at the headquarters of UAW Local 600.

Bob King, president of Local 600, which organizes over 10,000 workers at Ford's River Rouge plant, opened the meeting, urging unions to become more involved in foreign policy issues.

"Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own problems that we fail to look at the bigger picture," he said. "But what is happening in Central America, Latin America, and Asia has a direct impact on us."

"The strength of the unions is our care and concern for one another — and that goes beyond the borders of the United States," he added.

The meeting also heard remarks from Rebecca Maldonado, president of the Latino Auto Workers Council, a group of about 80 rank-and-file UAW members in the Detroit area. Maldonado, herself a production worker at the Fisher Body Fort St. plant, described the struggle of Latino UAW members against discriminatory hiring and harassment on the job.

She explained that the attacks on Latinos and other working people in this country are part of the U.S. government's war on workers around the world.

"We are going backwards, losing everything our fathers and grandfathers fought for," she said. "And if you think that what is happening in Latin America can't happen here — just look around!"

Emirene Mendoza, a UAW attorney and leader of the Detroit Guatemala Committee, explained how the U.S. government consistently violates its own laws, as well as international law, by intervening in Central America.

She also exposed the tricks Washington uses to expand its support for the "murderous and reactionary regimes" in the area — how funds for "rural education" are used to train death squads, while loans to "develop rural communities" actually "develop" military roads and facilities.

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Irish clergy, unionists blast Reagan's visit



Militant/Margaret Jayko

May 26 action in Dublin, Ireland, against President Reagan. Thousands of people protested Reagan's June 1-4 trip to Ireland. Central focus was against U.S. wars in Central America.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DUBLIN, Ireland — Thousands of people participated in a variety of protests against Pres. Ronald Reagan's June 1-4 trip to Ireland. Opposition to the U.S. war against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador was the central focus of these actions.

More than 500 demonstrators were on hand when Ronald and Nancy Reagan got off the plane at Shannon Airport to begin the carefully orchestrated four-day tour.

Protesters carried signs saying, "Hands off Central America," "Reagan — stop

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military aid to the fascist regime in Chile," and "U.S. multi-nationals exploit the poor of the world."

Protest honorary degree

Reagan's June 2 trip to Galway, to receive a Doctorate of Laws degree from the National University of Ireland (NUI), was marked by a 1,500-strong protest.

A group of academics and graduates marched through Galway, then ceremonially burned their degree parchments and graduation certificates. At University College in Galway, where Reagan received his award, 20 percent of the academic staff boycotted the ceremony.

On May 28, NUI graduates had passed a motion, 419 to 8, "deploring and disassociating" themselves from the decision of the Senate of NUI to confer the degree on Reagan.

On June 3 about 600 protested in Ballyporeen, in County Tipperary. As Reagan spouted sentimental rubbish in this tiny town — now famous because it was decided, quite arbitrarily, that Reagan's ancestors once lived there — the protesters carried one coffin, commemorating victims of the U.S.-sponsored violence in Central America.

In the evening, thousands, including many priests and nuns, marched through the center of Dublin in an attempt to encircle Dublin Castle, where the Reagans were attending a lavish state banquet. The march was prevented from approaching the castle, however, by a heavy cordon of police.

In addition to the protests, the size of the crowds that turned out to see and cheer Reagan were smaller and less enthusiastic than the major media here had predicted.

Solidarity with PATCO

The annual conference of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, the largest Irish trade union in the country, opened in Dublin May 29. Delegates overwhelmingly approved an emergency resolution calling on members to participate in anti-Reagan protests because of the "disastrous" effects of U.S. foreign policy on Central America and other Third World countries as well as the U.S. arms buildup.

Irish air traffic controllers called on trade unionists here to remember Reagan's role in breaking the strike by their U.S. counterparts in 1981. Reagan fired thousands of members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization and jailed several PATCO activists.

The Union of Professional and Technical Civil Servants, which represents air traffic controllers in Ireland, issued a state-

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Socialist candidate hails N.Y. antiwar marchers

On June 9 a demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean takes place in New York City. The following are greetings to the marchers from Andrea González, 1984 Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president. González has been a longtime activist in the movement in solidarity with Central America and the Caribbean. She has visited Nicaragua twice since the revolution in that country.

To the thousands of solidarity activists, Blacks, Latinos, women, and unionists

marching June 9 in New York City against Washington's criminal war in Central America — right on! Your protest is playing an important role in helping to build the kind of antiwar movement necessary to stay the hand of U.S. imperialism. The Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, which has united so many groups to bring about June 9, deserves special praise.

Those of you marching today are part of the international protests against the U.S. war in Central America. In Ireland, President Reagan's every step was dogged by angry demonstrators protesting U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and Washington's support to the reactionary Salvadoran regime of José Napoleón Duarte.

Because of the importance of these Irish protests, my running mate, Mel Mason, flew to Ireland to participate in these actions.

Your antiwar protest, and others taking place around the world, occurs at a crucial time. U.S. employers and their kept government in Washington are stepping up their aggression in Central America. The U.S. war is at a new stage.

The election of Duarte as El Salvador's president wasn't a move toward peace, but a sign that the U.S. war will continue and deepen.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's attendance at Duarte's inauguration is, likewise, a demonstration that the U.S. ruling class will deepen its war policy in the region.

Shultz's surprise June 1 visit to Nicaragua doesn't change this fact one bit. White House officials made it clear that Washington's goal of overthrowing the Sandinista government remains unchanged.

The U.S. government is at war in Central America, and that war has undergone a qualitative escalation in the last several months. The U.S. capitalist class is committed to trying to halt the advance of

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Political refugees in U.S. victim of harsh new blow by Supreme Court

BY HARRY RING

The Supreme Court has struck a harsh new blow at the thousands of immigrants seeking political refuge here.

In a unanimous June 5 decision, the court ruled that immigrants seeking political refuge here must show a "clear probability" of persecution in their native country to avoid deportation.

The court did not rule, as it was expected to, on the standard for granting political asylum. But clearly the deportation ruling will make it more difficult for refugees to remain here.

This intensifies the gravity of the situation of the many political refugees from El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala and other countries ruled by U.S.-installed tyrannical regimes.

Left pending by the court's decision is the case of Héctor Marroquín, the Mexican-born socialist who has carried his appeal for political asylum to the Supreme Court. Marroquín is a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance.

It had been assumed that the outcome of the Marroquín case would essentially be determined by the outcome of the present case, that of Predrag Stevic.

But the court's decision not to rule on the asylum issue leaves Marroquín's case yet to be determined.

Marroquín was interviewed briefly on "NBC Nightly News" the day of the decision. NBC reporter Carl Stern said, "Héctor Marroquín, a labor activist from Mexico, also has a deportation appeal pending in the Supreme Court. He called the ruling heartbreaking for more than 150,000 refugees trying to remain in the U.S."

Marroquín told the TV audience, "What this amounts to is increasingly closing the door on refugees the U.S. government does not want here."

NBC cameras then switched to the head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Alan Nelson. "Immigration Commissioner Alan Nelson says illegal refugees have been exaggerating the

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BY PEGGY BRUNDY

"I'm glad you're here. These workers in Toledo deserve our support. I'm going to read this paper and pass it around inside the plant."

This was the response of an auto worker in the Cleveland area to the issue of the *Militant* featuring the auto strike at the AP Parts plant in Toledo. Almost 100 copies of that issue were sold in an eight-day period at four Cleveland-area auto plants.

Kevin Thomas reports from Cleveland that 49 of these were sold at the Chrysler Twinsburg plant. Because of their own experience on strike against Chrysler last year, these UAW members were extremely interested in the *Militant* coverage of the AP Parts strike. One worker remembered that "the *Militant* gave us truthful coverage of our strike."

Earlier, like workers at other Chrysler plants, Twinsburg workers were forced to accept a concession contract when the owners cried bankrupt, and had worked three years under that contract. Last year's strike came in response to management's inhuman overtime drive. One worker told a *Militant* salesperson he had worked 105 days straight!

Cleveland socialists concluded many months ago that it was important for them to have a regular political presence at this plant through *Militant* sales. Regularity was interrupted last winter by knee-deep snow some weeks and

plant security guards other weeks, but sales of the Toledo issue of the *Militant* allowed them to reestablish contact.

A total of 31 papers were sold at the Ford Brookpark plant. Around half of the work force at this plant is laid-off. One worker there said he hadn't heard anything about the Toledo UAW strike, but added, "If they lose, we'll also pay for it this fall in our contract negotiations." UAW contracts with GM and Ford expire this fall, and many UAW members believe they are heading for a big showdown.

At GM's Lordstown, Ohio, assembly plant salespeople got out eight *Militants* to workers at the afternoon shift. And on Saturday, June 2, nine copies were sold to workers at the Ford Lorain plant, although no production workers were scheduled for this particular Saturday and there were only about 30 cars in the parking lot.

In late 1982 the Socialist Workers Party decided to make regular weekly sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at plant gates a central part of the political work of SWP branches and all party members. Sales to UAW members at auto assembly and parts plants have been a vital part of this effort from the very beginning.

The number sold has varied a lot; the highest sales so far were of the issue containing the GM management's secret document outlining its plans for squeezing more concessions out of GM workers.

Over 800 copies of that issue were sold to auto workers.

The *Militant's* regular presence at auto plant gates in cities around the country means that a growing number of UAW members are familiar with its socialist coverage. When an event of particular importance breaks out in the class struggle, more workers are likely to pick up a copy. Last week's sales of the *Militant* on the Toledo events were an example of this.

Socialists have been selling regularly at the Ford Motor plant in St. Paul, Minnesota, usually selling five to seven papers a week. They report workers there hadn't heard much about the Toledo events. They sold 17 copies of the Toledo issue to workers interested in the events.

In Philadelphia, socialists sell weekly at Budd Huntington Park, an auto parts plant. Their weekly average over the months has been two papers. But when the Toledo issue arrived, seven workers stopped their cars as they drove into the plant and wanted to buy it.

In Detroit the *Militant* and *PM* are sold regularly at five auto plants. Sales have varied from 1 or 2 to as high as 23 of the issue containing the secret GM document. Thirty-one workers wanted to read the *Militant's* analysis of the Toledo events.

As the September UAW contract expiration date draws nearer, the discussion will deepen among UAW members about a strategy for fighting back against the own-



Militant/Katy Karlin
Philadelphia socialists have been selling *Militants* to striking steelworkers, shown here. Regular sales of the *Militant* at plant gates means a growing number of industrial workers are familiar with its socialist coverage.

ers' demands. Union solidarity, such as that shown with the AP Parts strikers in Toledo, will be an important component of a winning strategy. Regular sales of the *Militant* and *PM* at plant gates means

that hundreds of workers will be able to read about such developments over the coming months. The *Militant* and *PM* will continue to contribute to this discussion about the way forward.

Shultz visits Nicaragua as CIA forces hit border town

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In an attempt to counter international protest against Washington's war on Nicaragua, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz visited Managua briefly June 1 and met with top Nicaraguan government leaders. Shultz was in Central America to attend the inauguration of Salvadoran Pres. José Napoleón Duarte. He met for two hours with Commander Daniel Ortega, head of the Nicaraguan government; Miguel D'Escoto, foreign minister; and other Nicaraguan officials.

Only a few hours before Shultz' visit, 600 U.S.-financed counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) carried out a new escalation of the war against Nicaragua, for the first time staging a major attack on the town of Ocotál, 10 miles from Honduras.

The Sandinista People's Army announced that the counterrevolutionaries had been unable to take the town of 20,000 people. Nevertheless, they heavily damaged the Yobeco lumber mill — the biggest one in the region — destroyed grain-storage silos, and damaged offices of the state-owned electric company. They also destroyed the antenna of Radio Segovia, al-

though the station was able to resume broadcasting within a couple of days. Ten Sandinista soldiers were killed in the fighting as were 40 *contras*. Two civilians were also murdered by the CIA-backed bands.

In this context, Nicaragua's foreign minister explained his view of Shultz' visit.

D'Escoto said, "Sometimes I cannot stop myself from thinking that this ... is being done at this point in time only to put a little bit of make-up on the face of the Reagan administration."

In a press statement on the talks, the Nicaraguan government said it had carried on the discussions with Shultz "despite the aggression, death, and destruction," caused to the people of Nicaragua by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. Given the "undeclared war which for almost four years the U.S. administration has carried out against our country," the statement said, the talks with Shultz were proof of "Nicaragua's inexhaustible will for peace."

The statement described the points made by Ortega in his discussions with Shultz. Nicaragua stated that it is ready at any time for "systematic, respectful, and serious

discussion," with the U.S. government. However, the right of nations to determine their own affairs free of outside interference or use of force would have to be the framework for the discussion.

Ortega pointed out that last October 15, Nicaragua had given the United States "serious and detailed proposals for a political solution" to end the U.S. war against Nicaragua. "Our government is still waiting for the response to this," the Nicaraguan statement said.

In his discussions with Nicaraguan leaders and in later comments to reporters, Shultz claimed that "we are willing to talk" with Nicaragua.

Nevertheless, the Nicaraguans pointed out that such verbal assurances are meaningless unless they are "backed up by practical actions," such as an end to threatening U.S. military maneuvers; an end to pirate raids by aircraft and small launches; and an end to the mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

Indeed, while flying back from his trip, Shultz declared the Reagan administration will continue to press Congress for another \$21 million in aid to the rightist *contra* bands.

During his visit here, Shultz announced

that special U.S. envoy to Central America, Harry Shlaudeman, would be holding ongoing negotiations with Víctor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaragua's vice-minister of foreign relations. In agreeing to these talks, Nicaragua insisted that they be mediated by a mutually acceptable third country.

An editorial in the June 2 Sandinista daily *Barricada* warned that the agreement to hold ongoing discussions "should not create illusions that this means a process of negotiations has been initiated," or that "the United States is willing to respectfully recognize the sovereign rights of Nicaragua."

The editorial said the Nicaraguan people know "that the beginning of such a process must be accompanied by concrete actions on the part of the United States."

During a discussion with peasants and other residents of the town of Lecheguaga the day after Shultz's visit, Daniel Ortega said he was "willing to immediately carry out a meeting with President Reagan" to continue the search for peace.

"We are willing to make a new peace effort with the United States," the Nicaraguan leader said, "but we are not going to sacrifice the revolution."

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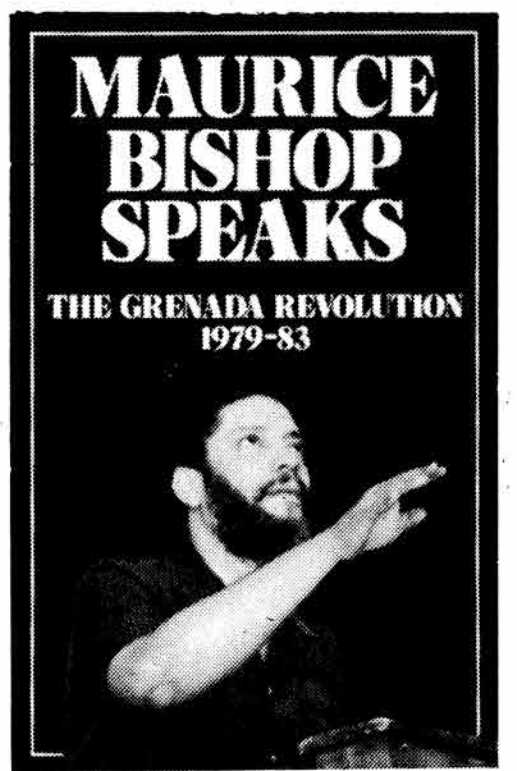
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Vietnam solidarity rally held in N.Y.



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Vietnam's UN ambassador Hoang Bich Son was principal speaker at June 2 meeting.

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — A large and spirited public rally on June 2 celebrated the Vietnamese victories over French and U.S. imperialism. The 300 people attending demanded that the U.S. government normalize diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam and stop the escalation of the Vietnam-style war in Central America.

In a signal victory for civil liberties, the meeting was held without any physical attack or intimidation by enemies of the Vietnamese revolution. Previous anniversary celebrations where Vietnamese representatives spoke were the target of violent attack and harassment (see story page 12).

The principal speaker at the rally was Hoang Bich Son, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations. Sharing the platform with him was Steve Clark, editor of *Intercontinental Press* and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, who recently returned from spending 20 days in Vietnam and 10 days in Kampuchea.

Ulises Selva, representative of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front

(FDR) and Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN); and Chan Bun Han, a Kampuchean activist in the Committee in Solidarity With Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, brought greetings. Diane Wang, who toured Vietnam and Kampuchea along with Clark as a *Militant* correspondent, chaired the meeting.

'No more Vietnams!'

Echoing the banner at the front of the hall, which read "No more Vietnam Wars in Central America!" several speakers urged a large turnout for the June 9 antiwar demonstration in New York City.

The meeting also strongly condemned the May 28 gunning down by right-wing Vietnamese thugs of a Vietnamese couple in San Francisco. Nguyen Van Luy, an active supporter of the revolution in Vietnam, was seriously wounded and his wife killed. The meeting demanded prompt official action in the case (see page 13).

Ambassador Son well personified the spirit of the meeting. Not only had he been

a leader of the National Liberation Front (NLF) of South Vietnam during its fight against the U.S. occupation; he was also the NLF representative to Cuba in the late 1960s and the Vietnamese representative to the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. For the past several years, Son has represented the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the United Nations.

Ambassador Son told the gathering, "I would like to express our deepest thanks to you for organizing the celebration of our major anniversaries here in the United States."

The Vietnamese people, he said, are celebrating three important anniversaries: the 30th anniversary of the defeat of the French imperialists at Dien Bien Phu, the ninth anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam with the final withdrawal of U.S. forces, and the May 19 birthdate of Ho Chi Minh, who was the principal leader of the Vietnamese liberation struggle.

Vietnam and world's victory

"With the Dien Bien Phu victory, half of Vietnam was liberated. With the victory of April 30, 1975, the whole country of Vietnam was liberated," Son said.

These were victories, he said "of the Vietnamese people and successes of the world's people. We attributed these victories first of all to those who organized, who died in the struggle which brought about those victories. And in that sense we respectfully refer to our president, Ho Chi Minh."

"In him," Son said, "patriotism and internationalism are organically linked. All his life, he struggled untiringly for the cause of national liberation in Vietnam, for the liberation of other nations of the world, and for freedom for the oppressed people across the globe."

Since the death of Ho Chi Minh in 1969, Son said, "the enemies of the Vietnamese revolution harbor the illusion that we don't have a leader to continue to lead the revolution to victory."

Because of that mistake, Son explained, the Chinese government launched a large-scale invasion of Vietnam in 1979. Peking is continuing that war against Vietnam, he said, and now has 20,000 troops in Vietnamese territory and 400,000 massed on its border.

"They mistakenly believed," Son declared, "that by doing this Vietnam would

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Bomb hits Pastora after dispute with CIA

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Fifteen minutes into a press conference called by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary and ex-Sandinista Edén Pastora, a bomb exploded, killing 6 and wounding more than 20 people. Among those wounded was Pastora himself.

The May 30 news conference was held in a remote spot on the Rio San Juan, which divides Nicaragua from Costa Rica. It took place 24 hours after Pastora's group, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), voted to join forces with the Honduran-based, Somozaist-led Nicaraguan Democratic Force. Both outfits have been heavily financed by the CIA.

When the explosion occurred, Pastora was explaining to the journalists his opposition to uniting with the Somozaists and the CIA pressure on him to do so.

After the explosion, Pastora quickly charged that the Sandinistas in Nicaragua were responsible for the bomb, a baseless assertion that was echoed by Costa Rican officials and the international media.

Answering this lie, Nicaraguan government junta member Sergio Ramirez said the explosion was a consequence of "internal quarrels among the counterrevolutionary groups supported by the CIA." He expressed his government's sorrow concerning the journalists killed and wounded in the attack.

In addition, a joint communiqué was issued by Nicaragua and Costa Rica's newly formed commission to prevent border incidents. It denounced the bombing as a "terrorist act" and agreed to investigate the crime.

Meanwhile, the international press decided to do a public relations job for Pastora, building him up as a "true, honest Sandinista" persecuted by "totalitarians" who forcibly took over in Managua.

Following the 1979 victory of the Nicaraguan revolution, Pastora served in a number of posts in the new government, including as head of the Sandinista People's Militias. But in 1981, he left Nicaragua.

In April 1982, from exile, he issued a call for the armed overthrow of the Nicaraguan government, charging it had betrayed the goals of the revolution. In response, there were demonstrations of Nicaraguan militia members who burned their membership cards bearing his signature.

Pastora had won fame as "Commander Zero" in the Sandinista Front's takeover of the National Palace in 1978 and for his role in the Southern Front during the final offensive against Somoza.

Yet, even at that time his anticommunist views were evident to those who worked with him. One combatant, who fought under Pastora, told the *Militant* how Pastora would come and burn Marxist literature in the camps.

"We knew he wasn't with us 100 percent," the soldier recalled, "but the Sandinista Front was a very broad organiza-

tion, and we had hopes of winning him over."

In the two years since Pastora went over openly to the counterrevolution, his forces have murdered scores of unarmed peasants, forcing the evacuation of thousands of families from their farms in the southern border region. While claiming to be "revolutionary" his CIA-funded army has concentrated its attacks against the initial gains the revolution has been able to bring to this remote area — agricultural cooperatives, health care posts, and adult education collectives.

After the bomb attack, Pastora initially went to a hospital in Costa Rica. But on June 1, the Costa Rican government expelled him and he was flown to Venezuela on a plane provided by the Venezuelan government.

Pastora shifted his story on who was responsible for the explosion, stating that he now thought the CIA had done it.

A CIA spokesman in Washington, Dale Peterson, said of Pastora's charges: "Absolutely untrue. Ridiculous. Unfounded. We don't assassinate people. We don't plant bombs and blow people up."



Edén Pastora at news conference moments before explosion.

U.S., Saudi attacks escalate against Iran

BY HERMAN CHAUKA

In a dangerous escalation of the U.S.-organized gangup on Iran, Saudi Arabian jets shot down two Iranian planes June 5. The Saudi fighters took their toll with the direct assistance of U.S. military aircraft.

The Saudi planes were refueled in the air by a U.S. Air Force tanker plane and guided to their targets by U.S. surveillance planes.

Coincident with the shooting down of the Iranian planes, the Pentagon's chief spokesperson made the ominous threat that U.S. warships would fire at any plane or ship that "threatened" U.S. oilers carrying fuel from the gulf to U.S. warships in the Arabian Sea. The could provide an easy pretext for new attacks on Iran.

Until recently, the Saudi government tried to maintain the fiction of being "neutral" in Iraq's war of aggression against Iran, which has been going on since 1980.

But, pressured by Washington, the Saudi regime has moved to the open military assistance of Iraq. Last month, the Saudi armed forces were provided with U.S. Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and launchers, and the Reagan administration announced that aerial tankers and spotter planes, manned by U.S. military personnel, were being dispatched to Saudi Arabia.

With that, the Saudi government announced it was undertaking to patrol virtually the entire southern region of the Persian Gulf, assertedly to protect oil tankers and other shipping from Iranian attacks. In fact, the overwhelming majority of such attacks have been made by Iraq.

According to the Saudi government's version of the attack on the two Iranian planes, the Saudis went into action after seeing the Iranian planes heading toward two ships in the gulf. The ships were not identified.

The claim was that the Iranian planes were shot down inside Saudi territorial waters. This required some stretching.

The Saudis claim a 12-mile offshore limit. The Iranian planes were at least some 24 miles off the Saudi coast. However, it was argued, they were within 12 miles of a Saudi-held island, for which they claim an added 12 miles.

The Saudi government and other gulf area regimes have contributed \$35 billion to the Iraqi aggression against Iran. They do so out of fear that the Iranian revolution will spread into the countries they rule with

the sufferance of the western imperialist powers, particularly the United States.

The U.S. effort to isolate Iran in preparation for increased attacks against it brought a UN Security Council vote June 1 that brazenly condemned Iran for attacks on shipping in the gulf.

This in face of the fact that Iran is accused of attacking four such ships, while Iraq is acknowledged to have bombed and strafed more than 70!

The vote in the 15-member security council was 13-0, with two abstentions. The abstentions were by Nicaragua and Zimbabwe.

Among the 13 governments voting for the demagogic condemnation were the United States, England, France, and the Netherlands, as well as the Soviet Union and China.

Detroit auto workers hit U.S. war

Continued from front page

The rally heard greetings from the newly-formed Detroit chapter of the Maurice Bishop and Grenada Martyrs Foundation. The foundation sold six copies of the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks* at the meeting.

Bob López, a longtime labor activist in solidarity with Nicaragua and El Salvador, delivered the keynote talk on labor's stake in opposing U.S. intervention in Central America.

He ridiculed the idea that revolutions in the region are "conspiracies conceived in Moscow, Havana, or Managua," explaining that "the roots of struggle lie in the pov-

erty, exploitation and oppression" in Central America.

López explained that U.S. government policy is "antilabor and antipeople both at home and abroad." For workers in Central America, this policy means "high unemployment, low wages, with no unions and no strikes permitted."

"Every dollar that goes to the dictators means one dollar less for the needs of our people" in the U.S., he added.

He called for "a movement of all the American people to stop all military and economic intervention in Central America, and to support the right of the people of the region to determine their own destiny."

Maurice Bishop on Central America

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Maurice Bishop — the central leader of the Grenada revolution — was, above all, an internationalist. He saw the Grenadian people's struggle against imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation as part of the worldwide fight of the oppressed peoples and exploited classes for national liberation and socialism.

Bishop often explained that Grenadian working people were in solidarity with the struggling peoples of the world. As he told more than 60,000 people at a rally in Managua, Nicaragua, held on February 23, 1980, to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the assassination of Augusto César Sandino, Grenada's solidarity with the Nicaraguan people "runs deep because of the similarities in our experiences of imperialism and dictatorship."

Moreover, Bishop explained, the success of the Grenada revolution itself "cannot be an isolated event. The very worldwide nature of imperialism attests to the need for revolutionary solidarity among oppressed peoples everywhere."

This speech, and other major speeches by Bishop, are contained in *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, recently published by Pathfinder Press. The publisher and other supporters of the Grenada revolution are on a campaign to widely distribute the new book. Pathfinder has initiated a series of rallies, receptions, and other public events across the country to celebrate the publication of the book.

Reading and studying *Maurice Bishop Speaks* is a must for all activists in the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. It's an excellent source of information for countering the lies of the U.S. government about the revolutionary process unfolding in that region today.

It's this truth that Washington fears most — because as working people learn the truth about Grenada, Nicaragua, and Cuba, it will strengthen their resolve to join together in a common struggle against imperialism.

Imperialism fears solidarity

In a speech Bishop delivered to a rally of 1.5 million people in Havana's Revolution Square on May Day 1980, he said, "The unity, the militant solidarity which unifies our countries, our peoples' struggles — it is this unity and this solidarity which is today making imperialism tremble, because we recognize in Grenada just as imperialists recognize, that without the Cuban revolution of 1959 there could have been no Grenadian revolution, nor Nicaraguan revolution in 1979."

"[The imperialists] are also terrified by the victories of the national liberation movements in Africa, in Asia, in the Middle East, and right here in Latin America. . . . They look at El Salvador and they recognize that while yesterday it was Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada, tomorrow it will undoubtedly be El Salvador."

Solidarity with the Salvadoran people's struggle against U.S. domination was also clear at the third anniversary celebration of the Grenada revolution on March 13, 1982. When it was announced to the thousands of Grenadians who had assembled at Queen's Park in St. George's that on the platform were "representatives from the struggling and fighting and revolutionary people of El Salvador," the crowd broke into an applause that lasted five minutes.

Later in the rally, Bishop explained that "Reagan attacks Nicaragua, he attacks Cuba, he attacks Grenada, he attacks the ordinary working people of El Salvador, who have picked up arms to regain their country from genocidal oppression and imperialist plunder."

"But he does so out of desperation, out of the recognition that the people of the region now understand very clearly that there is an alternative to fascism, to 19th century capitalism and dictatorship."

"That alternative," Bishop continued, "was shown in the glorious Cuban revolution and continued with the Grenadian and Nicaraguan revolutions. Reagan attacks our countries because he understands very well that neither his words, nor his belligerent actions and threats, will stop the heroic people of Cuba from continuing to go forward with their mighty revolution — a beacon, a model of hope, an example of



Daniel Ortega, Maurice Bishop, and Fidel Castro — leaders of Nicaraguan, Grenadian, and Cuban revolutions — at May Day rally in Havana in 1980. Bishop called Cuba a "beacon of hope" for all oppressed peoples.

dignity and struggle for the people of the region and of the world to emulate. Reagan understands the power and the impact of the Cuban revolution."

Bishop: Grenada needs support

The Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Grenadian revolutions need the support of working people the world over, explained Bishop. "There are many reasons why your solidarity with Grenada is important," Bishop said in an address to the opening session of the First International Conference of Solidarity with the Grenada Revolution held in St. George's in November 1981.

"There are many reasons," Bishop told the delegates, "why you must not only feel solidarity with the Grenada revolution but you must also express this solidarity loud and clear. . . ."

"We need your solidarity, comrades, because this revolution is increasingly a light, a beacon of hope to the poor and exploited masses of the Caribbean. The aims, objectives, and achievements of this revolution are a crystallization of the most profound human aspirations of Caribbean people towards a better life."

"For 400 years the exploited masses of the region have struggled with dignity for bread, jobs, justice, and peace. Today in Grenada, today in free and revolutionary Grenada, this struggle at last is beginning to bear fruit. And this fruit is not for us alone. It is not the property of ourselves alone. Just as our struggle has been part of a broader struggle of the working people of the Caribbean and the world, so now our revolution is an integral part of the forward movement of working people regionally and internationally."

In this same speech Bishop noted that "Our people, led by our party, the New Jewel Movement, are demanding the right to build this new society in peace. . . . But this wish for peace, this insistence on our right to self-determination, is being denied us. . . . Daily our process is the object of threats both veiled and undisguised, coming from the mighty United States and its string of yardboys and yardgirls in the region."

The imperialist threats and pressure against the Grenada revolution continued to mount. When the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada, which was headed by Bishop, was overthrown and Bishop and other central leaders of the revolution were murdered, the U.S. ruling class took advantage of these developments by ordering the U.S. invasion of the Caribbean island.

U.S. occupation

Grenada is still occupied by U.S. troops today, and Grenada needs the solidarity of U.S. working people now just as before.

'Big Red' reviews Bishop book

A boost to the campaign to widely distribute *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, published by Pathfinder Press, is the continued appearance of reviews of the new book. *Big Red News*, an important Black newsweekly published in New York and widely read in Brooklyn's Caribbean community, carried a review of the book in its May 26 issue.

The review was written by Mohammed Oliver, a staff writer for the *Militant* who

U.S. workers and farmers have no interest in reestablishing U.S. domination of Grenada, which can only strengthen the employers who are waging war against working people here in this country.

"U.S. out of Grenada now!" must be the demand of U.S. workers.

In addition, educating ourselves and others about the gains and achievements of the Grenada revolution is an important act of solidarity with the Grenadian people. An essential tool in accomplishing this task is *Maurice Bishop Speaks*.

As Bishop said in addressing international guests at the third anniversary celebration of the Grenada revolution, "We also ask you to take back to your country the truth of our revolution, because the truth is revolutionary and we are not afraid of it."

"To the people of the world we hold out our free education, our free health care, our national bus service, our international airport, our clinics, our fishing fleets, our agroindustries, our house repair program, our Center for Popular Education. These are the great truths of the Grenada revolution!"

has visited Grenada twice since the U.S. invasion. The Cincinnati *Herald* also carried a review by Oliver.

The Impartial Citizen, published in Syracuse, New York, ran a full-page review of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* in its May 1 edition. The unsigned article pointed out that the book "includes speeches that Bishop made to the Grenadian people on social welfare issues. He speaks on Women's Rights, Education, Literacy, the Building of the International Airport, the Press, and Economic Questions. . . ."

"This book," explains the review, "is an invaluable resource in providing perspective on Cuba's predicament during the final days leading up to the invasion, and the fate of Cuban construction workers who were attacked by the American invading force."

Another important review appeared in the May-June issue of *CUBATIMES*, which is published by the Cuba Resource Center in New York. In her review Mary Boger explains that "The statements of Maurice Bishop offer insights into the goals, approaches, specific programs, and organizational forms developed by Grenadian revolutionaries during the period of state power. . . ."

"For the already informed," says Boger, "*Maurice Bishop Speaks* will be a useful reference in evaluating the man and the course of the Revolution. For those who know little about Grenada, the selections offer a broad picture of the dilemmas and possible solutions for a small, dependent, poor nation embarking on socialist transformation."

Celebrate publication of 'Maurice Bishop Speaks'

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Speakers: Jerome Sadiki McBarnette, Grenadian student at University of Georgia in Athens; Dr. Bujung Bede, international affairs director of Atlanta Operation PUSH; Prof. Joseph Silver, Political Science Dept., Kennesaw College; Sofiso Makhatini, from the African National Congress; and Ken Milner, Atlanta National Black Independent Political Party and a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 709. Sat., June 9, 5 p.m. 1095 Confederate Ave. Aup: Pathfinder Press. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Film: *Grenada — the Future Coming Toward Us*. Speakers: Ken Morgan, member of National Black Independent Political Party; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 10, 7:30 p.m. St. John's Church, corner of 27th and St. Paul's

streets. Donation: \$2. Aup: Pathfinder Press. For more information call (301) 235-0014.

NEW YORK

New York City

Speakers: U.S. Rep. Major Owens, 12th Congressional District, New York; Joachim Mark, noted Grenadian historian; Safiya Bandle, director of Medgar Evers College Center of Women's Development; Mfanafuthi Makatini, director, international affairs, African National Congress, South Africa; Adeyemi Bandle, national vice-chairperson for international affairs, National Black United Front; Steve Clark, editor, *Intercontinental Press*, author of introduction to *Maurice Bishop Speaks*; and Elombe Brath, Patrice Lumumba Coalition. Sun., June 17. Reception, 4 p.m.; program, 5:30 p.m. Medgar Evers College Gymnasium, 1150 Carroll St., Brooklyn. Aup: Pathfinder Press, Medgar Evers College Center of Women's Development, N.Y.C. Black United Front, Patrice Lumumba Coalition, and the Caribbean People's Alliance.

Big turnout urged for Newark hearing on Marroquín

BY HOLBROOK MAHN

NEW YORK — A June 11 court hearing in Newark on the case of Mexican-born socialist Héctor Marroquín takes on added importance with the June 5 Supreme Court decision on deportation (see story page 1).

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is trying to deport Marroquín because of his political ideas. His appeal for political asylum is still before the Supreme Court and a decision could come very quickly.

The June 11 hearing will determine whether Marroquín will be allowed to remain in this country to pursue his application for permanent residence — a green card — if the Supreme Court rules against him. The hearing is in U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey, at 10 a.m. at the Federal Courthouse on Franklin and Broad Streets, Newark.

The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is coordinating Marroquín's fight against deportation, is urging the largest possible turnout for the hearing. It is asking supporters of Marroquín's rights to send protest messages to the INS demanding that it give Marroquín a green card. For more information on the hearing call PRDF at (212) 691-3270.

Marroquín applied a year ago for a green card based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen. Green cards are routinely granted in other cases, but the INS has stalled on Marroquín's application because of his outspoken opposition to Washington's war in Central America and attacks on the rights of working people here at home.

For a year the INS has maintained the position that in the event that the Supreme

Court rules against Marroquín's asylum bid, he would have but 48 hours to leave the country voluntarily or be deported to Mexico. There his life would be in danger because of his activities in the defense of democratic rights when he lived in Mexico.

On May 4, Marroquín's attorneys, Susan Susman and Claudia Slovinsky, filed a motion in U.S. District Court, asking the court to require the INS to allow Marroquín to remain in this country until his green-card application is completed.

Under the pressure of this legal action and the public protest campaign that accompanied it, Newark INS District Director James Pomeroy sent Marroquín's attorneys a letter on May 22.

In his letter, Pomeroy said, "I hereby agree to an extension of voluntary departure." But he added an ominous threat: "unless there is a change in circumstances which warrants termination of voluntary departure in my discretion."

At the June 11 hearing, Marroquín's attorneys will fight for a court order forcing the INS to sign a binding agreement guaranteeing that Marroquín can continue his fight for a green card to the end.

The Supreme Court decision makes it clear that a stepped-up effort will be necessary to force the INS to stop the deportation of Marroquín and to grant him a green card. Letters and telegrams should be addressed to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, INS, Washington, D.C. 20536. Copies, along with contributions that are urgently needed to help in Marroquín's fight, should be sent to PRDF, Box 649, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Supreme Court ruling a blow to political refugees in U.S.

Continued from front page

danger of deportation," reported Stern.

Nelson told NBC: "The allegation that people are shot or hurt when they go back — we think it is unfortunate that many interest groups keep saying this. There's been absolutely no proof, for example, that people going back to El Salvador have in any way been harmed by reason of being returned."

But even the U.S. State Department admits that Salvadorans deported from this country have been murdered on their return to their country. The State Department claims this is merely due to "random violence."

The new Supreme Court ruling means that those seeking political refuge must

provide concrete evidence they would be singled out for persecution if deported. This is an impossible condition for most applicants to meet.

Repressive regimes, like the one in El Salvador, are not in the habit of announcing plans to persecute people. They just do it.

Amnesty International told the high court that such a criterion makes applicants prove "by objective evidence that there is a prison cell or a bullet reserved" for them.

To obscure who it was really aiming at, the Supreme Court chose to make its ruling in the case of an anticommunist.

Predrag Stevic, who appealed for withholding of deportation after being denied political asylum, faces return to his native Yugoslavia. He contended he would be persecuted for his activity in an anticommunist organization here. He said his father-in-law had been jailed in Yugoslavia for membership in the same organization.

A lower court upheld his right to stay here on the basis of "a well-founded fear" of persecution. But the Supreme Court said "well-founded fear" wasn't good enough, a "clear probability" had to be established.

Meanwhile, there are more than a half million refugees from Central America here, the majority from El Salvador.

More than 29,000 of them have already been deported.

And there are the more than 25,000 Haitians desperately seeking political asylum in this country to escape being turned over to the murderous regime of "Baby Doc" Duvalier, the U.S.-installed "president for life."

The Supreme Court decision comes as part of a mounting government-employer attack on immigrant workers. The central target is working people from countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and other Third World countries ruled by U.S. puppets. Solidarity of the entire working class is vital to turning back this anti-immigrant drive.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Héctor Marroquín being interviewed by NBC-TV on June 5 outside Supreme Court

Socialist candidate hails N.Y. antiwar march

Continued from front page

popular revolutions in this hemisphere and is willing to use force and violence to do it. This is what lies behind the increasing U.S. intervention and threats against Cuba for its supposed "subversion" in the region.

The U.S. invasion of Grenada last October shows that the employers are willing to send U.S. troops to accomplish their aims. In a widescale war with the Salvadoran rebels and the Nicaraguan people, Washington will have to commit hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops. A new Vietnam-style war in Central America is inevitable.

United protests such as the June 9 demonstration are all the more important because of this escalation of the U.S. war in Central America. Following the example of the June 9 action, other antiwar protests should be organized that involve the entire spectrum of political organizations opposed to U.S. intervention.

New opportunities exist for involving unionists in actions against the U.S. war in Central America. Some union officials and bodies have stated their opposition to Washington's war policies. For example, United Auto Workers Local 600, which organizes the massive Ford Rouge Plant near Detroit, hosted a protest rally against U.S. intervention in Central America at its union hall on June 1 (see story page 1).

Meanwhile, at the recent convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, rejection of Reagan's war moves was clearly expressed. Blacks and Latinos, who are hit the worst by Washington's aggression, have been the most outspoken in opposition to the U.S. war. Taking advantage of the special opportunities to involve unionists who are of the oppressed nationalities in antiwar activity is of paramount importance.

Explaining the truth about the U.S. war in Central America to working people is essential if the potential power of the organized labor movement is to be tapped and mobilized against U.S. intervention in

the region. Antiwar sentiment among unionists, as in society as a whole, continues to grow. Every effort must be taken to maximize labor's involvement in antiwar activity.

It's the U.S. working class — along with the fighting peoples of Central America — that has the power to defeat U.S. imperialist aggression. Moreover, U.S. working people — who, in this country, are the principal victims of the employers' war — have no interest in supporting Washington's aggression. It will be the sons of working people who will die in this war, and the bosses, strengthened by their plunder abroad, will be emboldened in their offensive against working people here at home.

Your demonstration today is an important example that should be spread throughout the country. Broad actions should be initiated in other cities that involve solidarity groups, unionists, Blacks, Latinos, women, farmers, and others in protests against Washington's war.

Democratic and Republican politicians tell us otherwise. They say the key to stopping U.S. intervention in Central America is to "defeat Reagan" in the 1984 elections.

We've heard this line before. In 1964 U.S. workers were told that to prevent an escalation of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, we had to "defeat Goldwater" at all costs. Democrat Lyndon Johnson was elected, and his administration sent hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops to oppose the freedom struggle of the Vietnamese people.

As with the Vietnam War, the U.S. war in Central America has the bipartisan support of both capitalist parties. Every new escalation in the war has been supported by Democrats and Republicans alike.

The way to fight against the bosses' war is to organize protests, get out the truth, and mobilize the might of U.S. working people against the U.S. rulers. More united demonstrations like June 9 can help lay the basis for such a movement.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Andrea González speaking at Baltimore Socialist Workers campaign rally

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Irish demonstrators blast Reagan's visit

Continued from front page
ment expressing its solidarity with "the American victims of Reagan's antiunion policies."

A group called Women Against Reagan was formed "to organize and coordinate women to protest against the Reagan administration's foreign policy and nuclear war strategy during his visit, and to show our solidarity with the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua, South Africa, [and] the Philippines."

Right and duty to protest

The Conference of Major Religious Superiors, which represents 18,000 members of religious orders in Ireland, expressed "revulsion" at Reagan's foreign policies, particularly in the Third World. Although the conference welcomed Reagan to Ireland, it also said that the Irish people had the right and duty to protest those policies.

Many of Ireland's Catholic priests, nuns, and church activists who have done missionary work in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other Latin American countries, have returned with a deep disgust at the brutal, exploitative U.S. role there, which they witnessed.

The decision to have U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz fly to Ireland directly from his meeting with the Nicaraguan government was seen by many here as an attempt to defuse opposition to the U.S. war in Central America by highlighting the fact that Washington has finally agreed to meet with the Sandinistas.

'No' to NATO's nuclear weapons

In addition to widespread opposition to the U.S. war in Central America, Reagan's visit has also been the focus for protests against the placing of cruise missiles in Britain. The expectation that Reagan would privately pressure the Irish government to join the imperialist military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also fueled the protests.

Washington's backing of Britain's brutal rule in the six counties of northern Ireland and its claim that they are part of "Great Britain" has also fueled opposition to Reagan's visit among the Irish people. Government harassment of Irish activists in the United States is well-known here as well.

For centuries Britain ruled all of Ireland

as a colony. When the armed struggle of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) made it impossible for the British to maintain their rule over all of Ireland, London partitioned the country in 1921.

While granting formal independence to 26 counties in the south of Ireland, the British maintained their rule over six counties in the north. The northern six counties are still occupied by the British army, where the British-backed Protestant majority receives special privileges in jobs and housing while the Catholic population suffers severe discrimination.

Massive police escort

The big business-owned media in Ireland outdid itself leading up to and during Reagan's visit. Newspapers printed special color sections on the visit with feature articles tracing Reagan's Irish ancestry. Editorials welcomed Reagan and, while claiming support for the "right" of people to protest his visit, violence-baited the actions and their organizers.

Huge amounts of government money were spent on the pomp and ceremony surrounding the visit, including on the massive police escort provided for the Reagans. The Irish government utilized these security measures to bolster its ongoing campaign to restrict democratic rights.

Initially three workers of Telecom Eireann, the national communications service, were barred from working on communication equipment and services for the duration of Reagan's visit on the grounds that they were "security risks."

The Irish Post Office Engineering Union threatened to stage job actions unless the three workers were given immediate security clearances. The union won; the ban was lifted.

Parks were forced to shut early during the visit and demonstrations were banned anywhere near where the Reagans stopped. People living nearby were forced to give their names to the Gardai, the national police force.

About 200 Gardai dragged 42 campers from the Women's Peace Group out of a park outside the U.S. ambassador's residence, where they had been protesting the U.S. arms buildup.

Reagan claims that behind the protests in Ireland is a lot of "misinformation" about U.S. policy in Central America. This simply does not jibe with the virtual explosion of discussion and debate that occurred here



Militant/Margaret Jayko

May 26 anti-Reagan action in Dublin. Antiwar protests dogged Reagan everywhere he went.

on precisely that topic.

Television and radio shows debated the U.S. war in Central America, the role of the Soviet Union and Cuba, the nuclear arms buildup, and capitalism and communism. Also widely discussed was Washington's attitude to the British occupation of the north.

The major dailies were full of letters, editorials, and opinion columns debating Reagan's visit and its meaning.

Prior to Reagan's arrival, there was a good deal of speculation about what he would say about the situation in the north of Ireland.

In a prerecorded interview played on television here before he arrived, Reagan said the reunification of Ireland "is a problem to be settled there" between the "government of England and Ireland," giving credence to the idea that Britain has some right to decide the fate of the Irish people.

Reagan didn't mention the fact that the U.S. government has traditionally aided Britain in dealing with this "problem" by helping to arm the ultraright Protestant forces in the north, by harassing and jailing supporters of Irish independence and reunification in the United States, and by slandering those fighting against British tyranny as "terrorists."

Growth of Sinn Féin

Politics on both sides of the British-imposed border were transformed in 1981 with the development of a mass movement in support of the demands of jailed Irish freedom fighters who went on hunger strikes. Ten of them died, the most prominent being Bobby Sands, because British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refused to agree to their demands to be treated with simple dignity.

A dramatic illustration of the changed political situation is the growth in the influence of Sinn Féin (Ourselves Alone) on both sides of the border.

Sinn Féin is the largest political organization involved in the struggle for Irish independence and reunification. It has close political ties to the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Since the hunger strikes, Sinn Féin has won a series of impressive election victories in the north and has expanded its influence in the south. In the north, Sinn Féin's victories have come at the expense of the procapitalist Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP).

The convening of the New Ireland Forum was in large part designed to bolster the SDLP by making it appear that the SDLP has a strategy to bring about Ireland's reunification.

The New Ireland Forum brought together four of Ireland's major political parties: Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, and the Irish Labor Party in the south; and the Social Democratic and Labor Party in the north.

The forum released a report that puts forward three options: a united Ireland, a federated state, and "joint sovereignty" between the British and Irish governments

over the north. It doesn't advocate any of these options, however, and it refuses to address the real solution to the "troubles" in the north: immediate withdrawal of British troops and an end to the system of British-backed Protestant domination.

It's precisely because the forum's report is so vague and meaningless that the U.S. Congress was able to endorse it unanimously prior to Reagan's arrival here. Reagan praised it in his remarks in Galway.

But Reagan didn't limit himself to empty platitudes about peace in Ireland. He utilized his visit to attack the IRA and reaffirm Washington's ban on allowing Sinn Féin members to visit the United States. In his speech at Shannon airport, Reagan said, "Americans are people of peace. . . . That is why those who advocate violence or engage in terrorism in Northern Ireland will never be welcome in the United States."

But the real terrorists in the six counties are the British soldiers and armed Protestant paramilitary forces. They routinely commit acts of violence against the nationalist population. But they have few problems entering the United States.

U.S. investment

Reagan's visit has also heightened the debate here over the role of U.S. and other foreign investors in Ireland. This is no small question.

There are 350 U.S. companies in Ireland, which employ 37,000 workers — nearly 17 percent of all manufacturing jobs in Ireland.

The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that U.S. businessmen in Ireland made \$615 million in profits in 1982. The average rate of profit on U.S. capital invested in Ireland is 30.7 percent (compared to an average 11.9 percent for all countries U.S. owners invest in).

This massive profiteering has been paid for by the workers and farmers of Ireland, who are victims of plant closings, layoffs, union-busting attempts, and attacks on wages and working conditions. In the north, U.S. firms practice blatant discrimination against Catholic workers.

Reagan's claim at Shannon Airport — that "the more than 300 U.S. companies based here demonstrate our clear commitment to a future of peace and well-being for all the people of Ireland, north and south" — stands in sharp contrast to Irish reality.

The unemployment rate is 16 percent in the 32 counties, with it rising over 20 percent in the north. In some nationalist ghettos in the north, the jobless rate is well over 50 percent.

Thousands of family farmers are facing eviction, decent housing is scarce, and a quality education is out of the reach of many working-class youth. There are increasing attacks on democratic rights in the south, and the government has stepped up its collaboration with the British to victimize Irish freedom fighters.

Funds needed to pay for socialist campaign trip to Ireland, Britain

BY YVONNE HAYES

Most of the coverage of Pres. Ronald Reagan's tour of Ireland and Britain has focused on the president lifting a glass of stout in an Irish village or lunching with the queen in Buckingham Palace.

U.S. workers have only gotten a few glimpses in the media of the big protests in Ireland against the Reagan trip, and have seen even less of the major strike battle by coal miners taking place in Britain.

Through the *Militant's* coverage of Socialist Workers Party candidate Mel Mason's tour of Ireland and Britain, readers have learned a great deal more about the real political struggle unfolding in these countries, which the major media has tried to cover up.

That is why Mason's trip to Ireland and Britain, where he can answer Reagan's lies and participate in antiwar actions aimed against U.S. policies in Central America, is so important. It is a step forward on the road to forging international class solidarity.

In Ireland, Mason was able to discuss the U.S. Black struggle with fighters for Irish national liberation and learned firsthand about their struggles.

In Britain, where Mason is meeting militant coal miners and their supporters, he will be able to explain the strike of the Arizona copper miners and their battles with the National Guard and strikebreaking cops. Having met with activists in the women's auxiliaries in Clifton and Safford, Arizona, Mason can explain the parallels between their activities and the efforts by women supporters of the British coal strikers.

On his return, Mason will bring an eyewitness report to working people here about international opposition to the war in El Salvador and Nicaragua. There will be a lot of interest on the part of workers, like United Auto Workers members on strike in Toledo, in the methods of struggle being used by coal miners in Britain.

For these reasons, socialist campaign coordinators jumped at the opportunity to send Mason on this important campaign trip. Despite the fact that the expenses of this tour were not originally budgeted, they were confident that supporters of the Mason-González campaign could be counted on to help defray those costs.

A special \$5,000 fund has been established for this purpose. You can make a contribution to international working-class solidarity by sending a check to the "Socialist Presidential Campaign."

☐ I am contributing \$ _____ to help pay for Mel Mason's trip to Ireland and Britain.

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(paid for by the Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee)

Mel Mason visits occupied Belfast, Limerick plant gate

BY MARGARET JAYKO

BELFAST, Ireland — Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, was in Ireland May 25-June 3, to participate in the protests against Reagan's visit and to express the SWP's support for the struggle for a united, independent Ireland. His tour was sponsored by People's Democracy (PD), the Irish socialist organization affiliated to the Fourth International.

Mason's two trips to Belfast, in the British-ruled north of Ireland, were the most memorable part of his visit here, he told the *Militant*.

As the train from Dublin to Belfast approached its destination, we started to see the war of slogans on the walls along the train route.

Ultraright, pro-British Protestants had spray-painted graffiti like "Niggers," "White power," "Let Sands Die" (referring to Irish freedom fighter Bobby Sands who died during the hunger-strike protests in 1981), and swastikas.

As the train passed through Irish nationalist areas, we began to see the counterslogans, the most popular being "Up the IRA," referring to the Irish Republican Army. Others expressed support for the hunger strikers.

Getting off the train at Belfast we noticed that everything is surrounded by fences and barbed wire. That Ireland's northern six counties are an occupied territory was confirmed when we got to predominately Catholic West Belfast. British soldiers, armed with automatic rifles and dressed in camouflage uniforms, patrolled the streets on a constant state of alert, rifles always held ready. They harass people on the street at will and arbitrarily stop cars, forcing those inside to produce identification.

Opposition to Reagan visit

On May 27, Mason spoke at an anti-Reagan meeting in Belfast organized by PD. The nine speakers represented a broad spectrum of views. The central theme of the meeting was the importance of building the biggest and broadest possible protest actions during Reagan's visit.

Joe Austin, chairperson of the Belfast Regional Executive of Sinn Féin, discussed the U.S. war in Central America. Sinn Féin is the largest organization here fighting for a united, socialist Ireland.

Austin said he had recently been in Portugal at a meeting in solidarity with Nicaragua. He reminded the audience that when Bobby Sands died, "the Sandinista government of Nicaragua pledged its support both for the hunger strike and for the Irish people's right to resist British domination."

Austin also denounced the U.S.-sponsored warfare in El Salvador and Guatemala and the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

There's also a real danger, Austin warned, of U.S. military moves against Cuba.

Longtime Irish civil rights activist Bernadette Devlin spoke. Two governments stood with the hunger strikers — Nicaragua and Cuba, she said. Devlin explained that the struggle of the Irish people is part of the same fight being waged by the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, the striking coal miners in Britain, and Blacks in the United States.

Blacks and the Irish struggle

Mason, whose presence in Belfast was reported in newspapers and on the radio, got a very warm response when he stepped to the podium.

Mason discussed the similarities between the struggle of Blacks for their rights in the United States and the fight of the oppressed nationalist population in the north of Ireland.

He noted that he had seen Blacks on the streets of West Belfast "wearing British army uniforms. Blacks have no business in the uniforms of an occupying army," said

Mason. If they want to fight, he continued, they should "fight against the racism, poverty, and oppression of Black people in Brixton," referring to the Black community in London.

"Blacks have every stake in fighting for freedom. They should get the hell out of British uniforms! If they are going to be in Ireland, they should fight with the Irish people against the British," said Mason to thunderous applause.

Also speaking at the Belfast meeting were Sue Pentel of People's Democracy; Gerry Ruddy, Irish Republican Socialist Party; Eamon McCann, Socialist Workers Movement; Peter Emerson, Belfast Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; and Joe Duffy, out-going president of the Union of Students in Ireland. The meeting was chaired by Fergus O'Hare, a PD member who is on the Belfast city council.

Campaigning at Krups plant gate

Mason also visited Limerick, a city southwest of Dublin. This is where Shannon Airport, which Reagan flew into, is located.

Mason went to the Krups appliance assembly plant in Limerick to talk to the 1,200 workers — mostly teenage women — there about why they should attend the Shannon demonstration against Reagan.

Mason also spoke at a public meeting in Limerick.

Patrick Malone from Sinn Féin also addressed the Limerick meeting. He hit hard on the bipartisan nature of U.S. foreign policy, pointing out that the war being pressed against Nicaragua by Reagan will not be ended if a Democrat is elected. Malone reminded the audience that it was Democrat Lyndon Johnson who escalated the U.S. war in Southeast Asia, and Democrat John Kennedy who launched the CIA-organized invasion of Cuba — which the Cubans repulsed, giving Kennedy "a pretty bloody nose."

"Every Democratic and Republican administration will defend U.S. imperialism," stressed Malone.

Many people in Ireland had thought, he said, that in a confrontation between Britain and Ireland, the U.S. government would back Ireland. But that myth has been blown, said Malone. Reagan's support for Thatcher and disregard for the lives of the hunger strikers made that clear.

But, said Malone, "Mel Mason shows us

Continued on Page 16

Victims of British 'justice'

While in Belfast, Mel Mason met with some of the victims of British "justice" in the north.

At Sinn Féin's Belfast headquarters, he spoke with 24-year-old Linda Quigley, who had been released the previous week from 18 months in the infamous women's jail in the north — Armagh Prison. This was Quigley's second time in Armagh. The first time she was in for three years after being arrested at age 18 for possession of explosives. She was rearrested in November 1982, this time on charges of possession of firearms.

"When you meet fighters like Quigley," Mason told me, "you realize what a problem the British rulers have in trying to pacify the nationalist population here." Far from breaking her spirit, her years in jail seem to have only strengthened her resolve. And there are thousands like her in the nationalist ghettos here.

Quigley described the constant strip searches prisoners are subjected to in Armagh. In her first weeks back in prison, Quigley was forced to undergo seven strip searches.

Prison authorities hardly even pretend that the searches have any security function. "They are designed to humiliate you and crush your morale," she told Mason.

Mason was also able to meet with four women whose relatives have been impris-



(Top) U.S. socialist presidential candidate Mel Mason gives a talk outside Limerick plant gate to help build June 1 antiwar march; (bottom) Mason campaigning with Sinn Féin candidate John Noonan (left) and activist Christy Burke.

Militant photos by Margaret Jayko

Campaigning with Sinn Féin

A highlight of Mason's tour of Ireland was the afternoon he spent campaigning with John Noonan, Sinn Féin's candidate from Dublin in the European Economic Community (EEC) elections. Sinn Féin is the only party contesting the elections in both the north and the south on a platform calling for Ireland's withdrawal from the EEC, and Britain's withdrawal from Ireland. People's Democracy is campaigning for a vote for Sinn Féin as "the only anti-imperialist organization" in the elections.

Sinn Féin's campaign slogan is "One Ireland, one People — the only alternative." The party's national manifesto for the elections detailed the negative impact that membership in the EEC has had on Irish workers, farmers, fishermen, and all working people, and the way it has drawn Ireland closer to the imperialist military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Mason went through the most im-

poverished housing projects in Dublin's inner city with candidate Noonan and Christy Burke, a prominent Sinn Féin community worker.

Many windows have Noonan's poster in them. Mason got a warm response going from house to house, being introduced by Noonan and Burke and urging people to support Sinn Féin's campaign.

Burke explained to Mason that these projects were the center of the drug traffic in Dublin. This is a problem that has increased dramatically in the recent past. Parents in the projects, after trying unsuccessfully to get the government to do something about the increasing numbers of their children who are becoming heroin addicts, organized in the projects to get rid of the pushers. Sinn Féin members have taken an active part in this movement.

Censorship

Section 31 of the Irish Constitution bans any mention of Sinn Féin's activities by the state-run radio and television monopolies. For the EEC elections, Sinn Féin produced a 15-minute videotape explaining their opposition to the EEC and their support for the freedom struggle in the north and for workers' struggles in the south. They plan on showing the videotape in as many pubs and community centers as possible before the June 14 election. After canvassing with Noonan, Mason attended the premier showing of the tape in a nearby pub.

Later that afternoon, Mason and Noonan marched in solidarity with the Ranks Flour Mill workers. These workers have been occupying the flour mill for more than a year, in an attempt to prevent it from being shut down. On May 24, 150 cops threw the workers and their wives and children out of the plant and the liquidator took possession of it. Harry Fleming, a leading member of the occupation committee, was put in jail.

"Jobs not jail," said the lead banner in the march. Sinn Féin has been supporting the Ranks sit-in and Noonan was asked to speak at the rally. He linked the cop attack on Ranks workers to the cop brutality against the coal miners in Britain.

Earlier that day, Mason met with socialist Tony Gregory, who is a member of the Dáil, Ireland's parliament. Gregory represents the inner city district of Dublin, where Mason had been campaigning. Mason also met Sylvia Meehan, head of Ireland's Employment Equality Agency, which was set up to deal with discrimination against women in the work place.

— M.J.

— M.J.

Jesse Jackson and political independence

A contribution to 'Guardian' discussion on electoral strategy

The following article by Laura Garza, a national youth coordinator for the Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, was submitted to the *Guardian's* "Opinion and Analysis" page last March. It was written in reply to an "Opinion and Analysis" contribution in the March 7 *Guardian* by Elissa Clarke and David Finkel, members of the editorial board of the International Socialists' magazine *Changes*.

The *Guardian*, a radical weekly published in New York, has been campaigning for Democratic presidential aspirant Jesse Jackson. In their article, Clarke and Finkel wrote, "We believe Jackson would be most responsive to the real, immediate and historic needs and to the mass sentiments of his base if he ran for President as an independent. And we believe activists should advocate that he do this. . . ."

"Those . . . who could be convinced that Jackson's campaign represents an historic opportunity tragically wasted because it remains locked within the Democratic Party are the potential core of a new movement serious about independent political action."

Garza's reply has not yet appeared in the *Guardian*.

BY LAURA GARZA

How to respond to the candidacy of Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson has been the subject of much debate on the left. In an article in the March 7 *Guardian*, International Socialists Elissa Clarke and David Finkel assert the only obstacle to socialists supporting Jackson's campaign is that he is running in the Democratic Party. The task, then, is to urge him to break with the Democratic Party.

While I agree that Jackson's adherence to the Democratic Party does not advance the struggle of Blacks and other working people, that is not the only thing wrong with his campaign.

A socialist view of the elections should begin by explaining that capitalism is the source of our problems and both the Democratic and Republican parties are tools of the ruling rich. It is only by charting a course independent of the ruling rich and their parties that working people can develop a mass struggle to overturn capitalist political rule, and establish their own government.

What is independent political action?

While Clarke and Finkel indicate they are for breaking from the Democrats and Republicans, they begin with the mistaken foundation of believing that Jackson and his program are somehow fundamentally different from the other Democratic candidates and from the Democratic Party itself.

They reduce independent politics to being, simply, organizationally independent of the two dominant capitalist parties. But to have any meaning, independent political action has to be independent of capitalist politics. It has to be independent, working-class political action, based on a program that advances the interests and demands of the working class and its allies.

Jackson, his program, and his party all fail this test. Jackson's positions cannot be separated from his candidacy in the Democratic Party because they have the same basis — support for the capitalist system. He believes the way to solve our problems is for us to "renegotiate" with the racists and bosses who run this society, not to get rid of this system. His entire program is one of reforming U.S. capitalism.

When Jackson says that our problems can be addressed and solved within this capitalist system, he misleads Blacks, women, workers, and others to believe that we have a stake in defending it.

That is why Jackson points out that he, like his Democratic Party opponents, is for a "strong defense." He has tactical differences about how much is needed to maintain the domination of imperialism. Cut the waste out of the Pentagon budget, he says; station only 150,000 troops in Europe; but keep the budget and the troops, and the imperialist system they defend.

At a time when the bosses are on a

union-busting offensive, Jackson offers as his example of "taking on" corporate America the deal he worked out with Burger King, where Jackson advocates they get a tax incentive for buying cucumbers and building a plant in Alabama.

His answer to the economic crisis is to step up U.S. business' competitiveness in the international market. But it is precisely this same "foreign competition" hype that is the club used by the bosses to impose worse conditions on us and bust our unions.

Jackson's perspective of appealing to "progressive" companies will not blunt the offensive of the bosses and their government. They are driven to attack our rights and living standard to defend their profits. And insofar as Jackson is able to win to his view people who want to fight back against these attacks, he misleads and misdirects their desire to struggle in their own interests.

A mass movement?

Many argue Jackson is leading a movement and a "rainbow coalition" can be built and advanced through support to his candidacy.

First, there is a difference between a mass movement and a mass meeting of people who come to hear Jackson, are told to register as Democrats, work on his campaign, and then go home.

A mass movement, such as the civil rights movement, has its own set of demands, which it fights uncompromisingly for, not tied or beholden to a particular party or someone else's interests. Its strength is based on mobilizing people in action to fight for their own interests, and that is what is needed now to counter the war drive, the rise in racist attacks, the capitalist economic offensive, etc.

Second, the idea of a coalition linking the interests and needs of workers, oppressed nationalities, and women is a powerful and important one. But it would have to be a fighting alliance based on the fact that there are common interests, and this cannot be built in either of the capitalist parties. Jackson, in fact, counterposes his

campaign to building an independent movement.

The idea of a coalition uniting those with common interests and a common enemy, in struggle, has been subsumed into a get-out-the-vote apparatus for Jackson, and uniting into an electoral bloc in the Democratic Party.

Many believe we must be a part of this because we cannot stand aside from an important discussion among Blacks about how to advance their interests politically.

This discussion is of concern to all working people many of whom look to the Black community for leadership because of its legacy of struggle, and its successes, most importantly the civil rights movement.

But the Jackson campaign is not a continuation of the legacy of struggle, of Blacks leading the oppressed to fight in their own interest. It is the opposite, relying on working with your class enemies.

Socialists should point out that it was mobilizations independent of relying on capitalist parties that won workers historic gains. Moreover, there is a rich history of struggle to form an independent Black political party in the United States and we should point to this road as a way forward.

An independent Black party would be an example for the whole working class and would advance the discussion needed to form a labor party. To defend the interests of Blacks, women, Latinos, and all workers we need a party of our own, a labor party, based on a fighting trade-union movement.

Socialists should point out that there is a connection between the war against the workers and farmers of Central America and the attacks on workers and farmers here. We should explain there are classes in society and our problems can't be solved until society is run in the interests of a different class — the working class.

The problem with supporting Jackson is not only, as Clarke and Finkel say, that you will end up supporting Mondale later, the problem is supporting Jackson now. Jackson's campaign, like all the other capitalist candidates, keeps the discussion of solutions to our problems within the framework



Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson.

of capitalist politics and solutions. The effect of the support given by much of the left to Jackson is that the source of our problems — capitalism — doesn't get discussed and exposed.

The Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance have taken advantage of the interest in the elections to discuss socialist ideas and solutions. Through the SWP campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president, we have raised the idea that workers and farmers should run the government, in their own interests. We have defended the revolutionary gains of the Cubans, Nicaraguans, Grenadians, and Salvadorans. We have spoken for the abolition of the entire war budget and the reallocation of this massive wealth for social and economic development here and abroad.

The response we have gotten shows people are willing to listen to those who tell the truth and advance socialist ideas.

Anyone interested in these ideas and the Mason-González campaign can write to Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: (212) 675-3820.

Mason speaks in Newark despite death threats

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

NEWARK — Despite death threats, Mel Mason, the 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, spoke at a successful election campaign rally here on May 20.

Two days before, on May 18, the New Jersey Socialist Workers Campaign headquarters in Newark received telephone calls from racists, who made threats against Mason's life.

SWP campaign activists took these threats seriously. Their response was twofold. First, they increased their efforts to publicize the meeting and win support for Mason's right to speak. The socialist campaigners also launched a drive to force the Newark Police Department to provide uniformed police protection outside the meeting as a deterrent to any would-be assassin.

Newark cops initially balked at this demand. Police officials said protection of presidential candidates was the job of the

FBI and Secret Service — not the Newark Police Department. If there was a problem in obtaining police protection against right-wing violence, the cops said, it wasn't with them, but rested on whether the SWP campaign was a "bona fide" one.

The socialist campaign protested this flagrant denial to provide police protection. Campaign supporters won backing for Mason's right to speak from unionists, Black rights activists, fighters for women's equality, civil libertarians, and others.

Irwin Nack, president of the American Federation of Teachers Local 1796 at William Paterson College in Wayne, New Jersey, sent a message of protest to the rally:

"I support the right of Mel Mason to appear and speak in Newark."

"Any threats made against him are totally reprehensible. Proper police protection should be afforded him by the Newark police."

Priscilla Schenk, 1984 SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey and one of the speakers at the May 20 rally, also protested the right-wing harassment of her party and its candidates. Two local radio stations broadcast her statement condemning the threats against Mason.

In addition, the Newark *Star Ledger* sent a reporter to the campaign rally and carried an article on the event in the next issue of the paper.

Just prior to the meeting, the Newark cops sent two uniformed officers and a squad car, which remained stationed outside the meeting.

Forcing the Newark cops to accede to the demands for police protection was an important victory for not only the SWP, but all supporters of democratic rights.

But, Mason explained at the rally, democratic rights must be fought for. Politics, he said, consists of workers and the op-

pressed struggling for their demands. The tremendous gains made during the civil rights battles of the 1960s came about, said Mason, "because millions of Blacks and other working people fought on a mass level for their rights, independent of the two capitalist parties."

"Fighting for our interests," said Mason, "the interests of the working class, that's what politics is all about. Real social change doesn't occur through voting for one of the bosses' candidates — be it Mondale, Jackson, Hart, or Reagan."

To underscore this point, Mason explained that "you don't get rid of police brutality by voting. You do it by organizing a mass struggle against it."

Mason announced at the event that he will be touring Ireland and Britain to join protests set for Pres. Ronald Reagan's visit there. "You can't vote out British occupation of Northern Ireland," Mason argued. "To do that you need to do what the Irish freedom fighters are doing — building a movement to end national oppression."

The *Star Ledger* article on the campaign rally sparked a big political discussion at the Edison Products plant, where several supporters of the socialist campaign work. The plant employs more than 900 production workers and is organized by the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 401.

A meeting with Mason was held in a restaurant across the street from the plant on May 22. Three new *Militant* subscribers from the plant attended, one of whom supported Jackson's campaign for president. Skepticism about the need to break with the Democrats and Republicans was expressed during the discussion, but the workers were receptive to and interested in Mason's socialist ideas.



Mel Mason speaks at Newark rally

Workers eager for truth on Toledo strike

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

TOLEDO — Solidarity with the embattled United Auto Workers (UAW) and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) in this town is running high. From the plant gates to the Black and Chicano communities, and inside the auto plants themselves, working people are expressing support for these striking workers.

In only eight days, including the Memorial Day weekend, nearly 900 copies of the *Militant* were sold by 14 campaigners for socialist congressional candidate Elizabeth Lariscy. In only four days, 126 papers were sold to Jeep workers at the gates and inside the plant. UAW Local 12's Jeep Unit provided the bulk of the participants in the May 21 militant action of 3,000 unionists outside of AP Parts.

In just one day more than 20 papers were sold at each of the General Motors and Ford plant shift changes. One hundred papers were sold at the June 3 Auto-Lite commemoration rally (see page 20). Socialist workers participated in an average of two plant-gate and two community sales during that week.

Beyond the numbers, the enthusiastic response of this city's auto workers was most revealing. One worker at GM bought a *Militant* at the gate and added that he had already read part of the issue. The centerspread was already posted at the tool crib.

Many auto workers were already familiar with the *Militant*, which is regularly sold at many local plant gates. Many workers have become regular readers and recognize *Militant* salespeople. This is especially true in sales to Black auto workers who comprise the largest percentage of workers buying the *Militant*. At one shopping center, for example, three workers were lined up to buy the paper and another was tooting his horn from his truck while waving a dollar bill from his window.

Three Teamsters striking Interstate, a trucking company, were already reading the *Militant* when a socialist campaigner came by their picket line.

At the June 3 Auto-Lite commemoration rally, socialist campaigners staffing a Young Socialist Alliance table sold several copies of *Labor's Giant Step* written by Art Preis, a participant in the 1934 Auto-Lite strike. They also distributed a campaign statement by SWP candidate Elizabeth Lariscy.

"If there is one lesson to be learned so far in the battle at AP Parts," Lariscy said, "it is that workers can rely only on ourselves and our fellow toilers to defend our interests. Not the National Labor Relations Board not the courts, not the cops, and certainly not the Democratic and Republican politicians, not one of whom has condemned the police attack or walked the picket lines with us. This all shows why we need a labor party based on the unions."

A campaign barbecue followed the Auto-Lite commemoration rally. The more than 50 people there heard talks by Lariscy and national SWP Co-chairperson Malik Miah. Eighteen were workers from four different auto plants and two oil refineries in Toledo. The majority of these were Black, Chicano, Arab, and Native American industrial workers.

As we go to press, many branches of the Socialist Workers Party are reporting that they have gone over the top of their goal for the eight week sales drive. Socialists in Toledo have been selling more than their weekly goal every week of the drive and are now well over their cumulative goal. Chicago sales reached a total of 1,230 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Many of these were sold while socialists were petitioning for ballot status for Socialist Workers Party candidates.

Socialists in Cleveland are up to a total of 818. They attribute their early success in reaching their goal to the response to the *Militant*'s coverage and analysis of the events in Toledo.

A future issue of the *Militant* will carry the final sales drive scoreboard with an article going over the results and accomplishments of the drive.



Workers faced police violence in Toledo May 21 when unions mobilized in support of AP Parts strike. In contrast to big-business press, *Militant* told workers' side of story.

Detroit workers offer solidarity

BY JANICE SAMS

DETROIT — "We can't make it by ourselves, we need each other, we need solidarity." This was the message brought to the membership meeting of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1200 by AP Parts strikers from UAW Local 14 in Toledo.

The two strikers — Dick Keith and Art Jones, a Black committeeman at AP Parts — were met with a standing ovation by the 175 members who attended the union meeting.

Keith, also a committeeman at AP Parts, explained, "We have learned that we must be organized and ready and united to win this fight."

Having the two strikers at the union meeting was seen as a first step in organizing solidarity among Local 1200's membership. The local leadership also decided to sell 700 strike-support buttons inside the plant.

Janice Sams is a laid-off welder at General Dynamics Warren tank plant and a member of UAW Local 1200.

BY ANGEL LARISCY

DETROIT — Socialists at Detroit Cover Co. here in Detroit found enthusiastic re-

sponse to the AP Parts strike in Toledo, Ohio.

Of the 60 workers in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) Local 365, 40 signed petitions pledging solidarity to the strikers. Also, 16 coworkers bought AP Parts buttons that are being sold to raise money for the strike fund.

One worker commented that "all of these union problems started when Reagan broke up those air traffic controller people."

Another worker, when asked to support the strike, quickly signed the petition and said, "We have to help them because next time it will be us."

Angel Lariscy is a member of ACTWU Local 365.

DETROIT — Members of United Steelworkers of America Local 1358 at Whitaker steel company have also expressed support to striking Toledo auto parts workers. The day after the May 21 solidarity demonstration in Toledo, 75 workers signed a strike-support petition circulated by Henry Slubowski. One worker commented, "that's what we should do here."

Toledo rally against union-busting

Continued from Page 20

Understanding that the cops and employers aim to victimize workers for their participation in the May 21 action as a means of discouraging more actions like it.

AP Parts, Jeep, and other companies now seek to use TV newscasts of the event to go after other workers. One worker was arrested after Jeep's Industrial Relations Department identified him to the cops from the TV footage. Jeep threatened to fire another worker involved in the May 21 action, but backed down when the UAW objected.

Floyd Rose of the NAACP also emphasized the importance of solidarity in fighting back and winning. He repeatedly made analogies to the huge civil rights battles of the 1950s and 1960s.

He also stressed the organic links between organized labor and the Black movement. The local NAACP here includes many unionists, especially from the UAW.

Rose explained that the fight at AP Parts is a fight of all working people. And, he said, Blacks will stand firmly behind the strikers.

"If two are arrested, then four must step forward," Rose told the applauding workers. "If four are arrested, then 10 must step forward, and if they are arrested, 100 must step forward."

Rose, who participated in the May 21 demonstration, concluded, "if it means going to jail, I'll go with you."

There was little doubt that those present were willing to carry out more militant solidarity action. The recording secretary of Local 14, Bob Sykes, told the *Militant* that the union cannot accept scabs crossing the picket line at AP Parts for much longer.

Last Wednesday, May 30, the company broke off negotiations. It continues to demand complete capitulation by the union.

The UAW leadership has gone on a campaign to explain its views and answer the violence-baiting of the company and its supporters, particularly the local big-business daily, the *Toledo Blade*. After May 21 the *Blade* ran an editorial accusing the union of giving Toledo a black eye. The cops, who rioted on May 21, received high praise.

The Toledo area CAP Council of the UAW, which represents 25,000 members, responded with a quarter-page *Blade* ad answering the slanders. UAW Local 12's weekly newspaper also ran a major editorial denouncing the *Blade*'s procompany bias.

"The union movement in Toledo," said the UAW ad, "will continue to stand beside the AP Parts workers until a just settlement is reached, regardless of any editorial criticizing our actions."

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #7: Totals as of *Militant* issue #20, PM issue #10)

Area	Eight-week Goal Militant/PM	Sold So Far Militant/PM	Total Goal/Sold	%
Toledo	800/40	1,277/27	840/1,304	155
Seaside, Calif.	320/200	294/218	520/512	98
Greensboro, N.C.	360/0	342/1	360/343	95
Milwaukee	800/160	813/102	960/915	95
Chicago	900/300	935/170	1,200/1,105	92
Cleveland	675/70	619/51	745/670	90
Price, Utah	336/24	298/22	360/320	89
Los Angeles	840/880	832/705	1,720/1,537	89
Denver	515/85	458/75	600/533	89
Louisville	450/0	395/0	450/395	88
Dallas	400/200	309/221	600/530	88
Detroit	1,040/40	886/27	1,080/913	85
Albany, N.Y.	704/56	598/48	760/646	85
Washington, D.C.	515/105	429/90	620/519	84
Seattle	760/40	636/37	800/673	84
San Diego	375/125	295/123	500/418	84
Salt Lake City	400/40	313/58	440/371	84
Virginia, Minn.	500/0	420/0	500/420	84
Oakland	570/170	487/130	740/617	83
Atlanta	760/40	634/25	800/659	82
Birmingham	600/0	488/0	600/488	81
Miami	720/80	525/117	800/642	80
Baltimore	800/20	648/7	820/655	80
San Francisco	755/325	605/244	1,080/849	79
Philadelphia	640/160	516/119	800/635	79
Phoenix	600/320	535/168	920/703	76
Newport News, Va.	400/0	299/0	400/299	75
Minneapolis/St. Paul	1,120/80	848/41	1,200/889	74
Houston	555/195	411/144	750/555	74
San Jose	480/80	305/106	560/411	73
Morgantown, W. Va.	440/0	323/0	440/323	73
St. Louis	533/0	375/0	533/375	70
Portland	320/160	226/107	480/333	69
New Orleans	720/80	511/43	800/554	69
Kansas City	650/25	416/8	675/424	63
Cincinnati	600/0	339/0	600/339	57
Indianapolis	760/0	406/0	760/406	53
Newark	1,250/250	550/216	1,500/766	51
Pittsburgh	850/0	424/0	850/424	50
Boston	640/160	315/22	800/337	42
New York City	1,600/550	588/220	2,150/808	38
Charleston, W. Va.	450/0	173/0	450/173	38
Miscellaneous		459/45	504	
Total sold		21,555/3,737	25,292	

British miners fight Thatcher and cops to

BY CLIVE TURNBULL
AND MARTIN HILL

SHEFFIELD, England — "What you now have in South Yorkshire is an actual police state, tantamount to something you are used to seeing in Chile or Bolivia," stated Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), following a series of violent attacks by police on coal miners picketing the Orgreave Coke Depot, near Sheffield, May 29 and 30.

The miners have been on strike for nearly three months against British government plans to close many mines permanently and throw thousands of miners out of work.

The fight has become a major class confrontation between the labor movement and the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, which directly controls the nationalized coal mines. The miners have won impressive solidarity from other unionists, including rail workers, dock workers, steelworkers, and others. The British Labor Party has taken some important steps to aid the strikers.

Much solidarity activity revolves around stopping the movement of scab coal and preventing its use in British industry. In the forefront are mass "flying pickets" of NUM members such as those who aimed to stop the movement of coal at Orgreave.

In response, the British government has unleashed a wave of police violence and a crackdown on the democratic rights of miners and other unionists that causes many to recall previous historic British labor confrontations such as the 1926 general strike.

Almost 3,000 arrests to date

Since the strike began nearly 3,000 miners have been arrested — primarily in clashes in the Nottinghamshire area. In the Nottingham coalfields more modern mining methods and divisive incentive-pay plans yield higher wages for some miners. Several thousand have ignored the call for solidarity with the 85 percent of NUM members who are striking to save jobs. Much picketing is directed toward making the strike solid in Nottinghamshire.

On just one day, May 29, 82 pickets were arrested and 32 injured, as they attempted to prevent the National Coal Board (NCB) from transporting coke from Orgreave to the Scunthorpe Works of the British Steel Corporation. The NCB was using nonunion, scab truck drivers.

The following day, another 35 miners were arrested, including NUM President Scargill. Police attacked the picket line with horses, dogs, and riot gear. After one week the total number of arrests stood at

173. Fifty-three miners suffered injuries, including broken arms, legs, and skull fractures.

A nurse at Rotherham General Hospital said that she had never seen as many scalp injuries, as well as injuries resulting from people crushed by horses and crowds, in all her years at the hospital. The Casualty Department had been stretched to the limit with Orgreave injuries.

Arthur Scargill described the scenes he had witnessed from having led the picketing personally for several days. "Anyone who has been here has seen police tactics of the most brutal nature. We have seen riot shields and riot gear in action. We have seen mounted police charging into our ranks. I was appealing to the police to show restraint," said Scargill. "There were baton charges. I saw truncheons wielded and I saw our people hit. I saw people punched to the ground. Quite honestly, there were scenes of brutality which were almost unbelievable."

Nose to nose with police

Roland Whitehead, Silverwood NUM committee member, explained how the battles at Orgreave had arisen. "We took the police unawares with the first mass picket. We broke through their lines, but there was no violence on either side. The police even stopped the scab lorries [trucks] so that we could appeal to the drivers not to go in."

"But we turned up the next morning and found police with horses and dogs. One minute we were nose to nose with literally thousands of police pushing against us. Then they folded back and let the mounted police charge through. They wield batons like a baseball bat, galloping straight at you."

"At first their dogs were on long leashes, but that day they were let loose, biting one picket and then called to bite another by their handlers. There was a young woman bitten, who was handing out sandwiches, 300 yards away from the trouble. She had to have eight stitches in her knee."

In the course of defending themselves from the police violence the miners made use of available material. At one point this included setting fire to a portable structure, called a Porta Kabin, outside the plant. The British big-business media took the opportunity to violence-bait the miners once again. Roland Whitehead explained what really happened:

"It was the need to defend ourselves against the charges by mounted police that led to the Porta Kabin being dragged into the road and set on fire. It wasn't mindless violence. We had to make barriers out of what was to hand. This is why the wall at the side of the road was pushed over, and

telegraph poles uprooted. Not as a battering ram, as was claimed on television, but to block the road from the police charges."

Scargill's arrest

Arthur Scargill's arrest was clearly a carefully planned exercise taking place three hours before the scab lorries were due. Roland Whitehead explained the circumstances:

"I think Scargill was going to talk to the Orgreave workers themselves. There were only between 50 and 70 pickets present, and they were walking down the foot path. He was just arrested without provocation. If the press cameras hadn't been there, they might have charged him with something more serious than obstruction."

The arresting officer was no ordinary policeman, but the "ground commander" Acting Chief Superintendent John Nesbitt.

Comment was made in the press and television about the union cap Scargill wore daily on the picket lines. He replied, "The cap was given to me by the leaders of the American miners' union, the United

Mine Workers of America, during a visit to Britain some years ago. They had a strike of Kentucky and West Virginia miners working for the mining group, Amax. And we all know who was one of the bosses at Amax — Ian MacGregor [the head of the British National Coal Board]."

In Roland Whitehead's opinion, the battle at Orgreave has been deliberately engineered by the Conservative (Tory) government. He explained that "the steelworkers have got documents that prove that the government intervened directly."

"The Tories are trying to lower the morale of the NUM. It's a set-piece confrontation by the police to avenge Saltley Gates."

The battle at the Saltley Coke Depot during the 1972 miners' strike was seen as a crushing defeat for the Tory government of the day, in its earlier attempt to smash the unions. Ever since, the ruling class has sought to draw the lessons and build up new police tactics and means by which mass picketing can be defeated.

The May 30 London Times reported,

Why working-class w

The strike in Britain by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has led to a sharp confrontation between the working class and the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. A sign of the deep-going nature of this fight is the unprecedented activity by working-class women in support of the strike.

No women work underground in British mines. However miners' wives, family members, and other women are playing an increasingly vital part in the strike battle. As Maureen Douglass, a leader of one of the women's strike-support committees, told a May 12 rally of 10,000 women in Barnsley, "We are setting a pattern for the future, for the involvement of women in political struggle, which will show what a formidable force we can be."

In April, Clare Fraenzl, a U.S. miner and member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197, travelled to Britain and reported on the strike for the *Militant*. While in Britain Fraenzl interviewed Kay and Tricia Sutcliffe, Margaret Davis, and Mary Ghost, wives of miners at the Snowden Colliery in Kent. These four women are leaders and activists in the women's committee in Aylesham that is organizing strike support.

A key aim of the striking miners and their supporters is shutting down the mines in the Nottinghamshire area. There, more productive mines with more modern technology and incentive-pay plans, which yield higher pay for some miners, have divided the union. Many Nottingham miners are crossing NUM picket lines.

Fraenzl discussed this and other issues with the four women activists. The interview was conducted on April 15.

* * *

Fraenzl. How did you start organizing yourselves and why did you decide to organize your group?

Kay Sutcliffe. My sister and I went up to one of the strike meetings. We went primarily to find out what they wanted us to do. They more or less left it up to us to make up our own minds what we thought was relevant action. So we called an emergency meeting at one of the local clubs. It was more or less word of mouth, trying to get round to the women in the village that we were going to have a meeting and some sort of organization.

We got a good response. About forty women turned up the first night. We asked for suggestions, anything anyone thought would make some impact.

Tricia Sutcliffe. What had happened was that the Nottingham wives had got so much publicity over what they considered was the "right" of their men to go to work. They didn't think their men should be out on strike, so they were determined they

were going to stand on the picket lines and forcibly see their men through. We were rather annoyed about that, and we wanted publicity to a greater degree to show we were willing to back the strike.

Kay Sutcliffe. The first idea that came up was a march through the town of Coalville in Leicester. That was the very first action we decided to take.

Fraenzl. What kind of activities have you been involved in since then?

Margaret Davis. We had another march. We went to Nottingham. Kay and some of the other ladies have been going to different meetings in London and speaking. And the food parcels started coming in, so we started to organize distribution to the people that really needed them.

Kay Sutcliffe. We've tried to get the women together because a lot of them have got various problems — a lot of bills and things like that. We find that they don't always contribute to the meetings, they don't always put ideas forward, but they seem to enjoy the social side of it. It may be the only time in the week they can actually get out, and I think they feel that they're involved in something now, and they've got an interest.

Davis. It helps them as well to talk to other people. Because if you've got a young woman, with a couple of babies and the bills are coming in, she's going to worry. She thinks she's the only one. But when she knows she's not the only one that everybody else is in the same position I think this helps. We talk about different things like what they can do to pay off their bills so much a week. And I think they've been a lot happier now that we do that.

Fraenzl. Is this the first time the wives of miners have organized a strike support group?

Tricia Sutcliffe. No. We organized in 1974, [during that year's British miners strike] mostly doing food parcels. But never to this extent. We're a lot more active now.

Fraenzl. Why do you think that is?

Kay Sutcliffe. It was, at that time, as if it was the men's fight. It was about their pay. So we didn't become involved in such a way because there was going to be a settlement at the end of it. Whereas this one is about the future. We did form a committee [in 1974]. We kept it running for about a year. We didn't really find anything active to do, so it lay dormant all this time.

It's been revived in a completely different way. The response from the village has been greater. We just called for a women's meeting expecting wives of miners. Women turned out in force. A lot of them



National Union of Mineworkers Pres. Arthur Scargill arrested at May 30 mass picket. Scargill called on labor movement to turn out "in their thousands" to answer police violence.

save jobs

"The government has a detailed plan for handling the miners' strike. It was drawn up three years ago on the Prime Minister's instructions by a cabinet committee of senior civil servants." This plan considered using troops to drive coal trains, and the use of scab lorry drivers.

At the same time as the government stepped up its attacks on the Orgreave picket line, the London *Observer* reported that "the government is urging the board [NCB] not to agree to terms that could be interpreted as a victory for NUM President Mr. Arthur Scargill."

Despite the unprecedented police violence, and the length of the strike, the miners have not been cowed or beaten. Said Scargill in response to the police strike-breaking, "my advice to all our members and to the wider trade union movement is to ensure they come here in their thousands in order that we can make aware to everybody that we are not prepared to see this kind of brutality inflicted against working men and women."

From Intercontinental Press



British miners attacked by police as they picket in Yorkshire. Strike has turned into direct confrontation with Conservative government. Prime Minister Thatcher has unleashed police against strikers and cracked down hard against democratic rights of unionists.

Women are organizing to back miners' struggle

aven't got husbands at the pits but they've got a basic connection with the pit, maybe through their family, through their brothers or even just friends. So we had quite a cross-section of women turn out, as well as miners' wives. The ones that aren't immediately involved want to help in some way, and they do.

Davis. The women know a lot more now, I think, and we're fighting for jobs. We're all mothers. We've all got children. If the mines go, then a lot of jobs go, in the mining industry and outside of it as well. I think perhaps that's one of the reasons.

Kay Sutcliffe. We've been more involved through the years, anyway, because we've learned a lot more in a political way. We've been able to understand through actions that have happened over recent years in the coal industry, just how much politics usually comes into things. At one time, it was thrown by the wayside by many, many women. There weren't women involved in anything they considered political. Even now, if you asked any of the women in the village if they were taking political action they would say no. They don't realize it is a political act.

Fraenzl. Are there other women's com-

mittees forming around the country?

Kay Sutcliffe. Yes. Aylesham is a larger community and there are men here from all three pits, and it's easier for us to organize. But we've contacted the other pits and also Wales and Scotland.

Fraenzl. What is the reaction of your husbands to this flurry of activity?

Davis. Great! (Laughter)

Mary Ghost. We've been a morale boost. We've definitely encouraged them to go on. There have been times over the last couple of weeks they've felt maybe a little let down. Through our action they've been determined that they've got to carry it on.

Kay Sutcliffe. We'll not let them give up! (Laughter)

Davis. Not after five weeks!

Fraenzl. Do you anticipate this will be a long strike?

Davis. I think it'll be a long one because we're divided. If we were all together, it wouldn't be so long. And everybody knows what [Ian] MacGregor [chairman of the National Coal Board] said. He won't

give in and neither will we. So time will tell.

Fraenzl. Can you tell me a little about the kind of support you've gotten from other unions?

Davis. We've gotten food parcels from Buckingham Ford [auto] workers. Ten last Sunday. They said hopefully they'll send us 10 every week. And food came down last night from London.

Ghost. The London Labor Party branches are very organized in their support. Financially, we've gotten tremendous support from all areas. Other women have gotten together in their own groups. They've even gone around to unemployed people, and gotten a good reception. Anything they've got, they donate.

Davis. There was a donation last night from the unemployed, wasn't there? It's tremendous.

Kay Sutcliffe. They realize that once the mines are out and defeated, it's going to have a snowballing effect on everybody, because there is a strong union in the mines, and we've always backed every other organization for years and years — every other action that any union has taken. I feel the NUM expects the response from other unions, and they are willing to give it.

Davis. It's always the mineworkers that take the lead. It's a fight for everybody's future. If we let them do what they want to do to us, and put all of us on the dole, they'll just work through everybody else.

Kay Sutcliffe. We've witnessed over the past year certain government tactics. They tried to break up union activity at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham. They said it was for security reasons. Why a trade union should be a security risk is beyond me. There was an awful lot of trouble over that. And the miners were willing to back any action they were willing to take.

The next step that's come from that is the abolition of the Greater London Council and the other large councils with Labor Party control. The Tory [Conservative] government is trying to break the Labor-controlled councils which do a lot of good for the working class. The Tory government now wants to abolish them. They're doing it in such an undemocratic way. It just isn't right. Nobody wants it.

Fraenzl. So you see this as part of a larger struggle against the government?

Ghost. Yes, definitely.

Kay Sutcliffe. Maybe it wouldn't have been against the government originally, but when Mrs. Thatcher brought MacGregor in, she made it political.

Fraenzl. Why do you think they want to close down the pits?

Kay Sutcliffe. I think that what they're trying to do is to centralize them in a smaller coal area. They're actually closing down the militant collieries — Kent, Wales, and Scotland. They've always had the most say in any action that's ever been taken. Once they close these areas and centralize to Nottingham, which is full of scabs as far as I'm concerned, the miners will do whatever they're asked to do. I think we all feel that once they allow the coal fields to be centralized with people who are not going to fight, they will then privatize the industry.

Davis. They're trying to destroy the miners' union, aren't they?

Tricia Sutcliffe. Once they smash the NUM, which is the strongest union, the others don't stand a chance. I think that workers in the unions realize that if the government can smash the NUM, that they really don't stand a chance. And the government knows that.

Fraenzl. What do you think the consequences of that would be?

Davis. We'd go back to years ago, wouldn't we? It'd be the rich and the poor.

Kay Sutcliffe. There'd be such a high level of unemployment certain firms are going to be able to reduce their wages and say to people: if you don't need to work, someone else will.

Fraenzl. Is your organization growing?

Davis. Obviously, we won't get the same number every week. For different reasons, some women can't come. But we always have a good attendance. Everybody wants to do their part. Everybody wants to do a little bit of what they're capable of doing.

Fraenzl. Do you have discussions on what's going on in the strike?

Kay Sutcliffe. As I'm working, Tricia goes up to the strike meetings and gets all the information available from the union. Then she goes over what actions we might have, and gets their response. Then we give out any information we've got to the women. We have requested ideas from the ladies at the meetings, but everybody seems willing to be told what to do. There's never been any argument. Everyone just seems so determined they want to do something, and as long as someone takes the lead and puts out some ideas, they're willing to come out for it.

Fraenzl. So you think your actions are a big help to the strike?

Ghost. Yes. At least, we hope so.



Morning Star/Martin Jenkinson

Women's strike support rally of 10,000 held May 12. Organization and mobilization of women in support of strike is unprecedented in British labor struggles.

Vietnam solidarity rally held in N.Y.

Continued from Page 3

be unable to build its economy and would therefore collapse.

"But again that is a terrible blunder." The Vietnamese people, he declared, are doing everything necessary to repel the aggression, but at the same time are concentrating their efforts on building their economy.

Son noted Vietnam's success in rebuilding its economy. Last year, for the first time in its history, the country produced enough rice and food grains to feed itself.

"The reason that the Vietnamese people have been able to achieve all these successes even though President Ho Chi Minh departed us several years ago," Son continued, "is because before he left us, President Ho Chi Minh left behind other young Ho Chi Minhs."

"In Vietnam we have a collective Ho Chi Minh and a nation of Ho Chi Minhs."

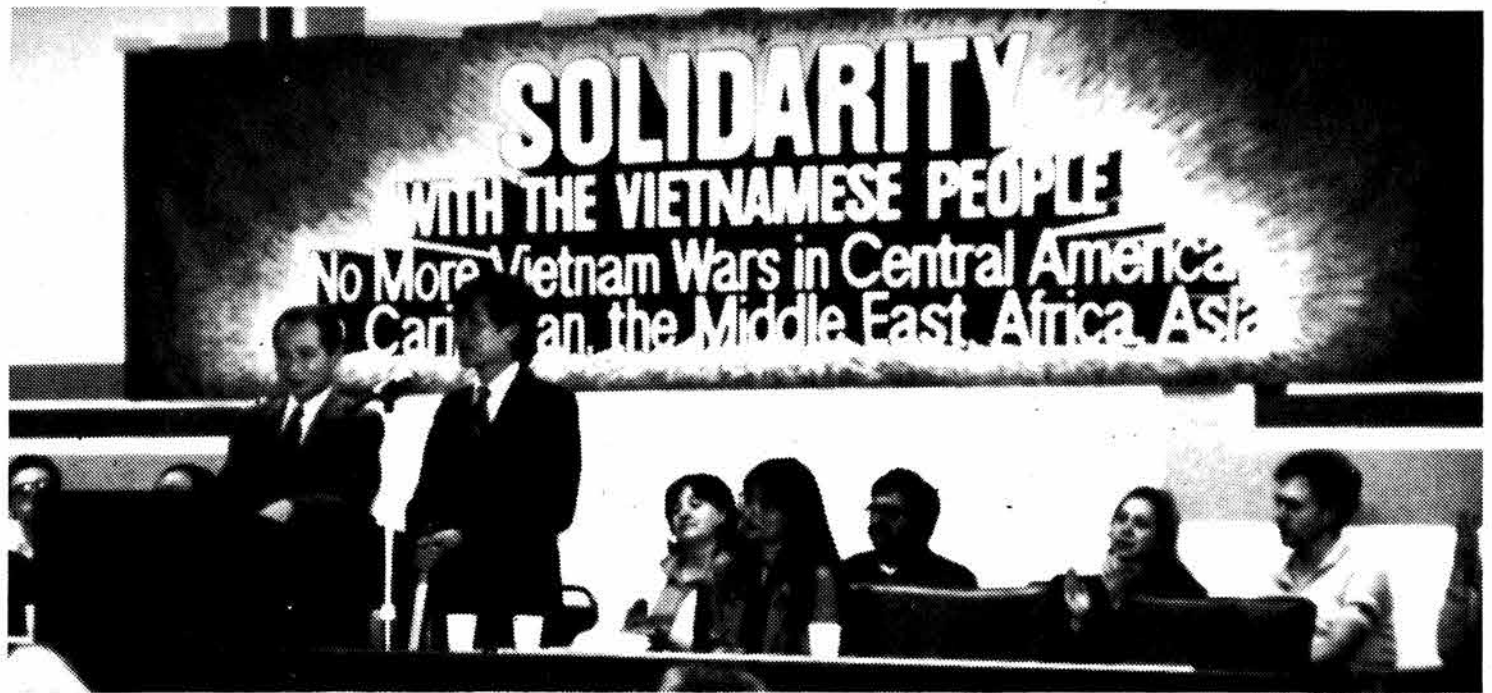
"And we would like to say that not only in Vietnam are there Ho Chi Minhs. There are Ho Chi Minhs in Kampuchea and Laos. There are Ho Chi Minhs in Cuba and in Nicaragua."

"We can say as a general principle that wherever revolution is in progress, wherever revolutionary enthusiasm is aroused, you have Ho Chi Minhs."

"To follow that logic, I believe the day will come when you will have a Ho Chi Minh in the United States."

Discussing the changed relationship of forces in the world today, the ambassador said, "Like other revolutionary people around the world, Vietnamese people today have a very effective weapon — international solidarity. Never before has the revolutionary tide developed to such a peak as today."

"Thirty years ago we had to fight single-handedly. Today the picture is totally different."



Vietnamese Ambassador to the UN Hoang Bich Son (left) addressing June 2 rally in New York City.

Militant/Yvonne Hayes

ferent. The revolutionary nations of the world are conducting their struggles amidst revolutionary fervor, the revolutionary tide of the world. And no patriotic struggle that is going on is single-handed.

"That is why we believe that these patriotic struggles, enjoying international solidarity from the revolutionary movement all over the world, are going to win complete victory. And I think that is an absolute certainty."

The Vietnamese people, Son declared, "are deeply grateful to the world's people for their noble solidarity. At the same time, we are always ready to extend our hands of solidarity and unity to other nations and

peoples of the world."

The ambassador concluded:

"Nowadays imperialism is not the enemy of any single nation. It has become the enemy of our entire humanity. Because of this, all revolutionary people, the whole of progressive humanity, must consolidate their solidarity to march forward against imperialism to the final victory of their revolution."

Selva, of the Salvadoran FDR-FMLN, told of how much the liberation fighters of his country had learned from the revolutionary struggles of the Vietnamese.

Reagan, he charged, uses the same political pretexts for intervention in El Salvador

as Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon did in Vietnam.

"We need the support of the people of the United States," he declared, "especially its working people. Your tax dollars pay for the weapons that murder the children of workers and peasants in El Salvador."

U.S. aggression was defeated in Vietnam, he added, "and it will meet the same fate in El Salvador."

Chan Bun Han of the Committee in Solidarity With Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, saluted Vietnam's role in helping to drive out the hated Pol Pot regime. In 1979 Vietnamese volunteer troops, he said, were invited into Kampuchea by the people of that country. They came "not as an occupier but as a friendly neighbor."

Han urged the audience to support the fight to oust the Pol Pot gang from the United Nations and to win representation there for the country's legitimate government, the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Steve Clark summarized his observations from the fact-finding tour he and Wang made of Vietnam.

He vividly described visits to coal towns and textile centers that had been razed to the ground by U.S. bombers. Some 14 million tons of bombs were dropped on Vietnam during the U.S. aggression. The small country today has 25 million bomb craters.

He described the consequences of the horrifying U.S. chemical warfare, which has destroyed 45 percent of southern Vietnam's forests.

Unlike the vast majority of countries oppressed by imperialism, Clark observed, "Vietnam now has a government and a social system that puts its priority on improving the life of the workers and peasants rather than enriching a handful of landlords and capitalists."

Within the limits of the U.S. trade and aid boycott and other attendant difficulties, he added, the Vietnamese are succeeding in rebuilding their country, "and they are laying a solid foundation for the long haul to modernize their country and advance toward socialism."

Clark detailed advances that have been made in education, health care, and in women's rights.

Life remains difficult in Vietnam, Clark reported. Key foods and other consumer goods are not plentiful and are rationed to assure an equitable distribution.

Vietnam's most difficult postwar years, people told them, was the period of 1977-1980. This was the time of bad crops, because of adverse weather, coupled with the cost of aiding the Kampuchean people. It was the period of the most extreme diplomatic and economic isolation.

And, Clark added, "It was the time of the U.S.-engineered invasion by Peking, which brought enormous destruction to the northern part of Vietnam."

Clark said, "In its efforts to please the U.S. government, the misleaders and betrayers of the Chinese revolution and of the workers and peasants of China, put on another show last month — another big show for Reagan — shelling Vietnamese

Continued on next page

How successful meeting was organized

NEW YORK — The June 2 Vietnam solidarity rally here was held without incident because of extensive political and organizational preparation. Many people responded to the call to defend the basic democratic right of the meeting to take place.

As part of Washington's ongoing war against Vietnam, authorities allow gangs of ultraright Vietnamese emigrés to operate with impunity. They have a record of violent assault on representatives of the Vietnamese revolution.

Public celebrations of the Vietnamese victory over U.S. imperialism were attacked and broken up several years in a row. Last year a Militant Labor Forum celebration was the target of attack by these right-wingers.

Armed with sticks, bottles, and gravel, some 40 rightists tried to smash their way into the meeting. Only a well-organized body of ushers repelled the attack. The

New York police initially refused to act and intervened only late and reluctantly.

While it was an important breakthrough that the meeting last year could go on without disruption, the Vietnamese ambassador to the United Nations, Hoang Bich Son, was unable to make his scheduled appearance. A representative spoke in his place.

This year's meeting did hear the ambassador, without any incident.

Some Vietnamese right-wingers were spotted surveying the area of the meeting. But they apparently decided they could not attack. They did not even set up a picket line.

How was this achieved?

The meeting was widely endorsed by individuals and organizations. The endorsers included: Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Dr. Richard Franke, associate professor of anthropology at Montclair State College; the *Guardian*;

Bill Henning of the Communications Workers of America; Muntu Matimela; Irwin Nack, president of American Federation of Teachers Local 1796; Nick Sánchez of the Puerto Rican Association for Community Action; Wilma Reverón of the Office of International Information for the Independence of Puerto Rico; the Committee in Solidarity With Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos; and the Association of Vietnamese in the United States.

Rally organizers carried out a persistent campaign to convince the city officials and police that they were publicly responsible for ensuring the safety of those attending the meeting, as well as that of the ambassador and other speakers.

The police initially responded to requests with calculated indifference. The mayor's office refused to give any indication it would discharge its responsibility.

A number of public figures, including representatives of church and civil liberties groups, contacted the city administration to voice concern.

Especially after right-wing Vietnamese carried out a May 28 political assassination in San Francisco (see page 13), pressure grew to assure the safety of the June 2 rally.

Officials recognized that their refusal to meet their responsibility would be widely known. They agreed to several measures:

There was a substantial, visible police presence in the area of the hall before and during the rally.

A bomb squad checked the site before the rally.

A community relations representative of the mayor's office attended the meeting.

In addition, rally organizers had prepared a sizable group of ushers, inside and outside, to defend the meeting. An attorney was provided by the National Lawyers Guild as a legal observer.

Several organizations agreed to participate as ushers at the meeting. These included the New Alliance Party and the Committee in Solidarity With Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, as well as the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

This political and organizational preparation assured the success of the rally.

— H.R.

End Peking's attacks on Vietnam!

The following appeal was adopted by the June 2 New York City rally in solidarity with Vietnam:

We, the 300 people gathered at this June 2, 1984, meeting in solidarity with the Vietnamese people, call on organizations of working people and the oppressed in this country and internationally, and on all opponents of Washington's war policies in Central America and around the world, to join us in strongly protesting and condemning the Chinese government's recent shelling and occupation of Vietnamese territory.

These latest attacks are not only part of the counterrevolutionary efforts that have been orchestrated by Washington to "punish" and "bleed Vietnam white" ever since the victory of its struggle for national liberation and reunification in 1975. They also serve the interests of the war makers in Washington at a time when they are escalating efforts to crush the freedom struggle of the Nicaraguan and Salvadorean peoples, maintaining the occupation army in Grenada, stepping up U.S. military intervention against the workers and farmers of the Middle East, and strengthening ties

with the apartheid regime in southern Africa.

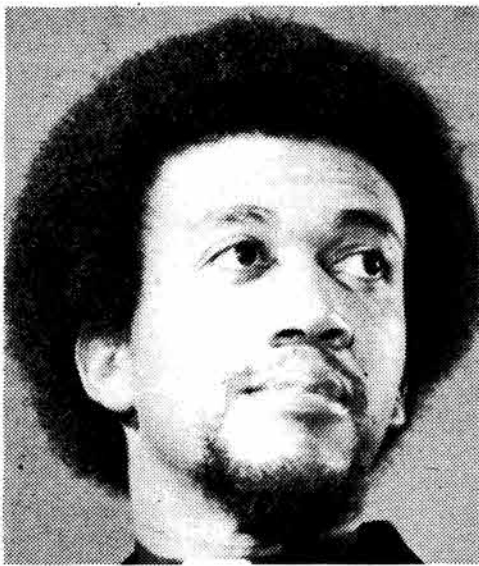
We also call on all opponents of Washington's war policies in Central America, Asia, and around the world, and on the U.S. and international workers movement, to oppose the United Nations' continued seating as the representative from Kampuchea, the Pol Pot-led gang that is seeking to reimpose tyranny over the people of that country; and to demand that Kampuchea's UN seat be given to the legitimate government in Phnom Penh.

"We demand that the United States government establish normal diplomatic relations with, and end its economic blockade of, Vietnam. We demand that it provide massive reconstruction aid to the peoples and governments of Indochina to help rebuild from the devastation inflicted on them by the Pentagon during their heroic struggle for national liberation and social justice."

Stop the shelling and occupation of Vietnamese territory!

End the U.S.-organized economic and diplomatic blockade of Vietnam and Kampuchea!

Solidarity with the people of Indochina!



Rev. Ben Chavis (left) and Tony Russo are among those demanding an investigation into the May 28 attack on two Vietnamese opponents of U.S. war policies. Protests are being sent to San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein and U.S. Attorney General William French Smith.

Assassination spurs demands for justice

BY DIANE WANG

A Committee for Justice for Pham Thi Luu and Nguyen Van Luy has been organized to gather nationwide protests against the May 28 shooting of these two Vietnamese opponents of U.S. war policies.

The committee is demanding that the San Francisco city administration launch a thorough investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the murder of Luu and serious wounding of Luy. The committee is also calling for a federal investigation of this political assassination.

Protest messages should be sent to Mayor Diane Feinstein, City Hall, San Francisco, Calif. 94102, and to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.

Copies of the protests should be sent to the Committee for Justice for Pham Thi Luu and Nguyen Van Luy either at 135 West 4th Street, New York, N.Y. 10012 or c/o the U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Association, P.O. Box 5043, San Francisco, Calif. 94101.

A number of antiwar activists and civil rights and trade union leaders spoke with the *Militant* about the significance of the May 25 attack on Pham Thi Luu and Nguyen Van Luy and the need to protest it.

Rev. Ben Chavis of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice said, "We must all raise our voices in protest against the escalation of right-wing violence inside the United States of America. This is another indication of the kind of climate that the Reagan administration has engendered. The right wing reactionary forces have been given a green light to carry out their wanton acts of violence against progressive peoples, against people's movements and people's activists."

"The attack on our Vietnamese brother and sister serves to highlight once again that the right-wing forces that supported the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war are still very much alive in the American body politic. Therefore, progressive movements in this country must unite more than they ever have before to take a united stand against this new escalation of right-wing violence."

Ken Morgan, cochairperson of the Baltimore chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party, and a member of the NBIPP national central committee, said:

"The attack on Nguyen Van Luy by so-called unknown assassins is part of the climate that is created here in the United States to step up its attacks on the people's government in Vietnam."

"Black people have a stake in this. Malcolm X understood the implications between the fight against international imperialism and the struggle in the United States. Black people are also being oppressed. As Black people we have to demand that the assassins be caught and prosecuted, and we must demand from the United States that action be taken immediately."

Tony Russo of the U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Association of Southern California and a former defendant in the Pentagon Papers trial, said:

"When one looks at the historical record, this is part of a definite pattern of attacks against Vietnamese, and against the Vietnamese patriots in particular."

"Something has to be done to get to the bottom of this. I think the authorities are very lax and irresponsible." Russo pointed out several ways in which the U.S. authorities bear responsibility for encouraging attacks. In particular, he noted the government's "political warfare, their cheap propaganda against Vietnam" and the way authorities have coddled right-wing thugs who left Vietnam to come here.

"In Vietnam we see attacks still going on. In Kampuchea we still see attacks going on, people dying daily. The Vietnamese are being shelled. Here we see the attack on Pham Thi Luu and Nguyen Van Luy," Russo said. "Isn't it time that wars against Vietnam stop?"

Don Luce of the Southeast Asia Resource Center, a writer who lived for 13 years in Vietnam, said:

"I see this killing of Pham Thi Luu and the wounding of Nguyen Van Luy as a direct result of our continuing war, the war encouraged by the U.S. against Vietnam. It encourages terrorist attacks here in the United States."

"While on the one hand President Reagan talks about an antiterrorism campaign, really he is concerned mainly about groups that he doesn't like. If it is terrorists he likes — right-wing terrorist groups — then they can continue their activities without interference."

Bill Henning, vice-president of Communications Workers of America Local 1180, pointed out that "trade unionists are in a particularly vulnerable situation, especially now." Taking note of the bosses' and government attacks on workers, Henning suggested that "if we allow people holding 'unpopular' ideas to be gunned down, those of us in the trade union movement should be alarmed because we are rapidly becoming the people with 'unpopular' views" who could be targeted by Reagan or other enemies of labor.

Tod Ensign, counsel and director of Citizen Soldier, a GI and veterans' rights advocacy group, described the San Francisco attack as "shocking and deplorable."

"It is deplorable that people can be attacked for exercising their constitutional rights and that they can't speak out without fear of murder and this kind of violence. Unfortunately, it is not something new."

"We've had our problems in the veterans movement with death threats against progressive groups and progressive veterans groups."

Mel Mason and **Andrea González**, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, issued a statement condemning the May 28 attack:

"The U.S. government bears responsibility for this and other attacks on patriotic Vietnamese in this country by creating an atmosphere in which right-wing terrorists can operate unhampered."

"The politically motivated assassination of Pham Thi Luu and the attack on Nguyen Van Luy are not just aimed against Vietnam. They are a violation of the rights of all those struggling for justice and peace in this country. They are part of the joint government-employer campaign to intimidate working people from speaking out in opposition to the policies of the U.S. rulers."

Rally calls for investigation

The following message was sent from the June 2 New York City rally in solidarity with Vietnam to Mayor Diane Feinstein in San Francisco and to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith:

We demand an immediate and thorough investigation into the terrorist attack on Nguyen Van Luy and the murder of Pham Thi Luu, outspoken defenders of the revolution in Vietnam and opponents of the U.S. war against their homeland. The perpetrators of this cold-blooded political assassination must be arrested and brought to justice.

The May 28 attack is one in a series of right-wing terrorist assaults on patriotic Vietnamese in this country. The murder of Lam Trong Duong in 1981, for which right-wing groups claimed credit, and the fire bombing/attempted assassination of Ngo Vinh Long that same year both went unpunished, encouraging further assaults.

These political assassinations are a threat not only to Vietnamese living in this country, but an attempt to intimidate all those who oppose the U.S. war in Central America, who want to defend trade union rights, or who campaign for Black and women's rights.

Bring the terrorists who attacked Nguyen Van Luy and murdered Pham Thi Luu to justice! Stop the violent attacks on opponents of Washington's policies!

Right-wing Vietnamese group claims S.F. murder

BY SAM MANUEL

SAN FRANCISCO — A group calling itself the Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate the Communists and Restore the Nation has claimed responsibility for the May 28 shooting of Nguyen Van Luy and his wife Pham Thi Luu here. Luy remains in critical condition. His wife was killed when the couple was gunned down in front of their home.

Luy was honorary president of the Association of Vietnamese in the United States, an organization that seeks to tell the truth about the Vietnamese revolution and win normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam. Luy is a naturalized U.S. citizen who came here 44 years ago from Vietnam. He worked for many years as a cook and has been a longtime member of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union Local 2. Luy was a vocal opponent of the U.S. war against Vietnam.

Editors of Vietnamese newspapers in southern California received copies of a communiqué from the Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate the Communists and Restore the Nation claiming responsibility for the political assassination. The statement said in part, "The shooting was an act of punishment against Nguyen." It referred to Luy as "a special agent for Vietnamese communism."

This is the second murder for which this organization has taken credit. The Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate the Communists also took credit for the July

21, 1981, murder of Lam Trong Duong in San Francisco. Duong, too, had been a known supporter of the Vietnamese revolution.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the police initially investigated the shooting of Duong as a politically motivated killing, but soon discarded that theory even though the Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate the Communists and another group calling itself the Anti-Communist Viets Organization each claimed that they plotted Duong's death.

Similarly, the police are playing down the political significance of the shooting of Luy and his wife by attempting to link it to a supposed rise in organized crime in the Vietnamese community.

Police have followed this line of argument in their investigation of the attack on Luy and his wife. In the May 30 *San Francisco Chronicle* homicide inspector Ron Schneider stated, "We're not saying that it was necessarily political, but that's a possible motive, along with theft or extortion."

Initially the police claimed to have no clue as to who Luy and his wife were. Subsequent reports, however, have revealed that the FBI has been monitoring Luy because he was believed to have been a "leader of a pro-Vietnamese organization."

In the past few weeks Luy had received threats on his life. His wife was the victim of an attempted assault in front of their home just weeks before they were shot. All of this had been reported to the cops.

The city administration of Diane Feinstein has yet to condemn these shootings.

Vietnam solidarity rally in N.Y.

Continued from preceding page

territory and occupying a number of points within Vietnam."

Briefly discussing their visit to Kampuchea, Clark said, "None of the people we spoke to — workers, farmers, fishermen, government and party officials — none of them considered the Vietnamese volunteers there an army of occupation."

"The real danger comes from the U.S.-sponsored coalition of the Pol Pot and other Kampuchean rightists; the Southeast Asian capitalist governments, particularly Thailand; as well as the Peking bureaucracy, which provides arms and political backing to Pol Pot. This is the real danger to Kampuchea and to its self-determination."

Discussing the fight against war, Clark told of hearing a radio program in Vietnam of Pete Seeger and others singing U.S. anti-Vietnam War songs. The Vietnamese tour guide explained that such radio programs are to help teach young people that Vietnam could not have won the war without the help of the American people.

"We in turn owe a tremendous debt to the Vietnamese people," Clark commented, "above all because of what they did. Their heroic struggle gave confidence to the oppressed and exploited around the world that they could stand up and win in the fight against oppression in their country — as we see today in Central America."

"We owe Vietnam a debt for what they did for working people right here in the United States. This country will never be the same again after what the Vietnamese people fought for and won."

The battle of the Vietnamese people, he declared, has "bought precious time for the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Cuba to advance their struggles and to further prepare for the bigger battles they know are ahead."

Further, Clark declared, opposition to the war drive in Central America and the Caribbean is reaching deeper, and more quickly, into the U.S. labor movement and organizations of oppressed nationalities than it did during the Vietnam War.

And, he reminded the audience, Washington will be fighting this war not during a period of economic expansion, but at a time when working people are facing an unending drive against their rights and living standards.

The resistance to that antilabor drive, combined with the fight against the war, "will once again change this country in ways that, years from now, we will not recognize."

"That's why it's so important," Clark concluded, "that we all go out of this meeting and build the June 9 demonstration into as large and representative an expression of the antiwar opposition as we possibly can."

Japan auto workers face same problems as those in U.S.

BY DIANE WANG

TOKYO — "So tell me: what do American workers think of us? Why do they think we Japanese work so hard?" Kayama Masao asked. Masao is an auto worker at Nissan Diesel outside Tokyo, where they turn out engines.

Try to answer a question like Masao's. You quickly realize how ridiculous the stereotypes of the Japanese promoted by the U.S. bosses are. There's a racist edge to the picture of docile Japanese workers who somehow don't even feel pain under speed-up, who enjoy being part of one happy family with the boss.

As I talked to Masao and to another Nissan worker Azuma Yoshizi, it became clear that Japanese auto workers face the same sorts of problems auto workers in the United States face.

We are told that Japanese cars are so competitive and profitable because Japanese workers know how to cooperate with their bosses.

But does Masao feel like he's part of a happy family? "Absolutely not. Most of the time I'm furious," he said. Masao has worked at Nissan for 10 years.

"My impression of the company is very bad. Recently, for example, a 53-year-old worker died of a heart attack right on the line, at a work station near me. It was the third time something like that has happened," he said.

Compared to U.S. auto plants, the speed of the line is about the same, Masao said. "But where they get us is on the number of work stations; here each worker has to do more operations." As a result of productivity campaigns, Masao has to operate nine machines.

"Foremen are like gangsters, watching all the time," Masao said.

Work hours are usually from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an hour of rest at noon. At best there is a 10-minute break in the morning and afternoon, and not even that in the machine section, Masao reported.

"Even though work is supposed to be over at 5 p.m., very few leave. Most are forced to do unpaid overtime," Masao said. This is often spent attending quality control circles. Masao himself has refused to join a circle, but most workers are pressured to do so. At some factories the quality control circles are mandatory.

In these unpaid "QC" sessions workers have to discuss defects in work and ways to avoid problems. The object is not to make work easier or better for the workers, but to make more money for Nissan. Essentially,

workers are supposed to discuss how to make themselves work harder.

And is it worth it? Do Japanese workers benefit from their companies' booming business? No more than U.S. auto workers have benefited from this year's record-setting profits by GM, Ford, and Chrysler.

Wage system

"The average auto worker wage is rather low, compared with the rest of the work force," Masao said. "But that is hard to tell, since wages are divided into so many different categories."

"I receive 140,000 yen a month after 10 years at this factory," he told me. That is about \$636, since 220 yen equal \$1. Rent and food costs are not that much different from the United States — expensive.

"There has been no real wage hike in quite some time," Masao said. "Last year there was a nominal hike, but with inflation, the real wage decreased."

Yoshizi showed me his pay stub. What a complicated con job on workers! The wage is divided into a base wage and then into all sorts of special allowances and bonuses. There are allowances for married men, for example, bonuses for experience or "attitude." The complicated system makes it harder to tell how much a worker is really being paid or cheated. Moreover, by dividing wages into so many categories and rewarding people for their "attitude" the company further divides the workers.

But what about the life-time guaranteed employment that Japanese workers are supposed to enjoy? "Most workers feel insecure," Masao answered. In fact, only a layer of workers have the formal right to guaranteed employment. A large proportion of the factory is made up of part-time and contract workers who do not enjoy protection.

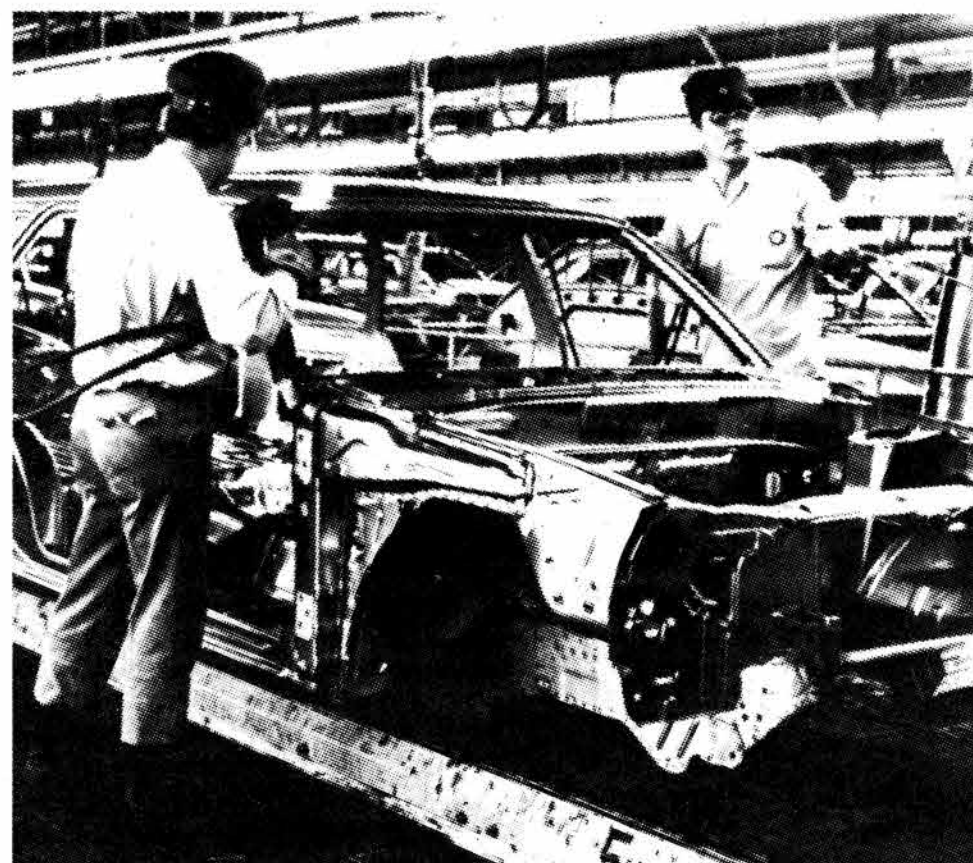
Moreover, turnover is very high at the factory. "Most workers leave the company within 10 years if they can," Masao said. Why? "Most leave because of poor working conditions."

Race and sex discrimination

As in the United States, Japanese bosses use discrimination against women, national minorities, and other oppressed layers.

"In my factory there are very few women workers, perhaps 30 out of 1,000," Masao said. Women work instead at the auto-parts plants.

In addition, he said, "Koreans or



Militant/Diane Wang

Above, Japanese assembly line. Below, Japanese auto workers Kayama Masao (right) and Azuma Yoshizi. They described what it is like to work on Nissan Motors' lines.

Burakumin are rejected." There are a large number of Koreans living in Japan. They face discrimination and harassment, such as a recent government requirement that all Korean immigrants be fingerprinted.

The Burakumin are an oppressed caste of Japanese. In feudal times the Burakumin did tanning, burials, and other work considered "unclean." They are still targets of prejudice and discrimination and are forced to live in ghettos. "The company checks the addresses of workers, and they don't hire workers who apply from Burakumin areas," Masao explained.

Like their U.S. counterparts, Japanese auto workers have difficulty fighting back because the current trade union leadership advocates trying to accommodate the boss to improve profits. "Our unions might be difficult to understand," Masao suggested, "because the UAW [United Auto Workers] in your country is somewhat independent. But in Japan the unions are integrated into the company to such an extent that the bu-

reaucrats sit on the company's board of directors."

That didn't sound so very different from the UAW. Former union president Douglas Fraser went on the Chrysler board of directors in 1980. The UAW officialdom has also followed a course of collaboration with the companies and their profit-sharing schemes, Quality of Work Life circles, and concession contracts to keep "our" plants open.

The Japanese unions were not always so hamstrung by the companies.

The union at Nissan was only housebroken after the company smashed a 100-day walkout in 1953. In 1950 a two-month strike at Toyota was also smashed and one-third of the workers fired.

The U.S. occupation government set up in Japan immediately after World War II played a role in housebreaking the unions. It ordered the dismissal of militants from all the Japanese unions.

The unions are further weakened because they are based on an individual company instead of on an industry-wide basis. The various auto unions have a loose federation, but are weakened by the division.

'Made in USA' too

"They tell you to boycott Japanese products, but at the same time they are trying to import Japanese labor practices to the United States," Masao said.

As it turns out, however, these are not management tricks unique to Japan. The breakdown of industry-wide contracts, sharp wage differentials among workers, quality-control campaigns, the phony idea that auto bosses and auto workers have one common interest — those are the same features bosses promote everywhere, whether in the U.S. or in Japan.

And for Japanese auto workers it is not just Japanese bosses who are attacking them this way. Several of the big U.S. auto-makers have holdings in Japanese companies. General Motors owns 35 percent Isuzu Motors Ltd. and 5 percent of the Suzuki Motor Company. Ford owns 25 percent of Japan's Toyo Kogyo, which puts out the Mazda. Chrysler is a 15 percent owner of Mitsubishi Motors.

Facing the same conditions and same kind of bosses, U.S. and Japanese workers need to build solidarity which each other. "Workers can all understand hard conditions, a bad situation," Masao said. "We have a common enemy, though it might be called GM, Nissan, Toyota."

Health care a priority in Vietnam

BY DIANE WANG

One of the infamous crimes of the U.S. war against Vietnam was the bombing of Bach Mai hospital in Hanoi on December 22, 1972, during what was called the "Christmas Eve bombing." About half of the hospital was destroyed, and 34 people were killed.

Within a few years, thanks to international aid, the hospital was rebuilt. Today it is one of the largest hospitals in Vietnam.

This reporter visited the hospital in late February with *Intercontinental Press* editor Steve Clark.

The director of the hospital, Dr. Le Huy Lieu, explained that the hospital now carries on four functions. It does diagnosis and treatment. In addition, Bach Mai is a medical research center, a training hospital for 500-600 students, and the administrative center responsible for directing activities in nine specialized medical fields.

Bach Mai hospital has modern equipment for testing black lung among miners and for sophisticated neurological testing. The specialties it administers include cardiology and nuclear medicine.

The main priority in Vietnam's health care has not been the development of modern specialized fields, but promotion of basic health care throughout the entire

country. The emphasis has been on preventative medicine, sanitation, and overcoming diseases that were endemic in Vietnam.

The results have been remarkable. Life expectancy, which was 32 years in the 1940s, has jumped to 62 years for men and 65 years for women. The advances are even more dramatic if you compare Vietnam's health care to that of other Southeast Asian countries governed by U.S. allies.

In Vietnam there is one hospital bed for every 400 people. These are scattered throughout the country through a network that is based on rural village clinics, and district and provincial hospitals.

In the Philippines, by contrast, there is one bed for every 714 people, in Thailand, one for every 690 people. Moreover, in those countries clinics, hospitals, and doctors are centralized in the large cities, available mainly for those who can pay. The result is that in the Philippines, for example, 65 percent of all deaths occur with no medical attention.

As soon as the Vietnamese had liberated the northern part of the country from the French in 1954, they began a major health campaign against the country's epidemic diseases. Malaria, which affected some 5 million people, was almost eliminated in the north by 1965. The incidence of

trachoma, a disease affecting 20 million and blinding 100,000 people, has almost been cut in half. The rate of tuberculosis among Vietnamese has been cut to one-third its occurrence 20 years ago. Leprosy was brought under control, even though U.S. airstrikes bombed treatment centers.

Vietnam had to do all this while fighting the war against the U.S. occupation of the south, as a poor country with few sources of medicine.

Sanitation was key. Throughout the countryside peasants were taught to build septic tanks for human waste, wells for drinking water, and bath houses for hygiene. Training midwives to use sterilized instruments helped bring down maternal and infant mortality rates despite the scarcity of antibiotics.

Another way Vietnam has dealt with the shortage of drugs has been to investigate the scientific basis of traditional medicine. Rural health care workers collect recipes from peasants and send them to Vietnam's Institute for Traditional Medicine. The folk remedies are analyzed chemically and, if useful, promoted. More than half of the agricultural communes in the north grow medicinal plants for local treatment.

Since the reunification of the country, Continued on Page 17

Debate over how to fight rape: New Zealand socialists' view

The issues of rape and violence against women are not only a big topic of discussion among working people in this country, but also in New Zealand. The following is an editorial from the May 18 *Socialist Action*, the newspaper reflecting the views of the Socialist Action League, New Zealand section of the Fourth International. It takes up a recent debate in that country over rape and how to respond to it.

Sexist violence against women is an all-pervasive feature of this society. It ranges from sexual harassment (including offensive, sex-oriented "jokes," abuse, or physical contact) to the extremes of wife-beating, rape, and murder.

The violence is caused by the entire unequal relationship between the sexes, with women the inferior sex, in this class-divided society. Sexism and women's powerlessness — rooted in their economic dependence — cause violence against women in a society where violence and alienation are integral aspects of social relations.

In the United States it is estimated that one woman in 10 will be raped at some point in her life. One in four New Zealand women have been sexually abused before they are 18 years old. At least half of all rapes take place in the woman's home, and in about half of all reported rapes, the victim knows the attacker. A readers' survey on rape by the *New Zealand Women's Weekly* in 1982 revealed that 10 percent of the 204 women who took part were raped by present or ex-husbands or lovers.

The effect of this, and other forms of violence such as wife-beating, on women can be paralyzing. It undermines their confidence and limits their freedom. While it has a particularly crushing effect on the lives of the victims, all women live in fear of being raped, and all are forced to take many different precautions against this danger every day of their lives.

At the same time, however, rape and domestic violence are no longer taboo subjects — something that happened but were not talked about. Nor are women prepared to continue passively accepting such attacks. Today a discussion on sexist violence and how to combat it is taking place among women, within the labor movement, and throughout society as a whole.

This is the context in which, on February 1, six women are alleged to have seized playwright Mervyn Thompson, chained him to a tree, and painted the word "rapist" on his car. A spokeswoman for the group was later reported to have told Auckland radio stations that the action was taken because Thompson was guilty of "three or four rapes."

In the months since then, the action against Thompson has been the subject of much debate. At Auckland University (where Thompson is a senior lecturer in the drama department) it led to calls for effective procedures to deal with complaints of sexual harassment.

An attempt has also been made to prevent the premiere production of Thompson's new play taking place at the university's theater. In Wellington, a

group of actors rehearsing another of his plays decided — after meeting with a number of groups, including the women's subcommittee of the Wellington Trades Council, Women Against Pornography, Feminist Librarians, and the Wellington Unemployed Workers Union — to cancel the production.

Others — including university teachers and many in the theater world — have closed ranks around Thompson. Acting on his complaint, Auckland police have been investigating the case with the aim of victimizing supporters of women's rights.

Thompson himself has made a number of public statements, including a three-page article in the April 14 *NZ Listener*. In this he proclaims his innocence and denounces the "brutish" feminists who, "all claws and fangs," attacked him. He now says that he is writing a book about the experience.

The Thompson case highlights the important issue of sexist violence against women. Those who focus their attention on questions such as the rights and wrongs of vigilante-type actions and restrictions on "artistic freedom" are obscuring this fact.

It has been argued that responsibility rests with the courts to decide whether or not someone is guilty of rape, and women do not have the right to take the law into their own hands. But who makes the laws in this society, and whose interests do they serve? The legal system does not stand neutrally above this class-divided society. Rather, it acts to maintain the rule of a small group of exploiters over working people, and to perpetuate the oppression of women.

• According to Justice Department/Institute of Criminology estimates, out of every 100 rapes committed in New Zealand, only 20 are reported to the police.

Charges are laid in seven or eight of these cases, and four then result in conviction. Only four percent of all rapists, in other words, are ever convicted.

• Both rapists and rape victims come from all classes and races in this society. But rapists who are professionals, white-collar workers, or businessmen are far less likely to ever be arrested and convicted. The distortion that this produces in police department statistics is then used to justify the racist claim that rape is a "Maori problem" or that, as Minister of Immigration Aussie Malcolm claims, it is Pacific Island "overstayers" who are responsible for rape.

This has an effect on people's consciousness. The expressions of outrage over the treatment of Mervyn Thompson, for example, stand in stark contrast to the general lack of opposition to last year's racist campaign to deport a Tongan who had been released from prison after serving four years for rape.

• The definition of what constitutes the crime of rape is currently a very narrow one. One of the most significant changes in the Rape Law Reform Bill is the widening of this definition.

However, the Bill still does not cover coercive rape (that is, the use of a position of power, such as that held by an employer, teacher, or parent, to force a woman or girl to "consent" to sex out of fear of losing her job, failing her course, etc.) except where physical force or threat of force is also used.

It has also been argued that the cancellation of Mervyn Thompson's play is an unacceptable form of censorship.

Socialists oppose censorship laws, which are invariably used by the state to restrict democratic rights. The main victims of these restrictions are not the distributors of pornography or other forms of offensive



Residents of New Bedford, Massachusetts, demonstrate against rape. New Zealand socialist editorial takes up roots of rape and debate over how to fight it.

material, but workers and their organizations, women's and left-wing groups, and other progressive movements.

In this case, however, the issue of state censorship does not arise. The cancellation of the play was a decision taken by a group of actors, as union members, to withdraw their labor in line with the Federation of Labor's policy on sexual harassment and as an act of solidarity with women.

\$400,000 in aid raised for Nicaragua

BY ARNOLD WEISSBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — Oxfam, the international humanitarian aid organization, has completed a campaign for material aid to Nicaragua that has raised more than \$400,000 in medical and educational supplies, agricultural tools, cars and trucks, and cash. The aid will be sent out from here in early June by ship. Oxfam calls the campaign "Tools for Peace."

"This is a way to tell the Nicaraguans about the peace policy of the American people," explained Juan Vargas of the Oxfam staff. "It's a way to express our support for their peaceful development."

Vargas, in an interview with the *Militant*, said that more than 78 groups had taken part in the campaign.

Joe Short, Oxfam-America's secretary-director, proposed the aid project after a trip to Nicaragua in early 1984. Vargas said that Short had been struck by the shortage of tools that Nicaraguan farmers had to contend with. Oxfam felt that the best aid would be those tools that would allow Nicaragua's working farmers to cultivate

their land. A 20-page list of tools was drawn up in consultation with AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan Women's Association; UNAG, the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers; and the ATC, the Rural Workers Association.

The response to Oxfam's campaign was "amazing," Vargas said. Oxfam involved religious groups, unions, farmers, teachers, school children, auto mechanics, and disabled people.

Tools for Peace supporters won the endorsement of the San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women and the secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 1-5.

The Santa Cruz, California, chapter of CARICA, a group that works for health care in Central America, was able to donate 100 hospital beds. Another group donated a school bus that will be converted to use as a medical care vehicle in rural Nicaragua. A group in Northern California donated a four-wheel drive vehicle full of tools. There was a cash donation of \$15,000.

In San Francisco, children at daycare centers brought in a tool or a toy after an Oxfam representative explained how children in Nicaragua needed them.

Another example Vargas offered was Oxfam's experience with cannery workers in the Monterey, California, area. After hearing about the campaign, workers passed around buckets for donations.

"People had questions, but they were from the heart," he said. "A lot of them just can't believe the U.S. government is trying to keep the Nicaraguans from feeding themselves." People were shocked. "This can't be possible — we're supposed to be a democracy" was a typical response," Vargas said.

Vargas explained that Oxfam had had aid projects in Nicaragua since 1979. "We have no problems there. But in El Salvador, forget it. Any farmers we'd help there might get wiped out." Oxfam's funds for its programs in Grenada were frozen after the U.S. invasion of that Caribbean island.

Oxfam, in conjunction with Friends of

Nicaraguan Culture, organized a parade and send-off rally for the Tools for Peace ship May 13, Mother's Day. Floats and boldly colored banners and flags marked the procession, which included about 500 people and several trucks full of aid for Nicaragua.

A rally following the parade featured Jacqueline Jackson, wife of Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson, who recently visited Nicaragua.

Nonaligned meeting denounces U.S. war

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Labor ministers from more than 50 member governments and organizations of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, meeting here in mid-May, voted unanimously to condemn the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

"We demand an immediate end to the threats, attacks, and other hostile acts, open or covert, against Nicaragua," the ministers said. They also demanded that Washington abide by the World Court decision, handed down May 10, calling for an end to the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Delegates from countries that, as Angolan Labor Minister Nawete Joao Batista put it, "also suffer from imperialist aggression," took the lead in promoting passage of the resolution. These included Vietnam, Cuba, Iran, Algeria, Ethiopia, and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Iranian Labor Minister Abolhassem Sarhadizadeh compared ex-Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza to the shah, calling them both "U.S. agents." Sarhadizadeh pledged that, "despite the fact that we are at war ourselves, we will give everything we can to the Nicaraguan revolution."

The May 10-12 conference was the second meeting of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries to be held in Nicaragua in the last year and a half — a reflection of the increasingly important role of the Nicaraguan revolution in world politics.

NOW rally defends Fla. abortion clinic

BY GRACE CARSON

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Two hundred fifty women demonstrated here May 12 in an action organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW) to show support for the opening of a new abortion clinic in the area.

The rally coincided with an antiabortion conference held the same weekend. Right-wingers speaking at this conference included Equal Rights Amendment opponent Phyllis Schlafly and Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell.

The main feature of the antiabortion conference was a session on how to disrupt abortion clinics, that is, harass women and intimidate them from using the clinics. Convention participants surrounded the new clinic early on May 12 and forced it to close.

The NOW march and rally defended the right of the clinic to operate and protested

recent shootings and break-ins at abortion clinics in the area. Beth Mumby, the reproductive rights coordinator for Broward County NOW, reported that a clinic in Pembroke Pines had 27 shots fired at it and that a clinic in St. Petersburg was fire bombed recently. Clinic workers have also been victimized. Staff members reported having their tires slashed and swastikas painted on their homes.

Abortion rights activist Bill Baird exposed the opponents of legal, safe abortion: "These people say they are for the right to life. . . . I've never heard them oppose the death penalty. They are not against the war in Central America."

Other speakers at the rally included Pat Dubus, the Florida coordinator for the American Civil Liberties Union, and Janet Canterbury, state president of Florida NOW.

What counts — Capitalism is better than communism because communism is so materialistic,



Harry Ring

right? We were reminded of that weighty argument by the EPA decision withdrawing proposed standards aimed at regulating three industrial sources of benzene fumes, a cause of leukemia. The stan-

dards were dropped on the basis of a mathematical formula establishing that the particular risk to human life is outweighed by the cost to companies.

But could he tell the difference? — One prospective New Jersey voter declared, "I'd vote for anyone rather than Ronald Reagan. They could put a monkey on a stick and I'd vote for him instead of Reagan."

See, a fun spot — DuPont's "medical safety" director disputed a study which found that 10 percent of the population near a Lowell, Mass., chemical dump site

suffered significant health problems. The study was invalid, the DuPont man said, because it was made five years after the plant closed. One researcher reported, "The local kids have a game called, 'Let's set the ground on fire,' and they go to the dump with matches and do just that."

Shoot'em — "Increase in Number of Aged Called Threat to Health Care" — News headline.

Un-American and Un-Texas — The Weatherford, Texas, school board upheld the punishment of an eighth-grader who in-

sisted on his right to wear an earring. In nearby Azle, a seventh-grader was suspended for refusing to shave off a sparse mustache. And in Houston, a high school honor student was barred from graduation ceremonies because of a dyed black strip in his blond hair.

It figures — Among the New York food outlets recently cited for sanitary violations was the Spic & Span Restaurant.

And don't spill the tomato juice — For \$30,000, Neiman-Marcus designed a 237" tablecloth and 42 napkins to match a cus-

tomers' china and wallpaper. The customer was so pleased she ordered 10 more sets. Which brought the unit price down to \$16,000.

Better seen, not heard — For his Dallas performance, Liberace had his mirrored Rolls Royce shipped in and wore his \$400,000 fox and ermine cape.

Household hint — To properly hang your mink coat, Bloomingdale's in New York is offering a mink coat hanger. Wonder if they have anything in scratchy repro-processed wool?

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

We Are Driven. Video documentary exposing myth that Japanese auto workers are content. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 16, 7:30 p.m. 2548 W Pico Blvd. (near Vermont). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Seaside

Grand Opening of Pathfinder Bookstore featuring *Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again*, a videotape interview with Don Rojas, former press secretary to slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Translation to Spanish. Reception to follow. Sat., June 16, 7:30 p.m. 1184 Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (408) 899-1316.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Lessons of the New Bedford Rape Trial; How to Fight Violence Against Women. Speaker: Estelle DeBates. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Hear Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president; Dave Walters, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Peggy Kreiner, SWP candidate for Congress, 3rd Congressional District. Sun., June 17. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Kentucky Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

New York City antiwar music festival

BY CLAUDIA HOMMEL

NEW YORK — Hundreds of nationally and regionally known musicians will participate in a music festival here in opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America. The nine-day event begins Friday, June 8, with a concert featuring Johnny Colón at the Cooper Union Great Hall.

The sponsor of the music festival, Artists Call Against U.S. Intervention in Central America, has mobilized thousands of visual artists, performers, and cultural institutions in protest of U.S. military and political intervention in Central America. The music festival, like the 30-day art event sponsored by Artists Call last January, will focus on the repression of cultural institutions and on the victims of U.S.-sponsored political violence in Central America. All proceeds from the festival will go to cultural and humanitarian organizations in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Each concert in the festival will be an unusual mixture of performers and musical styles. Hundreds of musicians, including Tom Paxton, Pete Seeger, Tom Chapin, Roy Brown, and Women of the Calabash, will perform. Among the figures in the arts who have endorsed the event are Mary Travers, Joseph Papp, Paul Winter, Holly Near, Keith Jarrett, the B-52s, and Willie Colón.

In its announcement of the music festival, Artists Call states, "We are staring down the Vietnam road again. Thousands of U.S. troops are already on the ground in Honduras. The U.S. is escalating its intervention in El Salvador... and in Nicaragua. If we can witness the destruction of another culture without protest, we are sacrificing our own right to make culture."

For tickets and information, call (212) 581-5936.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

U.S. Imperialism's War Against Iran. Speakers: Salem Abdul Hamid, Palestinian journalist; Jay Weiss, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 17, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Defending the Revolution in Nicaragua. Slide show and eyewitness account. Speakers: Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party and member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201; Jean Zuman, nurse and member of Young Socialist Alliance. Both recently returned from fact-finding trip to Nicaragua. Sun., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Toledo United Auto Workers Battle Against Union-busting. Speakers: Dick Allen, member of UAW Local 1114; Elizabeth Lariscy, member of UAW Local 12, Toledo Jeep Unit and Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress; Ignacio Meneses, UAW Local 408; Helen Meyers, UAW Local 1200, SWP candidate for Senate from Michigan. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

Duluth

Hear Ellie García, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. Senate. Fri., June 8. Reception, 7 p.m. Hillside Community Center, 4th St. E at Lake Ave. Ausp: 1984 Iron Range Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

Minneapolis

Blacks and the '84 Elections. A panel discussion. Moderator: Yusef Mgeni, director of the Pan-African Institute. Speakers: Mahmoud El-Kati; Janice Payne Dorlaie, co-convenor, Twin Cities National Black Independent Political Party; Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Fri., June 15, 7 p.m. Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38 St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Twin Cities NBIPP and Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (612) 644-6325 or 522-1858.

St. Paul

Grenada Under U.S. Occupation: Eyewitness Report and Slide show. Speaker: August Nimitz, member of Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from fact-finding tour of Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 9, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Rally: Hear Mel Mason, 1984 Socialist Workers Candidate for U.S. President. Speakers: Mel Mason; Ellie García, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Joe Swanson, member United Transportation Union Local 305, attended recent international trade union conference for peace in Nicaragua; others. Sat., June 16. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. Party to follow. 508 N Snelling. Ausp: 1984 Minnesota Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Virginia

Hear Ellie García, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., June 9. Rally, 7 p.m. 112 Chestnut St. Ausp: 1984 Iron Range Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Black Political Perspectives in '84. Speakers: representative of Black Organization of Students at Rutgers; Nan Bailey, Socialist Workers

candidate for 16th Congressional District in New York; Ken Morgan, member of National Black Independent Political Party Central Committee. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: forum \$2; dinner \$3. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Agent Orange Settlement: Victory or Defeat for Veterans? Speakers: Tod Ensign, counsel and director of Citizen Soldier, a GI-veterans rights advocacy group; Film: *Ecocide*, on the effects of U.S. warfare on Vietnam's environment. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 15, 7:30 p.m. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m. (\$3). 141 Halsey St. (corner Raymond, one block from Broad). Donation: forum, \$2; dinner, \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Albany

Socialism: A Future Worth Fighting For. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president; Rich Ariza, candidate for 23rd Congressional District, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 16. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Demonstration in Memory of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on the 31st Anniversary of Their Execution, June 19, 1953. U.S. Federal Courthouse, Foley Square. Tues., June 19, noon to 2 p.m. Ausp: National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. For more information call (212) 228-4500.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Police Brutality Against the Black Community. Speaker: Andy Towbin, Pittsburgh Young

Vietnam and Kampuchea: an eyewitness report

A slide show and presentation by Diane Wang

OHIO

Cleveland

Sun., June 17, 3 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Sat., June 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 S. Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Socialist Alliance. Sat., June 9, 7:30 p.m. 141 S. Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

Film: With Babies and Banners. Commemoration of 50th anniversary of Toledo Auto-Lite strike. Presentation by Steve Iverson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 24th Congressional District. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 9, 7:30 p.m. 2817 Live Oak St. Donation requested. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

War in the Persian Gulf: Who Is Responsible? Speaker: Pete Seidman, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 16, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

U.S. socialist in Ireland

Continued from Page 7

that there is another America," which is not capitalist. It's the "America of working people fighting for trade union rights," of Black people fighting for democratic rights, of Spanish-speaking people, of Indians.

In Puerto Rico, said Malone, the people "are involved in an independence struggle similar to ours." He talked about the fight by the fishermen on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques against the Pentagon's use of their island for target practice. This he said, "is an America that our people can feel in solidarity with."

PD member Joe Harrington reported that two British miners were in Ireland to win support for their strike. He pointed to the importance of the outcome of that battle for working people in Ireland. Everywhere Mason went he found enthusiastic solidarity with the British miners.

Speaking from the audience during the discussion in Limerick was Jim Kemmy, a member of the recently formed Democratic Socialist Party and of Limerick's city council. Kemmy argued that socialism and nationalism are incompatible, and that "British citizenship is highly valued" by the people in Ireland's northern six counties. "Imposing" Irish citizenship on the north, he said, has no attraction for the northern population. Kemmy also smeared Sinn Féin as profascist and anti-Semitic. His remarks caused quite an uproar.

Malone answered Kemmy, explaining that the nationalist population in the north is oppressed in two ways: as workers ex-

ploited by capitalism and as people oppressed because they are Catholic. The northern state is based on the oppression of the Catholic population, and civil rights will never be achieved until British domination is done away with.

A free Ireland, Malone said, does not just mean "having a green flag flying over Belfast city hall." It means "taking control of our resources." To do that, said Malone, "we have to take on imperialism just as they are doing in Central America." Protestants, he said, will have a free and equal part in a united Ireland.

Mason sees Kelly in Irish prison

While in Ireland, Mel Mason went to Portlaoise prison outside Dublin to talk to Nicky Kelly, a leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party serving a 12-year sentence for a mail-train robbery he did not commit.

Kelly has been in prison since 1980 and was recently on a hunger strike. His case has attracted mass support in Ireland and internationally. But the Dublin government refuses to reopen it and keeps Kelly in prison.

Kelly had heard Mason on the radio and was interested in learning more about his campaign. Mason promised to make the fight for freedom for Nicky Kelly a part of his election campaign when he returns to the United States.

Story of revolutionary Nicaragua's literacy campaign

And Also Teach Them To Read by Sheryl Hirshon with Judy Butler. Lawrence Hill & Co. Westport, Connecticut 1983. \$9.95. 224 pages.

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA — "And also teach them to read." That order, given by Carlos Fonseca, commander-in-chief of the Sandinista army, to commanders Tomás Borge and Germán Pomares, came down in the midst of a peasants' arms training session.

Yet to carry out Fonseca's order, it took a revolution to begin to free half Nicaragua's population from illiteracy.

BOOK REVIEW

Fonseca and Pomares were both killed before the revolution triumphed in July 1979.

A national literacy crusade was organized less than a year after the July triumph. Author Sheryl Hirshon, a U.S. teacher who participated, explains that it "was one expression of the Nicaraguan revolution's determination to give power to the people, to make them actors in their own social destiny."

Hirshon, who served as a group leader in the countryside, describes illiteracy as "a social disability having effects that go far beyond being unable to read. Illiteracy breeds a sense of social inferiority that permeates how people think, not only about things, but about themselves in relation to others."

"Authoritarian rulers throughout history have understood this, manipulating the helplessness of their subjects as much through paternalism as through raw power," Hirshon points out.

The story begins on day one of the crusade: the deployment of some 60,000 high school and university students and teachers in what was known as the Popular Literacy Army, a force to be dispatched to every nook and cranny of the country.

Drawing heavily on her personal experiences, Hirshon, in addition to giving the reader a glimpse of her own diary, explains the techniques and strategies used in the campaign, the obstacles faced, how they were overcome, or in some cases, not overcome.

With the help of Judy Butler, a writer and researcher for the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), a broader view of the political events and problems facing the young revolution is brought into focus.

Enriched by the author's eye for details of the inheritance left by the U.S.-supported Somoza regime, this account enables the reader to visualize the extraordinary effort it took to begin to bring some 400,000 people out of illiteracy.

Hirshon has stayed on in the countryside to finish what she began in 1980. "I am still struggling with my Nicaraguan *compañeros* to bring the 40 percent illiteracy rate left in the department of Matagalpa down to the level of the rest of the country," she writes.

Concluding, Hirshon tells of the U.S.-sponsored war that surrounds her; a war where "books of language and arithmetic" are "a peril to your life."

(In the last year, more than 150 teachers and adult education instructors have been killed by counterrevolutionaries, called *contras* here.)

However, Hirshon assures her readers, "These *contras* will not win. The people of these mountains can no more turn their backs on the last four years than they can become illiterate again."



Sheryl Hirshon, on far left, with a class during Nicaragua's 1980 literacy campaign.

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

Vietnamese government makes health care a priority

Continued from Page 14

following liberation of the south from U.S. occupation, Vietnam has had to cope with a new set of health problems, Dr. Lieu said.

The heavy chemical spraying of huge areas in the south by U.S. troops has left many victims of Agent Orange and dioxin.

Because of the U.S. occupation and promotion of prostitution, venereal disease and drug addiction became widespread and must be cured.

The traumas of the war — in which 9,000 of 15,000 villages in the south were raided — has meant a higher incidence of psychiatric problems. These mental health problems are still under study.

Epidemic diseases that had been conquered in the north were still a problem in the south. It has taken time to duplicate the successful health care network from the north in the south.

How has Vietnam been able to achieve so much? Dr. Lieu pointed to several factors.

The equipment and facilities Vietnam does have were the result of international

solidarity, especially from workers states such as the Soviet Union, but also from friends in the United States.

The quality of health care workers was very important, Dr. Lieu pointed out. Doctors in Vietnam have faced and overcome enormous challenges. They had to cope, not only with the widespread health problems of an underdeveloped country, but with the many casualties of the long war against French and U.S. imperialism. Vietnamese doctors have proven themselves quite capable in their profession.

As important as their professional ability is their devotion. "The attitude and spirit of doctors here is different," Dr. Lieu said. "They have no private practice outside the hospital."

Most important, however, has been how the government has reorganized health care. How can a country that is run mainly to pump out profits for the United States devote the necessary attention or resources to health care? Vietnam has accomplished so much despite its poverty because it made a revolution to put people's needs first.

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

Duarte: Washington's new man

The inauguration of José Napoleón Duarte as president of El Salvador on June 1 represented another effort by the Reagan administration to mask its escalating war in Central America behind rhetoric about "democracy" and "human rights."

Duarte was chosen president in rigged elections that excluded the freedom fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), who control roughly one-third of El Salvador. Duarte's campaign was partly financed by the CIA.

Even before taking office, Duarte was given a triumphal reception in Washington. The White House orchestrated meetings for him with Congress and the big-business news media. The latter boosted Duarte's image as "a strong, courageous and combative democrat" while Congressional Democrats and Republicans united to vote \$62 million more in aid to the brutal Salvadoran military.

Duarte's media image is one of a president committed to ending death-squad killings, opening a "national dialogue" with the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), and carrying out social reforms. But his first week in office already shows that his new role differs little from the one he played in 1980-82 as part of the then-ruling military-civilian junta: to provide a "democratic" fig leaf for Washington's stepped-up war against Salvadoran working people.

Duarte's inaugural speech was filled with praise for the armed forces, which he claimed had taken a "firm and decided position" to respect "the popular will." He called on Salvadorans to work "together with the armed forces to defend democracy."

But there is no democracy in El Salvador. The country has been under martial law ever since the junta decreed a state of siege in March 1980.

Under the state of siege, labor strikes are banned as "subversive," public demonstrations prohibited, collective bargaining outlawed, and wages frozen. Persons detained by the security forces may legally be held without charge for up to a year and denied access to a lawyer. In practice, most of those arrested are tortured, "disappeared," and killed.

This dictatorial rule is what the workers and peasants

of El Salvador are fighting to end under the leadership of the FMLN and FDR. But Duarte echoes Reagan in claiming that the FMLN "has invaded our country, and its actions are directed from abroad" by Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviet Union.

Duarte's supposed calls for a "dialogue" with the rebels boil down to Reagan's demand that they lay down their arms. "We will not dialogue with the guerrillas because they are an armed group," says top Duarte aide Julio Rey Prendes.

In a May 27 statement, the FDR once more affirmed its own and the FMLN's standing offer to open "a real dialogue with the Salvadoran government, leading toward a negotiated political solution to achieve peace, independence, and democracy." The FDR noted that Duarte "presents himself as an unarmed politician and says he is not willing to discuss with weapons on the table. But at the same time, he requests more arms and asserts his authority as commander-in-chief of the armed forces."

In his inaugural speech, Duarte also claimed he would "control abuses of authority and extremist violence, the death squads, and all problems of injustice." What he actually intends to do is punish a few scapegoats while leaving the basic death-squad apparatus — that is, the army and police — intact.

Duarte has likewise declared that he will not "investigate anything" in the case of the four U.S. churchwomen raped and murdered in El Salvador in December 1980. Five enlisted men from the National Guard have been convicted of that crime, but an investigation by U.S. Judge Harold Tyler has pointed to the role of Salvadoran Defense Minister Gen. Eugenio Vides Casanova in covering up the involvement of high military officers. Rather than prosecute Vides Casanova, Duarte has reconfirmed him in his powerful post.

Finally, Duarte's commitment to "social justice" can be gauged in his vow to compensate wealthy landowners affected by the abortive 1980 agrarian reform by awarding them a high percentage of shares in El Salvador's nationalized banks.

First anniversary of Maurice Bishop visit to U.S.

On June 5, 1983, Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop spoke before 2,500 people in the auditorium of Hunter College in New York. This speech to U.S. working people by the central leader of the Grenada revolution explained the revolutionary transformation taking place in that Caribbean country. Bishop also answered the U.S. lies about the Grenada revolution. In the excerpts printed below, Bishop takes up the slanders about his government's relations with Cuba. The speech appears in *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, available from Pathfinder Press:

[Critics of Grenada's revolution] have also raised over and over again the question of our relations with

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

Cuba. . . . Every now and then when the red herring of detainees and elections and the press is finished, you will hear them say: Soviet and Cuban satellite.

You hear them say that the links with Cuba are such that it is dangerous to the security of the region.

What do we say on this question? We say first of all that yes, we have warm, fraternal relations with the government and people of Cuba. That is true. [Applause]

We say secondly that to us this is a matter of fundamental principle. And there are at least three very good reasons why we will always have good relations with the government and people of Cuba.

The first reason: we see Cuba as part of our Caribbean family of nations. One of the greatest curses of colonialism was that they divided the region according to different metropolitan centers. They taught us different languages. . . . And based on this linguistic nonsense, they taught us to hate each other.

. . . . They tell us if you're speaking Dutch, you're the best. If it's English, you're the best, French is the best, Spanish is the best, American is the best. And all of us hating each other.

When in fact we are one people from one Caribbean with one struggle and one destiny.

We see it therefore as one of our historic duties and responsibilities to pull down these artificial barriers of colonialism and to develop that oneness and that unity that we nearly lost.

The second reason is, we are a nonaligned country. We believe in nonalignment. And to us, nonalignment means that you have the right to choose your own friends. Nonalignment to us means that we have the right and duty to diversify and expand our relationships and our friendships around the world. Nonalignment to us is not something that implies neutrality. Nonalignment is not meant to make you into a political eunuch that can't speak.

Nonalignment is meant to make you speak out loud and clear for what you believe in. And we have principles we believe in. [Applause]

There is also a third reason we will always have relations — warm, fraternal, close relations — with the people and government of Cuba. And that is our admiration and our respect for the internationalism and the achievements of the Cuban people. [Applause] Whether they like it or not, Cuba was the first revolution in this hemisphere to have succeeded. And if there was no Cuban revolution, there could have been no Grenada or Nicaraguan revolution. [Applause]

Whether they like it or not, Cuba was the first country in this hemisphere to give a sound licking to U.S. imperialism at the Bay of Pigs. [Applause]

Whether they like it or not, Cuban internationalist soldiers have been the first in the world to charge the racist South African monster and to face it with arms in hands while defending Angola. [Chants of "Viva Cuba! Viva Cuba! Viva Cuba!"]

If there were no Cuban internationalist troops in Angola, how long ago would the South African apartheid monster have overrun Angola with the assistance of several Western powers? Cuba is a great stabilizing factor in that Angola equation. And that is why when they come up with this hypocrisy of linkage, and say that for Namibia to get independence, Cuban troops have to leave, we who are in the Third World understand that and have seen their bluff and will fully back the Cuban soldiers and the Angolan people in ensuring that they stay in Angola.

They can choose their South African and their Haitian and Chilean and South Korean and every dictator friend they wish. That is okay. But we can't choose our friends. Because we too small and poor to have the right to choose. They like to talk a lot about backyard and front-yard and lake. Grenada is nobody's backyard and part of nobody's lake. [Applause]



Expose 'terrorist' bill

Senate hearings have begun on proposed legislation that poses a grave danger to democratic rights. On June 5 Justice Department lawyers testified in favor of an "anti-terrorist" bill before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism.

The bill is part of a four-bill packet proposed by the Reagan administration in April. It would make it a crime to provide training or "logistical, mechanical, maintenance, or similar support services," or "to act in concert with" any foreign government or group designated as "terrorist" by the Secretary of State.

The bill would also provide jail terms up to 10 years and fines up to \$100,000 for those who assist those branded as terrorists by the Secretary of State.

The bill specifically denies anyone charged under the law the right to even challenge in court the Secretary of State's designation! Moreover, no proof of intent to assist any specific act of terrorism would be required.

The labor movement, antiwar activists, and all defenders of democratic rights should speak out against this throwback to McCarthyism. The dangers of such legislation are many, and they are serious.

What, for instance, does it mean to "act in concert with" a government or group that supports "terrorism" in the eyes of Washington? Does a trip to Nicaragua to help the embattled Nicaraguan people harvest their coffee crop fit into such a category?

What about writing an article or making a speech that

tells the truth about the accomplishments of the Cuban revolution?

Do demonstrators who march to oppose U.S. intervention in El Salvador and to express their solidarity with the just struggle of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) risk prosecution under this proposed new law?

The answer could very well be yes. Washington has already accused the FMLN and the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua of being "terrorists" or sponsors of "terrorism."

Libya, Iran, and others who have stood up to U.S. imperialism are also listed as "terrorist." Defenders of such anti-imperialist actions inside the United States can also be victimized if this bill becomes law.

Opponents of the U.S. war in Central America would clearly be among the first victims of this new attack on democratic rights. But the danger goes well beyond the threat to antiwar activists. If such legislation becomes law, trade unionists, Black, Chicano, or Puerto Rican rights fighters, and women's rights proponents will all become targets. In the eyes of the employing class — the real terrorists — all working people who fight for their rights are terrorists.

The aim of this bill is to give the rulers another weapon in their war on the oppressed and exploited of the world. It should be loudly opposed by all defenders of civil liberties.

Mason in Ireland

I was very happy to read the recent cover story on Mel Mason's trip to England and Ireland where he will talk about his socialist campaign for president and have a chance to talk to the working people of those countries.

Mel's trip comes at the same time as the recent reports of Ronald Reagan's trip to Ireland. It has been reported in the news that the Catholic church is helping to organize demonstrations against Reagan's policy in El Salvador.

The Mason trip to these countries will help show the solidarity between these peoples and will be an educational experience. I am looking forward to the articles in the *Militant* on the trip.

Dennis Chambers
San Diego, California

\$50 donation

Enclosed is a donation to the *Militant* for \$50. I don't need a subscription. I get it from a friend. I enjoy reading the *Militant* always. Good luck.

J.G.

Grenada and democracy

The *Militant's* interview with Maurice Bishop, reprinted from *The Black Scholar*, showed the

Caribbean martyr's revolutionary determination.

Passages dealing with democracy within Grenada provoked more questions than they answered, however. For example, how could the Coard clique have so easily usurped military power? The fact that the people's militias were unarmed has been put forth in previous articles as an explanation. But what about democracy within the army?

A democratically organized and politically educated army would have voted through its own councils not to recognize the usurpers, and, in fact, to remove them by force of arms. Why did this not happen?

In the interview, Bishop speaks of a Constitutional Convention, which presumably did not occur. Is it the *Militant's* position that such a convention would have prevented the Coard group's coming to power?

Indeed, what is to prevent usurpation of power in any revolutionary state by an armed clique? Perhaps an armed populace is one answer, but that populace must be organized to recognize and fight for its interests independently, if necessary.

Albert Cassorla
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

'Killing Floor' review

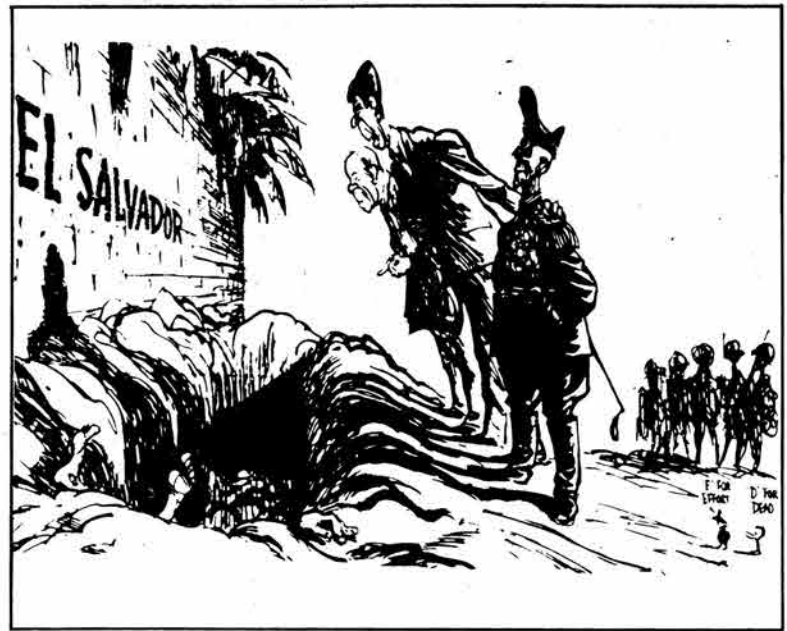
I want to respond to Pete Seidman's letter about my review of *The Killing Floor* (see May 18 *Militant*) by explaining my purpose in writing the article and why my reaction to the program differs on some points from Seidman's.

The show dealt with the situation faced by Black workers hired into the Chicago stockyards during the 1917-1919 unionization struggle. Contrary to Seidman's interpretation of my article, I made no attempt to analyze the artistic merits of the program.

Instead I gave a brief sketch of the historical background of the struggle and suggested some books that deal with the need for an alliance between Blacks and labor, and which give more examples from the experiences of the U.S. working class in the process of forging this alliance.

Some of the facts I outlined repeated those that were included in the show. Others I included because aspects of the program were inaccurate and incomplete.

For instance, the show's central character is portrayed as virtually the only Black worker in the plant who actively builds the union throughout the period covered, while those Black characters who most forcefully speak out against racism are almost without exception the most antiunion.



Oliphant

"Ah, not too many at all! That shows a distinct improvement in human rights, Mr. Shultz."

The failure of the union campaign to win the majority of Black workers seems to be accounted for in the program by the inability of Black workers to recognize the need for the union, rather than by the more complex forces referred to in my review.

I think it would be wrong to completely overlook these and other weaknesses in the program, just as it would be wrong to ignore the positive impact of a TV production that inspires workers to

discuss and investigate vital political issues.

Carol Burke
New York, New York

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.

Struggles of Black working women key to labor

It's rough being Black in America. But for Black women, "rough" is an understatement.

Of course, no one knows this fact better than Black women themselves. At the recent national convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), Black



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

women unionists met to discuss some of the problems confronting them. This women's conference was an official part of the CBTU convention — an historic first.

Addie Wyatt, head of CBTU's women's committee and international vice-president of the United Food and Commercial Workers, gave a keynote address to the assembled women unionists. She explained the need for Black unionists to fight for affirmative action, comparable pay for comparable work, and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Wyatt also explained that the fight for women's equality was a Black issue too.

Due to racial discrimination, sexual oppression, and class exploitation, Black women workers face a triple oppression. A recent study brings forward some facts that

highlight this harsh reality. The report, published by the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, was prepared for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Here are some of the figures that emerge from the study, which is entitled "Uncertainty and Risk in Low-Income Black Working Women":

- More than 1.5 million Black women whose work is the main support for their families are below the federal government's poverty level — a measly \$9,000 a year for a family of four.
- Black women earn about 84 percent of what white women receive in wages, which means they earn less than 50 percent of the income of white males.
- More than 43 percent of Black women below the poverty level are forced to work part-time jobs because they can't find full-time employment.
- Only a little more than 25 percent of poor Black women workers are covered by pension plans.
- Only about 33 percent of Black working women have health coverage where they work.
- Black working women who seek public assistance or child support receive much lower payments than their white counterparts.

Racism keeps Black women from getting much needed employment. Sex discrimination further bars them from jobs. When they're finally able to fight their way into a job, it's generally backbreaking work for low pay.

Once on the job, Black women are subjected to further

racial and sexual discrimination. They are locked out of higher-paying job categories, which underscores the need for affirmative action programs with quotas in order to improve their standard of living.

Comparable pay for comparable worth is also needed to protect women from discriminatory job classifications that track them into so-called unskilled jobs that, in fact, require just as much training and skills as higher-paying classifications.

Another problem facing working women is sexual harassment on the job. Here, also, Black women are hardest hit. According to a recent survey conducted by 9 to 5, the National Association of Working Women, nearly 50 percent of Black women workers have been victims of sexual harassment on the job. Black women were found to be more likely to be sexually harassed than white women if their workplace was more than 50 percent white.

Conferences like that sponsored by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists provide an important opportunity for Black women unionists to discuss these and other issues. As Wyatt explained, Black women workers need to increase their involvement in the Coalition of Labor Union Women and other women's organizations.

The entire labor movement should champion the demands for affirmative action, pay equity, and an end to sexual harassment on the job. The fight for Black and women's equality can only be advanced by mobilizing the potential power of the organized labor movement against capitalist exploitation and oppression.

Mother's Day in Nicaragua: tribute to war victims

The following is a guest column by Jane Harris, one of the *Militant* correspondents in our Managua, Nicaragua, bureau.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Mother's Day was commemorated here May 30 and not a trace of Hallmark was



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Margaret Jayko

to be found. In fact, in revolutionary Nicaragua, commercialization of the date is not permitted.

Instead, a serious tribute was paid.

René, a 10-year-old neighbor of mine, rapped on the door at 7 a.m., urging me to tape up a photo-poster to my front door.

Unrolling it, I could see it was the same one I'd seen way out in the countryside. Produced by the Department

of Political Education and Propaganda of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), a smiling soldier is seen hugging his mother tight, about to present her with a carnation.

"Mother," says the poster, "where your name is mentioned, it will give rise to victory."

That fit right in with the quarter-page ads in the press here paid for by the Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE).

"Nicaraguan mother. Heroic mother," they begin. "Let our love for our mothers be expressed through solidarity with combatants of the homeland."

The ads urge Nicaraguans to bring canned food, cookies, socks, soap, cigarettes, handkerchiefs, caramels, and other light-weight, relatively inexpensive presents to AMNLAE offices for distribution to Sandinista soldiers.

Just as I finished reading the Mother's Day message from the National Directorate of the FSLN, printed on the front page of their daily, *Barricada*, René came back.

"What's up?" I asked him. "Doesn't the poster look great?"

"Yes, it sure does. But I wondered if you could do something else for me. Could you type this message to Doña Amaya?"

Doña Amaya's two sons were killed in combat by Somoza's National Guard. René's carefully penciled-out

message was on behalf of our neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committee, expressing to Doña Amaya our solidarity with her as a mother and our appreciation for her sons' contribution to the liberation of Nicaragua.

Naturally I went straight to the typewriter.

That day, all over Nicaragua, in the factories and in the countryside, rallies, fiestas, and marches paid tribute to heroic mothers and their children.

Nicaragua, a country of only 3 million, lost 50,000 lives in order to bring about the July 19, 1979, revolution that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza. With the current U.S.-funded war, more than 3,000 have been killed.

Given the misery this has caused so many mothers here, upon entering the Council of State, I was not surprised to see that the first point on the agenda was the sending of a Mother's Day greeting from that legislature.

The right-wing parties tried to block the message on the flimsy excuse, "we weren't consulted beforehand" and "the message really doesn't include all Nicaraguan mothers."

After an hour debate, Council of State Pres. Carlos Núñez took the floor to explain that the message was to all mothers — "even those with the misfortune of giving birth to a Somozaist!"

The war here is intensifying on all fronts — military, economic, and ideological. And Mother's Day was hardly exempt from the battlefield.

Toledo rally against union-busting

Meeting celebrates 1934 auto strike; discusses lessons for today



OCAW Local 7-912 Pres. Ron Rinna at June 3 Toledo labor rally. He pointed to urgency of labor solidarity. "No union can stand alone," said Rinna.

BY MALIK MIAH

TOLEDO — Four hundred working people gathered outside the Lucas County Courthouse June 3 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famous 1934 Electric Auto-Lite strike that transformed this city into a union town.

On June 1, 1934, a powerful rally of 40,000 was held at the same spot. That outpouring capped a determined effort by the labor movement that forced the employers to sign a six-month union contract on June 4. This victory paved the way for the unionization of auto workers across the country.

The June 3 rally occurred in a new context: Toledo is a union town, but unions here, as in other cities, are under fierce attack by the employing class and its government, cops, courts, and big-business media. The battles in the 1930s opened a nationwide labor offensive that led to the union organization of workers in basic industries such as steel, auto, and rubber. Today they are defensive struggles to keep what workers have won, including their unions.

In Toledo workers are out in three important strikes — United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 14 at AP Parts; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) at Sun Oil; and Teamsters at Interstate Trucking. Interstate recently used the bankruptcy laws to close its facilities after workers rejected a concession contract.

Unionists from all three strikes were present at the commemorative rally. So were workers from several other UAW-organized plants in the area; other unions; and nearby cities such as Detroit, Cleveland, and Cincinnati.

The rally was organized by the Toledo Area Solidarity Committee (TASC) — a group that began as a support organization for striking Greyhound workers last fall. Many of its leaders are union activists who focus their fire on the top labor officials. This approach was outlined by the TASC speakers at the rally.

The TASC called the rally several months ago. It took on added importance after the AP Parts strike began. That strike, and the lessons being learned from it, were at the center of most speeches given June 3. It was what most workers present were interested in discussing.

On May 21, 3,000 workers joined strikers outside the AP Parts gates to protest company union-busting and the hiring of scabs. That direct action challenged a court injunction limiting the number of pickets to six. It made national news as workers battled cops who attacked the demonstration.

The June 3 rally was thus not only a commemoration of the great '34 strike, but

also a rededication to fight modern-day union-busting.

The speakers platform reflected an important cross section of the Toledo labor movement: Ron Rinna, president of OCAW Local 7-912; Jerry Street, president of the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers; Baldomar Velásquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee; Jake Shertzer, secretary-treasurer, UAW Local 12, Jeep Unit; and several other labor leaders.

Contract offer withdrawn in copper strike

BY KAREN KOPPERRUD

PHOENIX — In an ominous move, Phelps Dodge Corp., the largest copper producer in Arizona, withdrew its contract offer May 30 to the 13 unions of miners that have been on strike since July 1, 1983. The unions struck Phelps Dodge operations in Morenci, Ajo, and Douglas, Arizona, and in El Paso, Texas. The company is out to break the unions and has been operating with scab labor.

The now-withdrawn concession contract called for eliminating cost-of-living increases, reducing wages for new hires, and slashing pension and medical benefits. There have been no negotiations since January.

In a letter to Alex López, head of the union bargaining committee, Phelps Dodge claimed that "significant developments have occurred in the intervening period that may make the proposal no longer appropriate in the company's view. In particular the copper price instead of improving... has deteriorated so significantly, in fact, that other U.S. copper companies recently have petitioned the unions representing their employees for substantial reductions in their labor costs."

Unionists at Kennecott Corp. and Inspiration Mining Co. have recently rejected their employers' moves to reopen their three-year contracts negotiated last year.

A meeting between Phelps Dodge and the unions is scheduled for June 8.

Strikers and supporters attended a May 30 meeting at the Clifton Social Club to discuss these developments. Dr. Jorge O'Leary, the former company doctor fired for his support of the strike, called for a solidarity rally to be held in three weeks. Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Andrea González, who was on tour in Arizona, attended the meeting to show her support for the embattled miners.

May 31 was the deadline set by Phelps Dodge for 16 families of strikers in Ajo and 30 families in Morenci to vacate their company-owned homes. On the advice of

UAW Local 14 Pres. Oscar Bunch was also present and scheduled to speak. But he was advised by other UAW representatives not to do so because of court injunctions against the UAW.

Other speakers included Rev. Floyd Rose, president of the Toledo NAACP; Judy Nadlo, president of the Toledo chapter of the National Organization for Women and a member of Carpenters Local 1138; Edward Lamb, the attorney for the 1934 Auto-Lite strikers; and Tim McCormick, a retired member of the United Transportation Union and Auto-Lite veteran.

Lamb urged the AP Parts workers to continue their strike until their demands are met. He said the same principles involved in 1934 — particularly the right to have a union — are involved in today's battle.

The two most well received speakers were Ron Rinna of OCAW and Floyd Rose of the NAACP.

Rinna's union has been on strike at Sun Oil since March. With only 440 members, the local leadership recognized that reaching out to other working people was essential to beat back the oil giants' attacks.

"Solidarity must not be just a word," he said. "We must live it. No longer can one union stand alone. No longer can one international union stand alone. Even more difficult yet, no longer can one individual stand alone."

"We must aid and assist our unemployed

brothers and sisters. We must give them a viable alternative to being a scab. We must direct our government to aid those of us who can't find work."

"We must stand together," Rinna continued, "as we stood together there at that rally [the May 21 militant protest]. We must not allow any one of us to fall victim of that day."

"If the labor movement," he added, "is to survive, those heroes who are currently facing felony charges in this county must be spared. We have to do what it takes to make sure those felony charges don't stick on these individuals — whatever it takes."

On June 4, three of the 41 workers arrested May 21, and the worker arrested May 22, for "aggravated rioting" went before Municipal Court. The judge ruled there was "probable cause" and turned the cases over to a grand jury, which has the power to issue indictments. It is clear that the aim is to intimidate and discourage workers from participating in more May 21-type actions.

The workers' attorney, Keith Sparrow, told the *Militant* it will likely take three weeks of preliminary hearings to process all 42 arrested workers.

The UAW leadership hasn't yet indicated the type of defense effort it will mount. But the sentiment at the June 3 rally was clear: "not 42, but all of us are on trial."

This sentiment also reflects workers' un-

Continued on Page 9

union lawyers, most are not moving.

Phelps Dodge has filed suit to regain possession of the housing. Those slated for eviction, according to a company official, are considered "a detriment to harmonious relations within our town site."

In Clifton, seven strikers and supporters were bound over for trial in Greenlee Superior Court on felony charges including "rioting," "resisting arrest," and "aggravated assault." The charges arose from a police attack on a May 5 solidarity rally held in Clifton.

Defense attorney Antonio Bustamante said, "What they are doing here is a slimy thing. There is screaming, glaring evidence that they are all innocent..." He termed the move "political harassment."

W. Va. socialist candidates condemn police attacks on British coal miners

The following telegram was sent to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher following the arrest of British National Union of Mineworkers Pres. Arthur Scargill on May 30. The telegram was signed by West Virginia Socialist Workers Party U.S. senatorial candidate Joan Radin and gubernatorial candidate David Ferguson. Both Radin and Ferguson are members of the United Mine Workers of America.

We vigorously protest the use of police violence against striking miners and the arrest of National Union of Mineworkers President Arthur Scargill. As members of the United Mine Workers of America, facing attempts by U.S. coal operators to impose on us an unfavorable contract and weaken our union, we solidarize with the struggle of our British brothers and sisters against threatened mine closures, the permanent layoffs of thousands of miners, and the breaking of their union.

One of those facing trial is Beverly Cole, a leader of the Women's Auxiliary. Her felony charges arise from an alleged "littering incident" on April 10.

In yet another strike-breaking move the first steps have been taken to decertify one of the striking unions. The Clifton newspaper, *The Copper Era*, reported in its May 16 edition that David G. Ramirez, a former member of the United Transportation Union (UTU) who has continued working for Phelps Dodge as a locomotive engineer, filed a decertification petition against the UTU.

July 1 will mark the one-year anniversary date of the strike. If a decertification vote is conducted after that date, members of the UTU who remain on strike will be ineligible to vote in the election.

We hold you, and the notorious antilabor policies of your government, responsible for shedding the blood of picketing coal miners whose only objective is a decent living for themselves and their families.

While arresting Brother Scargill and other miners, your government is planning to welcome Ronald Reagan to Britain next week. Yet President Reagan's union-busting and war policies have earned him the hatred of working people in the United States, Britain, and throughout the world. Your hostility to the cause of labor could not be made plainer.

Because of the legitimacy of their demands and their courageous actions, British coal miners have won the solidarity of the labor movement in Britain and gained support among unionists in many other countries, including the United States.

We stand with them in demanding: Drop the charges against striking miners and President Scargill! Cops out of the coal fields! No closures and no layoffs!