

Nicaragua war: Congress covers up U.S. escalation

"The Senate's action should bring to a close U.S. support for the war in Nicaragua." That was House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill's comment after the U.S. Senate voted 88-1 on June 25 to delete from an emergency funding bill \$21 million in aid for the U.S.-backed mercenaries attacking Nicaragua.

O'Neill was lying through his teeth.

This vote — like previous Congressional votes criticizing this CIA-organized war —

EDITORIAL

is designed to cover up Washington's steady and accelerating escalation of the war in the entire region.

The June 25 *Washington Post* reported that spokesmen for the counterrevolutionaries (contras) "insist, and most officials in the region agree, that the contras now have enough materiel and funding to continue operating without further appropriations from the U.S. Congress at least until next October, when current restrictions on back-door CIA funding expire." Congress has let the administration violate with impunity even these nominal restrictions on funding.

While Congress ostentatiously votes against this particular appropriation, Democrats and Republicans have united to massively escalate the build-up of U.S. troops in Honduras and the sending of tens of millions of dollars to the brutal Salvadoran dictatorship, which is carrying out a war of terror against the workers and peasants of that country.

The fact is that the White House, together with Congress, is stepping up its aid to the contra armed bands. The core of these bands are the officers and troops who served the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza and then fled Nicaragua when the popular revolution triumphed there in 1979.

In recent months, Nicaragua has had to confront the biggest invasion yet by the U.S.-backed mercenaries that operate from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica.



Militant/Michael Baumann
Nicaragua May 1 demonstration. Sign says "Only the workers and farmers will go all the way."

The goal of this war is to overthrow the workers and farmers government led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Washington's strategy, explained Nicaragua's Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Minister Jaime Wheelock in a May 1 speech, has been "to use aggression to strangle us economically and financially, to destroy units of production, to break up [farming] cooperatives, to murder the producers, to destroy efforts at construction, to try to block the arrival of goods at stor-

age centers, and also to mine the ports, to blockade and drown our economy, to bleed the Nicaraguan people dry."

Washington hopes that the economic hardships caused by contra sabotage will diminish support for the revolution, weaken the government, and open the way for its military overthrow.

But the U.S. rulers have failed to accomplish this. They have been unable to establish a social base for the contras inside Nicaragua. It's becoming clearer and clearer that these counterrevolutionary troops are wholly dependent upon the CIA and the Pentagon, who have recruited, armed, trained, financed, and transported them.

An article in the June 17 English-language weekly edition of *Granma*, the newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, pointed out:

"In spite of the Reagan administration's huge military and economic support, the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have so far failed to accomplish any of their major military or political goals in the war against the Sandinista Revolution. . . ."

Noting how the population of Ocotlán, Nicaragua, beat back a contra attack June 1, *Granma* continued, "The enemies of the Nicaraguan people, egged on by the United States, have wanted to capture a portion of Nicaraguan soil where a counterrevolutionary government could be proclaimed and granted immediate recognition by the U.S. government and its allies. But their efforts have invariably been frustrated."

The *New York Times* begrudgingly conceded that this is true in a June 27 editorial: "In three years, the contras have been unable to seize a single village or to generate significant support in Nicaragua's cities. . . . [T]he contras simply could not hope to overthrow the Sandinistas."

Why is Washington losing this war? Because the Nicaraguan workers and peasants view the Sandinista government as *their* government. They are fighting and dying to preserve and extend the many social gains they have achieved in the course of the five years of the revolution.

Land reform, trade union rights, literacy, rights for women, housing improve-

Continued on Page 14

Supreme Ct. rejects case of Héctor Marroquín

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Thousands of immigrants seeking political refuge here have been dealt another blow by the Supreme Court.

On June 25 the court refused without comment to hear the case of Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born trade unionist and socialist who faces deportation from the United States. Marroquín appealed to the Supreme Court for political asylum. The court's refusal to hear his case quashes the asylum request.

But Marroquín remains in this country, pursuing his application for permanent resident status based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen, Priscilla Schenk. This application process will take at least several more months.

In light of the Supreme Court decision, Marroquín and his supporters are stepping up the campaign to stop his deportation and win him a green card, that is, permanent resident status. They are urging all supporters of democratic rights — from unionists, to Black and Latino activists, to women's rights fighters and opponents of U.S. war — to join the protests demanding Marroquín's right to remain in this country.

The high court's June 25 decision came only a few weeks after its June 5 ruling in the case of Predrag Stevic, which said that immigrants faced with deportation proceedings must show a "clear probability" of persecution in their native country to avoid deportation.

Another blow against the democratic rights of immigrants was struck when the Supreme Court announced June 18 its refusal to hear the case of Michael O'Rourke, a one-time member of the Irish Republican Army, who was fighting for political asylum here. He was deported and is now in an Irish prison.

Marroquín remains in the United States today only because of a broadly supported drive — organized by the Political Rights Defense Fund — demanding his right to live and work here.

Because of this support, in early June Marroquín won an important victory in his fight against deportation. The victory came in the wake of a suit filed by his attorneys in federal court on May 4 to prevent the government from making a sudden move to deport him before his application for a green card is completed.

In addition to the court move, Marroquín's supporters mounted a public campaign demanding the INS allow him to remain in the United States to follow through on his application for permanent residency.

Continued on Page 6

U.S. socialist candidate in Dominican Republic

MARTÍN KOPPEL

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, June 27 — The arrival here today of Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, was big news. González was invited to this Caribbean nation by the Socialist Bloc to attend the group's first convention, from



Militant/Betsy Soares
Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Andrea González.

June 28-30.

The U.S. socialist stated to the press here, "During my visit I will take part in an exchange of ideas with my Dominican brothers and sisters on building solidarity with the people of Central America. I am certain I will learn much because there is a big anti-imperialist tradition here. Dominicans have lots of experience with imperialist armed forces, having been the victims of a U.S. invasion in 1965."

"I will learn how the workers and farmers of the Dominican Republic are suffering due to the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund. As a Puerto Rican, I know the IMF — like all imperialist organizations — serves only to rob our country's wealth."

"On returning to the United States, I will use my campaign to educate the U.S. people about the situation in the Dominican Republic and to forge solidarity with you in your struggle against the IMF."

Yesterday, five nationwide radio stations announced the U.S. socialist's visit. They also broadcast an article by *Perspectiva Mundial* — the Spanish-language U.S. socialist newspaper — on the popular rebellions against IMF-dictated austerity that swept this country last April.

The Santo Domingo daily *Nuevo Diario*

ran an article today on González, noting that she and her running mate, Mel Mason, are the presidential candidates for "a revolutionary organization that has stood out in its solidarity with the Dominican people's struggle against imperialist domination of our country."

The press went to meet González at Santo Domingo's Airport of the Americas, where she was enthusiastically greeted by a broad Socialist Bloc delegation. She was then whisked off to do a series of newspaper and radio interviews.

Other international guests to the socialist convention arrived today from Martinique, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Spain. Two invited guests from Ecuador, however, were detained at the airport and deported by Dominican authorities.

In the past week the Dominican government has carried out a wave of arrests of leaders of left organizations in an attempt to prevent further mobilization by working people against the regime's austerity program. However, due to public protests, most leaders had been released by today.

The Socialist Bloc has responded to these attacks on democratic rights by stepping up its efforts to build its convention. A large public rally will be held June 29.



Militant/Harry Ring
Héctor Marroquín

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

BY LEE MARTINDALE

Socialists in many parts of the country were able to strengthen their use of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at plant gates during the recently completed sales drive and the weeks prior to it.

In Atlanta, plant-gate work got a boost from the textile workers in the nearby city of Columbus, Georgia. Socialist workers traveled to Columbus to sell the *Militant* at the textile mills and got to know some of the workers who are defending their union, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), against the attacks of the southern textile bosses.

These workers, many of them Blacks and women, were interested in sharing their experiences

with socialist ACTWU members who work in garment shops, and in discussing the idea of a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans.

Socialist garment workers from Atlanta were invited to show slides from a trip to Nicaragua at the ACTWU union meeting.

Participation in regular plant-gate sales by members of the SWP in Atlanta has been consistently high over the spring, and the number sold at plant gates has increased. A high point was sales of the issue of the *Militant* containing eyewitness coverage of the battle in Toledo between unionists and police who attacked a demonstration in solidarity with the strikers at AP Parts. Fifty-eight papers were sold at the plant gates that week.

In Cleveland, socialists report that their regular plant-gate sales were strengthened and made more effective as they went through the experience of campaigning and petitioning for Mel Mason and Andrea González, the socialist presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Collecting signatures in working-class communities to get the candidates on the ballot, they found that more than 10 percent of the people who signed the petitions also bought the *Militant* or *PM* because they were interested in the program of the socialist candidates.

At the Chrysler Twinsburg plant they made signs to attract attention to the *Militant* and found a diner where they could talk to workers

before they went in the gates. They also had record sales of the Toledo issue of the *Militant*, selling 49 at the Twinsburg plant alone.

At a meeting held several months ago to plan their spring activities, members of the Socialist Workers Party in New York and New Jersey decided to put a priority on involving every member of the party in regular weekly sales at the plant gates. They pointed to the extensive discussions they had had with coworkers and others about the invasion of Grenada as an example of the fundamental questions workers are thinking about. Being part of these kinds of discussions, the socialists decided, is one of the most important ways to advance a socialist perspective among working people

right now. Introducing the *Militant* and *PM* to workers at the plant gates is a key way to do this.

In the months since this discussion, regular *Militant* and *PM* sales have been established at auto plants in New York and New Jersey and at garment shops organized by International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25, the largest and strongest section of the union in the area.

By continuing regular teams to the plant gates with the *Militant* and *PM*, socialists will be able to contribute the experiences of the British coal miners, the example of the workers and farmers in El Salvador, and examples of the socialist program for fighting back here in this country to the discussions already going on inside these plants.

Circulation drive 'has given us new boldness'

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

"The response we got to the ideas in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* while we were campaigning and petitioning for Mel Mason and Andrea González was great. It has given us a whole new boldness in putting forward our socialist perspective everywhere we go, and we're going to keep doing it." This comment from a participant in the recently completed spring sales drive is a good summary of the conclusion socialists around the country are reaching as they assess the accomplishments of the drive.

The goal of the drive was to increase the use of the socialist newspapers to get into discussions with working-class fighters around the big political questions of the day. Special emphasis was put on introducing the campaign newspapers to the tens of thousands of people the socialists meet while petitioning for ballot status for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Mason and González and on reaching out with *PM* to workers whose first language is Spanish. An integral part of the projection was introducing young people to the *Young Socialist*, newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Socialists sell the press all year round, but during a sales drive, they devote more attention and discussion to how to improve their ongoing efforts to take the newspapers to workers on the job; to Black, Latino, and other working-class communities; to political events and demonstrations; and to high schools and campuses in their areas. The fact that the drive had no national weekly numerical goal gave the socialist campaigners maximum flexibility to experiment with new ways of using the socialist press to reach out and integrate use of the press into all their discussions and activities.

From the first week of the drive, socialist campaigners involved in petitioning efforts to gain ballot status for Mason and González found a special receptivity to

the *Militant* and *PM*. These drives involve mountains of paperwork and are designed by the government to discourage workers from seeking ballot status. But the socialist campaigners are not simply collecting signatures. They organize to take the time to explain the program and strategy of their candidates.

This year they are finding that a large percentage of the people they talk with want to buy and read the campaign newspapers. In Michigan over 450 papers were sold during petitioning. Socialist campaigners in Colorado sold 144 copies of the *Militant* and 47 copies of *PM* in three weeks of petitioning. In West Virginia, over 200 copies of the *Militant* were sold. As an Ohio campaign activist put it, "Showing people our campaign newspapers while we were talking with them about signing the petitions made both activities more productive and more fun."

For six of the eight weeks of the sales drive, members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago were petitioning. The Chicago socialists decided that their goal would be for each member to sell once a week at plant gates, once at a community sale organized by the branch (usually while petitioning on Saturdays), and one other time.

"We decided," explained Jim Little, chairperson of the Chicago SWP, "that this was the most important contribution socialists can make today to the on-going discussions and struggles. And sales of the press aren't really something separate from everything else we do." The socialists realized that in the course of any week, every member gets into political discussions on the job, at their union hall, at solidarity committee meetings, even at the laundromat or the bus stop. The most natural thing in the world is to pull out a copy of a socialist newspaper.

With this approach the Chicago campaigners went over the 1,200 goal they had set for themselves.

In Denver, socialist petitioners took both the *Militant* and *PM* with them when they went out. Many workers all over the city preferred to read more about the program and activities of the candidates and the Socialist Workers Party and YSA in Spanish, even if they also read English.

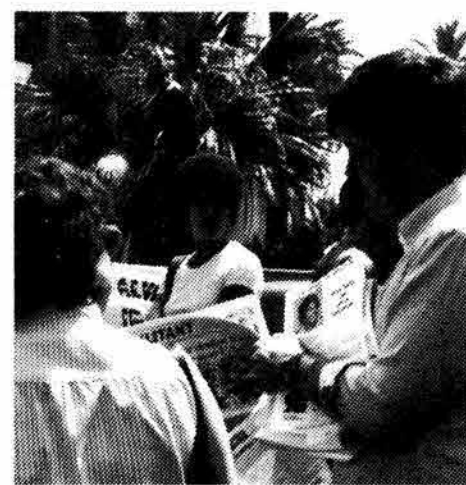
In New Orleans, a city whose population is majority Black, socialists took the *PM* to areas where Central American immigrants live and met Spanish-speaking workers who want to discuss and learn more about the program and activities of revolutionaries in the United States.

In other cities socialist campaigners decided that their biggest challenge was organizing campaign Saturdays as a regular activity, and accomplished this during the drive. Still others focused on organizing to increase participation in the socialists' efforts to maintain a regular political presence at the most important plants in the area. (See "Selling Our Press at the Plant Gates" above.)

For socialists in many areas, selling the *Militant* and *PM* went hand in hand with promoting the Pathfinder Press book, *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, and discussing the gains and the example of the Grenada revolution. The Young Socialist Alliance in New York City set up tables in the Black and Caribbean communities, offering a subscription to the *Militant* with a copy of the book of Bishop's speeches.

The numerical national goal for the drive was to sell 35-40,000 papers during the eight-week period of the drive. In spite of the fact that the final total of 30,584 fell short of that goal, the political accomplishments of the drive were substantial. Well over half the areas surpassed their local goals, with many reporting that this wasn't really a stretch.

The key was integrating circulation of the press into all their activities. Sometimes it was as simple as remembering to introduce the paper to the people they met on the job, at political meetings, demon-



Militant
Members of Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance increased use of the socialist press to advance discussions with working people on how to fight the bosses' attacks at home and abroad.

strations against the U.S. war in Central America, and while collecting signatures on nominating petitions.

Branches that did not meet the goals they set for themselves report that they nevertheless made substantial progress toward making circulation of the press central to all their activities.

Most important, the response among working-class fighters to the ideas in the *Militant* and *PM* leads to the conclusion that the activities initiated during the weeks of the sales drive should continue in the coming months. Many of the petition drives are not completed; campaign Saturdays will continue.

Socialists will discuss how to improve use of the *Young Socialist* to introduce young people to the YSA. Members and supporters of the SWP and YSA will continue using the socialist press to discuss with thousands of radicalizing workers how to change the world.

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MAURICE BISHOP SPEAKS

THE GRENADA REVOLUTION 1979-83



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Protests hit Simpson-Mazzoli bill

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Protests against the U.S. House of Representatives' adoption of the Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill occurred in several cities recently. Chicanos, Mexicans living in the United States, and undocumented workers — many of them unionists — have been among the most outspoken in their opposition to the reactionary measure. Some protests have won official trade union support.

In Phoenix more than 100 people rallied June 21 in front of the State Capitol to support striking copper miners and protest the Simpson-Mazzoli bill.

The miners, many of whom are Chicano or Mexican, are in the 11th month of a strike against Phelps Dodge Corp. Many miners see passage of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill as part of the same racist and anti-labor offensive being waged by Phelps Dodge and Democratic Gov. Bruce Babbitt against the strikers.

"Simpson-Mazzoli is Racist," read one picket sign at the Phoenix protest. Strike leaders and other miners from Ajo and Clifton-Morenci were among the participants in the action. Also present were activists from the Arizona Farmworkers as well as the United Farm Workers of America.

After picketing outside, the protesters went into Governor Babbitt's office to voice their outrage at his strike-breaking role.

Despite the scorching temperature, over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, nearly 700 people demonstrated against the Simpson-Mazzoli bill in a June 22 noonday protest in Tucson, Arizona. Again, there were large numbers of Chicano workers as well as undocumented workers, students, and some elected officials.

The spirited march went to the office of Rep. Morris Udall, a leading Democrat in the U.S. Congress. While Udall voted against the bill, protesters felt that he failed to lead a serious fight against the measure, which was adopted with a small margin of votes.

Rep. James McNulty, another Arizona Democratic congressman, was also picketed. Fifteen people protested outside McNulty's campaign headquarters during its June 22 opening celebration.

A protest against the Simpson-Mazzoli bill also took place in Los Angeles on June 21. One hundred fifty people picketed the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office there. The protest was called by the Anti-Simpson-Mazzoli Coalition. Speakers at the rally that capped the protest included representatives of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, United Electrical Workers, and the United Furniture Workers of America.

New York City was also the scene of protest action against the Simpson-Mazzoli bill. One hundred people participated in a June 18 picket outside the INS offices in Manhattan. The action was sponsored by the Committee for Fair Immigration Legislation, a coalition of immigrants' organizations, churches, and legal groups in the city.

Speakers at the demonstration included Lourdes Santiago, a legal consultant for the Center for Immigrants' Rights, Inc.; Apolinar Trinidad, a leader of Latin United for Political Action; U.S. Rep.

Robert García, Democrat from the Bronx and head of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus; and Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist the INS has been trying to deport for seven years.

In Santa Ana, California, Mario Moreno López held a June 21 news conference organized by the United League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) to protest the Simpson-Mazzoli bill. Moreno López, 14 years old, was snatched off the streets last February by the INS and deported to Mexico. He is a permanent U.S. resident.

"My Hispanic friends," said Moreno López, "we should do something to resist this. I am against this law, and invite you to join us in the struggle. I am *mexicano* and have brown skin. But they didn't listen... they didn't try to find out if I was legal or not. They took me to the border without caring what might happen to me."

The INS's racist treatment of Moreno López underscores the fact that Chicanos, Latinos, Asians, Blacks, and anyone else who looks "foreign" will face even greater victimization when Simpson-Mazzoli, which strengthens the INS, becomes law.



Militant

Ariz. copper miners to mark 1 year of strike

BY KAREN KOPPERUD

PHOENIX — On June 21 an angry crowd of more than 100 people demonstrated in 100-degree heat at the State Capitol here in support of embattled copper miners. The miners, members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and 12 other unions, have been on strike against Phelps Dodge Corp. for almost a full year. The company has continued operating with scab labor and seeks to bust the unions.

The demonstration included strikers from the copper towns of Clifton and Ajo, among them Alex López, president of the striking USWA local in Ajo. Others came from the Arizona Farmworkers and other unions, as well as the Tucson-based Coalition for Justice. Dr. Jorge O'Leary, a former Phelps Dodge doctor fired for his support to the strike, was also on hand. The action was organized by Arizonans for Fair

and Decent Treatment for Arizonans.

The demonstrators were predominantly Chicano and included a number of elected officials. Opposition to the racist Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill was also voiced loudly by the protesters.

The marchers demanded a meeting with Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt. Babbitt, a Democrat, has twice sent the National Guard into the copper towns to back Phelps Dodge union-busting.

After keeping the demonstrators waiting for more than an hour, Babbitt agreed to the meeting. However, he refused the protesters' demand that state police be withdrawn from the copper towns and repeated false charges that strikers and their supporters are responsible for violent incidents. He agreed only to assign an aide to study the strike and to set up a committee to hear complaints.

On June 30 the USWA and 12 other

striking unions organized in the Clifton-Morenci Labor Unity Council will hold the "First Annual Solidarity Rally" in Clifton to mark the end of the first year of the strike. The USWA is organizing busloads of strike supporters from Phoenix and Tucson. Strikers from Ajo and other copper towns are also expected to attend.

USWA international Pres. Lynn Williams addressed a crowd of angry and frustrated strikers in Clifton on June 25. Williams called Phelps Dodge's union-busting a "scandal, disgraceful, an insult to humanity." He asserted that the international union has no intention of "walking away from the strike."

However, Williams offered little encouragement to workers seeking to turn the tide of the battle and stop the union-busting. He told the strikers they could continue to draw on the union strike fund but, in response to angry questions, offered no proposals for how to mobilize active solidarity with the strike. He promised only to look for new ways to pressure Phelps Dodge.

Meanwhile, Phelps Dodge gives every indication of continuing its union-busting. On May 30 it withdrew its contract offer.

At a June 8 meeting, union negotiators offered to compromise on some of the concession demands that had been made by the company. The unions offered to accept a two-year freeze on cost-of-living-allowance payments, a \$2 an hour pay cut for 6 months, increased medical insurance payments by workers in the form of a new monthly premium payment, and the gradual return to work of strikers.

Phelps Dodge chief negotiator John Ladd rejected the proposal stating, "We are not going to do anything to jeopardize the jobs of our current employees." Ladd also told the press that with the strike entering its second year, he expected to see efforts to decertify the striking unions. After July 1 only scabs will be eligible to vote in such decertification elections.

In the wake of the Phelps Dodge strike, the employers throughout the copper industry in the Southwest have escalated the assault against the unions. The Kennecott, Inspiration Consolidated, and Magma copper companies have all demanded that the three-year contract signed with the unions last year, be reopened. All are looking for concessions along the lines of what Phelps Dodge has demanded. Kennecott threatened to lay off 2,000 workers in Utah if the unions refused to reopen the contract.

Initially the unions rejected this demand. However, on June 18 the union National Non-Ferrous Industry Conference offered to participate in a meeting with representatives of all the union-organized copper companies — including Phelps Dodge — to discuss the situation in the industry. This decision evidently failed to satisfy Kennecott, which laid off 1,795 Utah miners on June 22.

New editors at 'Militant,' 'PM'

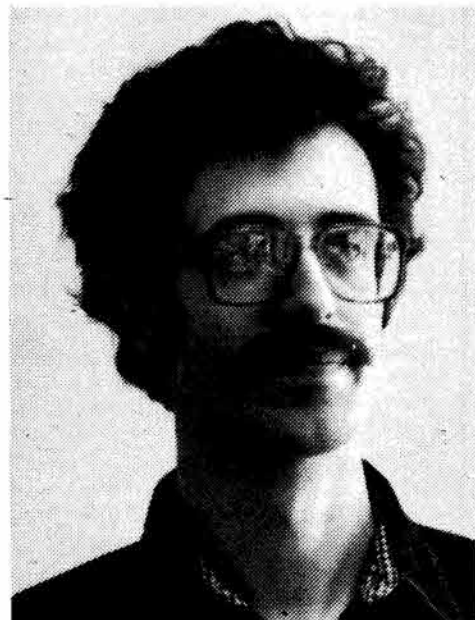
Militant readers will notice some changes in this week's masthead on page 2.

Malik Miah, a national cochairperson of the Socialist Workers Party, has become one of our editors. A former member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at Danly Machine in Chicago, Miah is a veteran activist in the labor and Black movements and has written extensively for the *Militant*.

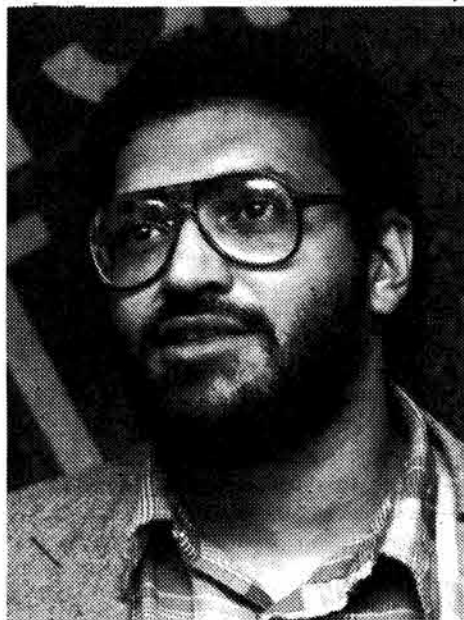
The *Militant's* Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, also has a new editor, Martin Koppel. Previously an activist in the USWA at the Sparrows Point plant in Baltimore, Koppel is a National Committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Koppel replaces José G. Pérez, who now heads the *Militant-Perspectiva Mundial* bureau in Managua, Nicaragua. Pérez has written for years on Central America and the Caribbean and is a National Committee member of the SWP. Our other correspondent in Managua is Ellen Kratka, a former activist in the International Union of Electronics Workers at ITT in Clifton-Nutley, New Jersey.

Doug Jenness, who had been an editor of the *Militant*, is now editing *Intercontinental Press*. He replaces Steve Clark, who is helping to edit the Marxist theoretical journal *New International* and is working on the Pathfinder Press project of translating and publishing major documents of the Communist International.



Martin Koppel



Malik Miah

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Atlantans celebrate Grenada book, revolution's gains

BY WYNSTON JEFFRIES

ATLANTA — "Imperialism is strong. But what Grenadians found out, like the Cubans, is that there is a stronger force — a united people."

These were the words of Jerome Sadiki McBarnette. McBarnette, a Grenadian youth, was speaking to a June 9 gathering here celebrating the publication of the Pathfinder Press book *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. McBarnette went on to explain the reason the U.S. government hated the Grenada revolution. "Imperialism was afraid," he said, "that other countries would emulate the Grenada revolution."

Fifty people came to this barbecue and celebration to hear McBarnette and others. More than half the participants were Black. They came from civil rights groups, unions, and Central American organizations. They came out with a sense of deep concern for the Grenada revolution and to learn what went wrong. Why was the government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop overthrown?

Fifteen copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* were sold at the event. Seventy dollars was collected to help publicize the book in the Atlanta area.

The composition of the celebration also showed broad interest in how the Grenada revolution affected the life of those exploited and oppressed in the United States. There were workers from the Lockheed

plant in Marietta, Georgia. Unionists from the American Federation of Teachers, Graphic Communications Workers, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and auto workers were there. There were activists from Atlanta Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) and six members of the National Black Independent Political Party.

A leader of the National Anti-Klan Network came as well as activists of the Atlantans Concerned about Latin America. There was also a man from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts and a young Black from a U.S. military academy.

The meeting was cochaired by Sara Jean Johnston of the Socialist Workers Party and Joyce Stafford, a leader of Operation PUSH.

This event capped a full day of activities geared to getting out publicity about *Maurice Bishop Speaks*.

That morning McBarnette addressed the membership meeting of PUSH about the revolutionary gains of his people. In the past few weeks several copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* have been sold to PUSH activists.

Later that afternoon McBarnette and Ken Milner, who is a spokesperson for Atlanta NBIPP and a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 709, were on a WCLK half-hour call-in talk show. WCLK is the most widely listened to Black jazz station. They spent time discussing the book and announced the barbecue later that day. Milner drew lessons on how the Grenadian people made big advances in their standard of living through the revolution that formed a government of workers and farmers. He said that U.S. Blacks should break with the Democratic and Republican parties and take the same path charted by the Grenada revolution.

At the barbecue, Dr. Bujung Bede, director for international affairs for Atlanta PUSH, also spoke. Bede noted that "Seven nations have been meeting in the last few days in London — spending our money —

trying to figure out how to destabilize" new revolutionary governments.

But, added Bede, "seeds planted in Grenada will bear fruit. [The revolution] has been crushed, but will rise again."

Bede urged everyone to read *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. "This book," he said, "is important to get. It's the next best thing to human life. Buy one for yourself. Buy one for a friend."

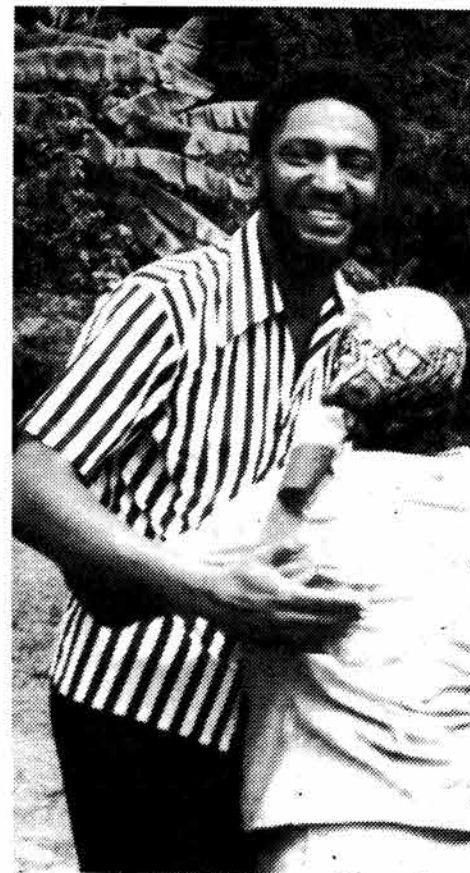
The keynote speaker was McBarnette. His brother, Kamu McBarnette, was on the central committee of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and is presently imprisoned by the U.S. occupation forces on the island.

Jerome McBarnette gave a vivid and spirited speech on the history of colonialism imposed on Grenada, the horrors of the U.S. backed Gairy dictatorship, and the gains of the Grenada revolution led by Bishop.

He explained how the revolution is still alive despite the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government and the murder of Bishop.

Supporters of the Grenada revolution, McBarnette said, should demand that the government documents taken by the U.S. occupation forces be returned to the Grenadian people. Secondly, he said, those NJM Central Committee members and others who participated in the crimes against the Grenadian people should be tried by the Grenadian people. McBarnette said this includes the murderers of Maurice Bishop.

McBarnette explained the role of imperialism before the revolution. For instance, he showed how Grenada produced cocoa, nutmeg, mace, and coconut, but commodities made from these products were imported from advanced capitalist countries at high prices.



Wayne Carter
Grenadian leader Maurice Bishop embraces a supporter. Book with collection of his speeches is being celebrated in Atlanta and other cities.

On the other hand, he said, Cuba's role in Grenada was "a total, close relationship based on mutual respect with one another." McBarnette outlined Cuba's support in building the international airport, fisheries, and other products.

"Where do we go from here?" McBarnette asked. "Because we have tasted freedom [I am] confident the revolution will not die. Revolution will rise up. The U.S. may have taken down signs, billboards, and slogans [depicting the revolution], but the U.S. hasn't been able to kill the revolutionary spirit."

Cincinnati reception

Come celebrate the publication of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. There will be a reception in Cincinnati followed by a videotape presentation of a 1983 PBS interview with Bishop, Saturday, July 7 from 8-10 p.m. The event will be held at the Terrace Hilton Hotel in the Ohio Room on the eighth floor, 16 W. 6th Street. A donation of \$3 will be requested. Sponsors of the event are the Free Grenada Committee and Pathfinder Press. For more information call (513) 221-5574 (day) or 281-2470 (evenings).

Striking Minnesota nurses rally as struggle garners new support

BY CAROLE LESNICK

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) held a spirited rally marking two and a half weeks since it struck 16 area hospitals. About 2,000 nurses and supporters attended. It was reported that the nurses are standing strong; 90-95 percent of the 6,000 nurses are honoring the picket lines.

In her opening remarks, chief MNA negotiator Cynthia Hunt noted that hospital workers in other unions still working "say to keep going — and we will!"

Katherine Lewis, president of the California Nurses Association (CNA), got several standing ovations as she gave a message of solidarity. "Minnesota nurses have made me proud to be a nurse. The medical industry is trying to balance their bad books on the backs of registered nurses. There has to be a loud and resounding "no" by nurses!"

On behalf of the CNA she presented the MNA with a check for \$10,000 for their strike fund, and an additional \$1,500 from nurses in Santa Clara County.

A report on the status of negotiations was also given.

On June 12 federal mediators forced the hospitals to return to the negotiating table. The MNA presented its proposals. At a negotiating session on June 15, the MNA outlined principles that it feels must be embodied in the settlement:

- Clear assurances that in the event of layoffs, nurses will be laid off according to seniority.

- Hospitals must regularly give more than two weeks' orientation to a nurse who is changing units.

- As more working hours become available, the hours should be spread around to those on layoff or who have had their hours reduced. New staff should not be hired to take these hours.

The hospital administrations rejected these proposals and counterposed a "meet and confer" policy.

This would mean the MNA would supposedly have input into hospital policies regarding the issues being negotiated, but all final decisions would be left up to hospital administrators. Nothing would be in writing. "This is why we're still out," reported Kathy Sceffle for the MNA negotiating team.

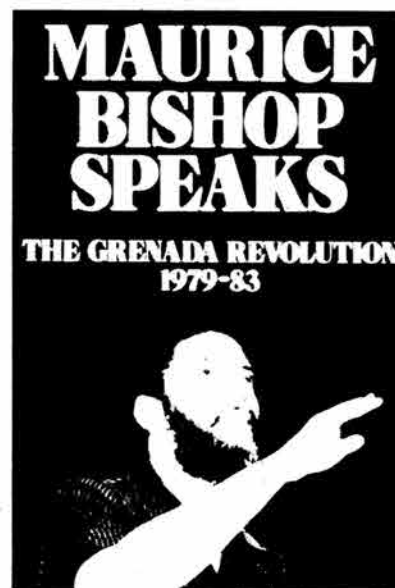
According to the news media, 16 formal complaints regarding care at struck hospitals have been filed by patients, their relatives, and by hospital staff. The state claims not to have found any broken laws. However, six hospitals have been issued citations for unsanitary conditions, for dirty kitchens, and for allowing pharmacists to administer medications.

Union support for the strike is growing. MNA locals from Duluth and Golden Valley, Minnesota, as well as MNA board members and office staff have contributed to the strike fund. International Association of Machinists workers at Northwest Airlines and members of the United Auto Workers also presented checks at the rally.

The Minnesota Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, Ellie Garcia, has issued a statement supporting the strike. It is being distributed by campaign supporters to those on the picket lines.

Messages of solidarity and donations should be sent to: MNA, 1821 University Ave., room N377, St. Paul, Minn. 55104.

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How Nicaraguan city repelled contra attack

Last week the *Militant* covered the events surrounding the June 1 attack on Ocotal, Nicaragua, by mercenaries armed, financed, and trained by the U.S. government. Unfortunately, our accounts gave an inaccurate picture of the social and political situation in Ocotal, and conveyed an erroneous impression of the military battle.

By way of correction, we are reprinting the coverage that appeared in the June 11 issue of the weekly *Barricada Internacional*, and the June 2 issue of the daily *Barricada*, both of which are published by the Sandinista National Liberation Front. *Barricada* reporters were on the scene the day after the terrorists' assault on Ocotal, and interviewed the workers and peasants who participated in the defense of their city, and their revolution. (The translations are by the *Militant*.)

Barricada Internacional, June 11

Two counterrevolutionary task forces attacked Ocotal June 1 with the aim of taking that northern city. After three hours of fighting, however, they had to retreat back into the mountains, leaving behind 22 of their dead, including a ring leader.

Ocotal, departmental seat of Nueva Segovia, is located about 20 kilometers [12 miles] from the border with Honduras as the crow flies. It is the most important city in the border sector. The attack against it coincided with the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the country.

"This action was planned with a propaganda character, to make it coincide with the arrival of President Reagan's envoy," commented Nicaragua's minister of defense, Commander Humberto Ortega.

Nevertheless, the attempt ended in a setback, as a result of an effective defense effort by the inhabitants of Ocotal, organized in the People's Militias, the Volunteer Police, and members of the Physical Protection Corps, who guard public buildings. They stopped the counterrevolutionaries [contras] on the outskirts of the city until the Sandinista People's Army (EPS) was able to arrive on the scene.

At this time, the troops of the EPS are applying constant pressure against the Somozaists who have been operating in the northern region since February and are now practically disbanded.

As one Nicaraguan soldier summed it up: "the mercenaries are now trying to leave the same way they entered: through Honduras."

Attack

The attack began at dawn. From the mountains that surround the city on the north, east, and west, troops of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) opened fire with Chinese AK rifles, M-60 machine-guns, RPG-7 rocket launchers, and mortars.

The population in the militia and the Ocotal civil defense rapidly spread out to take up positions on the defense perimeter.

The counterrevolutionaries intended to move toward the city's outer neighborhoods, but in three hours of fighting they were unable to break through the militia defense and instead suffered numerous casualties. "They made a mistake about us," stated militia member Hazel Olivas.

Only a special FDN commando group of 20 men was able to penetrate into the city's plaza, with the aim of destroying the "Segoviana" radio station. They were repulsed by members of the army and the Physical Protection Corps of Public Buildings before they achieved their objective. Sixteen contras fell, among them a ring leader known as "The Greek."

As they withdrew the contras caused serious damage to electrical power installations, grain silos, and a sawmill on the outskirts of Ocotal. Later that day these same mercenary troops clashed with the People's Militia of Mozote, six kilometers [four miles] away, and lost another six men.

Six soldiers, two members of the Physical Defense Corps, a voluntary policeman, and two civilians fell in combat.

The minister of defense also announced that the EPS inflicted more than 70 losses on the counterrevolutionaries in the mountains of Jinotega between May 31 and June 4.

Last January the FDN launched its



Sandinista soldiers at border post in north. Sandinista People's Army aided local militia in Ocotal in defeating attack by U.S.-armed mercenaries.

largest offensive thus far, introducing 6,000 men into the mountains of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Madriz, and Nueva Segovia. Their main aim was to destroy peasant agricultural cooperatives, with the hope of remaining within the territory.

Their actions, however, have been effectively undermined by the people's organization and the EPS, which since late May has carried out combined artillery and infantry operations supported by the air force.

The biggest battles took place on Kantawás and Kininowás mountains in the department of Jinotega, where the Somozaist forces had intended to regroup. This mountainous zone, located 15 kilometers [9 miles] from the town of San José de Bocay has served on previous occasions as a hiding place for the contras after they have suffered the heavy blows of the EPS. Peasants in the area report having seen counterrevolutionaries transporting the bodies of their dead and wounded on mules after the fighting.

Barricada, June 2

OCOTAL, Nueva Segovia — The counterrevolutionary chief who went by the alias "The Greek" was killed here by the people organized in the Sandinista People's Militia, which turned back yesterday's dawn attack by two task forces.

The team of *Barricada* war correspondents arrived in this city early this morning, just as the mercenaries had begun to flee. The bodies of 16 mercenaries, among them a woman and "The Greek," were still sprawled out from the unsuccessful attempt to occupy the city.

Behind them they left the destruction of the Yodeco sawmill, the Nicaraguan Institute of Basic Foodstuffs (ENABAS) silos, and the National Energy Institute (INE) installations.

About 20 mercenaries in a special commando unit entered the center of the city and attempted to destroy Radio Segovia. They were unsuccessful, although the sta-

tion was partially destroyed.

Forces from the Sandinista People's Army (EPS), State Security, and members of the Physical Protection Corps wiped out the commando group before it could carry out its plans.

"When we heard the first shots, we took our positions, some of us taking cover at the entrance and others in the rear of the building, which the Somozaists were firing at with M-79 grenades, LAW rockets, and hand grenades," stated Amílcar Olivas, a combatant [at Radio Segovia] from the Ministry of the Interior.

After a short time "they saw it was impossible to fight us and they withdrew... they were crying and said they were going to surrender," he added.

"We took our positions and began organizing the defense as soon as we heard the first shots," said Jaime Antonio Gómez, who was inside Radio Segovia when the attack began.

Yesterday a group of technicians were repairing the transmitter, which will be able to resume functioning in a few hours, once the damaged installations are rebuilt.

Defense of the Yodeco sawmill was in the hands of a group of militia members who fought for two and a half hours and succeeded in recovering a large quantity of FAL ammunition magazines and provisions that had been carried by those "uplifted" by the Pastoral letter.

"When the attack began from the hill, we were in the back of the sawmill and we took up our battle positions. They used mortars to attack us from above, as well as type RPG-7 rockets, and fired Chinese AKs, M-60 machine-guns, and FAL rifles. However, with our fire we forced them to withdraw," stated Guillermo Acuña, a 33-year-old militia member.

The sawmill, however, was damaged by the mortar and rifle fire. The electricity plant also came under fire, but damage was limited to the administrative offices. The power plant remained intact and was functioning normally last night.

In the Pedro Altamirano de la Trinidad (Estelí) hospital, Rosalino Rodríguez, 26, and Alexa Lugo, 23, told *Barricada* that

Continued on Page 15

Sandinista leaders seek military aid abroad

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In the context of the escalating U.S. war against the Nicaraguan revolution, top leaders of this country's government left here in mid-June to seek material aid from eastern and western European countries.

The delegation to Eastern Europe is headed by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the government and member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Accompanying Ortega in what was described as "a work visit" to the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the German Democratic Republic were Minister of Planning Henry Ruiz, who is also a member of the FSLN National Directorate; Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto; and Julio López, head of the FSLN's Department of International Relations.

Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN National Directorate's Political Commission, is leading a delegation to nine capitalist European countries, including France, Spain, and West Germany. The purpose of this trip, an official government communique explained, "is to take up the difficult situation Nicaragua faces as a result of the aggressive policy of the current U.S. administration," especially "the grave effects this terrorist policy has cost in the economic arena."

In recent months, top government leaders have announced a number of measures to respond to the escalation of the CIA-backed war and the heavy toll it takes on Nicaragua's economy.

The growing size of the CIA-led mercenary force and the sophistication of the military equipment it is using against Nicaragua means the Sandinista People's Army needs to upgrade its equipment.

On June 15, at an event to commemorate students massacred by the Somoza dictatorship during the insurrection five years

ago, the Sandinista People's Army displayed T-55 tanks, 122 mm cannon, armored personnel carriers, and BM-21 rocket launchers.

Pictures of such equipment have been prominently displayed in Managua dailies in recent weeks. On June 9, a week before leaving for the Soviet Union, government coordinator Daniel Ortega told reporters that Nicaragua urgently needed jet fighter planes to stop the air drops of supplies to U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary "task forces" operating inside Nicaragua. Presently Nicaragua has no such planes.

Speaking upon his return to Managua from a visit with soldiers and peasants in a combat zone in northern Nicaragua, Ortega said that Nicaragua needed the planes, "be they Soviet MIGs, be they French [Mirages], or from where ever." Ortega explained that the CIA-financed mercenaries "have more helicopters than we do."

Ortega said the country's scant resources made it impossible for Nicaragua to buy such planes — they would have to be donated — but that young Nicaraguan pilots were already training to fly MIGs and Mirages.

On June 16, at an airport news conference upon his departure to Moscow, Ortega said that discussions have been held with various governments "so that we can have adequate airplanes with which to confront the aggression the United States launches against our people." He said the main reason Nicaragua did not yet have jet combat planes was that the pilots had not completed their training. But, he added, they will soon be ready to pilot those kinds of planes.

In a June 22 meeting with about 200 representatives of the 13,000 construction workers employed by the Ministry of Construction, junta member Sergio Ramírez

reported that Ortega had been received by the very highest government and Communist Party officials of all the countries he had visited. He said that Arce had also had many top level interviews.

Ramírez reported that Ortega had had the opportunity to "discuss the situation of aggression that Nicaragua is living through, the difficult economic and political situation that we face in our struggle to defeat the counterrevolutionary enemy." Ramírez stated that "in all the countries of the socialist community, the response has been one of solidarity and understanding."

Taken together, he said, the response to the Ortega and Arce delegations "shows that the revolution unquestionably has international support... no matter what U.S. imperialism does to undermine and destroy that confidence."

NEW YORK—NEW JERSEY

What Strategy in Fight Against U.S. War in Central America and the Caribbean

Manhattan
Speaker: Barry Sheppard, Socialist Workers Party National Cochairperson. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 29, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Newark

Speaker: Olga Rodríguez, member of Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Fri., July 6. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 141. Halsey (corner of Raymond, 1 block from Broad). Donation: dinner, \$3; forum \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

SWP sets convention plans

BY ILONA GERSH

The Socialist Workers Party will hold its 32nd national convention August 4-9 at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. The six-day convention will be combined with an educational and activists conference, involving hundreds of socialist workers from across the country.

Most convention sessions will be open to all participants in the conference, by decision of the delegates, who will be elected by branches of the SWP.

Struggle for workers and farmers gov't

The delegates will discuss new political developments and adopt positions that will guide the party's activities in the coming years. At the center of the discussion will be the strategy for winning political power through the struggle to establish a workers and farmers government in the United States. Such a government will abolish capitalism in this country and join in the struggle for socialism on a world scale.

In preparation for the convention, the SWP has organized three months of thorough oral and written preconvention discussion. This began with a study of the continuity of the party's present-day goal of a workers and farmers government with the proletarian strategy fought for by Marx and Engels, the Communist International under Lenin, and the Fourth International.

Today's examples of popular revolutionary governments, such as Cuba and Nicaragua, rose to power at the crest of mass revolutionary struggles by the workers and peasants. They are examples for Marxists in this country who are grappling with how workers and farmers can gain power and institute policies to promote their interests, rather than the interests of the capitalist minority.

The convention will hear and discuss a report on the workers and farmers government in the United States, which will examine the crisis facing U.S. farmers and the need for a worker-farmer alliance to advance the interests of both workers and exploited farmers.

Another report, on polarization, politicization, and proletarianization, will take up the current conjuncture of U.S. politics, considered in the world framework. The U.S. government's war drive in Central America and the Caribbean is coupled with a bipartisan offensive against workers and their allies in this country. Capitalism is offering a future of increasingly uncertain living conditions and mounting attacks on democratic rights for working people and their allies.

How this affects the labor movement and the working class as a whole, and the reaction of the working class to these attacks, will be discussed under the two reports.

The 1984 election year poses a challenge to working people. A central focus of attention for the delegates will be how to advance class-struggle methods in the working class, to educate on the dead-end policy of dissolving workers' struggles into capitalist electoral politics.

There will be a report on workers and farmers governments as popular revolutionary dictatorships. This discussion will include the lessons and experience of the revolutions in Grenada, Cuba, and Nicaragua. They are examples of how workers and farmers governments can be used as tools

by the exploited and oppressed to transform society. The gains made by these revolutions show what a government of workers and farmers could do in this country — serving human needs, not the interests of big business.

Political priorities of SWP

Delegates will also discuss a report on the political priorities and organization of the SWP. This will take up the implications today's political situation has for building the revolutionary party in the United States.

Convention delegates will also elect a new National Committee of the SWP.

Convention sessions will be scheduled every morning. During most of the afternoons, classes will be held, offering conference participants a wide variety of Marxist education. Evenings will be taken up by workshops on the party's participation in the working-class struggle, workshops on party-building, meetings of trade union members, special events, and cultural activities.

Major series of classes will utilize recent and new publications of the socialist movement, which provide rich lessons for party builders and working-class fighters today.

One series will be based on the article "The Workers' and Farmers' Government: A Popular Revolutionary Dictatorship," by Mary-Alice Waters, which appeared in the Spring-Summer issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

This article traces the political continuity between the strategy of today's Marxists for a workers and farmers government, and that of earlier Marxists, starting with Marx and Engels. It traces the efforts of the Bolshevik leaders of the Communist International from 1919 to 1923 to develop this perspective into a worldwide view. The class series will also use the legacy of Marx and Engels, and the Communist International under Lenin, to analyze the process unfolding on the front lines of the world revolution today — in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

New book on Communist Int'l

A second series of classes will draw from material contained in *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International, Documents 1907-1916 — The Preparatory Years*. This book is the first in a series titled *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*. It will be published by Pathfinder Press in time for sale at the convention.

A series of classes will study *The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party*, also published by Pathfinder Press. This book

contains documents from the founding convention of the SWP, which took place in 1938 on the eve of the imperialist World War II. The documents of the newly-founded party outline a program for the struggle against imperialist war, national oppression, and colonialism. A central focus of the convention proceedings was the party's turn to industry.

Another class series will present strategic lessons for working-class fighters posed in four books written by Farrell Dobbs entitled *Teamster Rebellion*, *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

The classes will study the teamster book series as a guide for militants who seek to inspire and help lead the labor movement to take the road of independent working-class political action today.

To round out the educational program of the conference, additional classes will discuss the lessons of the current British coal miners strike, the development of the Marxist position on the aristocracy of labor, how immigrant workers have always played a central role in the development of class-consciousness in the U.S. working class, the Marxist view of women's liberation, how Vietnam and Kampuchea are fighting to defend the gains of their revolutions against imperialist attack, and other topics.

Attending the gathering will be socialist workers from trade unions in basic industry such as mining, steel, garment, textiles, auto, aerospace, electronics, oil-chemical, rail, and others.

Time will be set aside for members of unions to meet and discuss challenges facing workers in their industries, and their common activities as socialist activists in the union movement.

Building socialist movement

A series of meetings will also be organized to discuss various aspects of building the socialist movement. There will be a meeting to plan how to advance the socialist alternative in the 1984 elections by building support for the SWP ticket of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president. The Young Socialist Alliance, which is organizing support for the campaign, will be participating in all the conference activities.

Other workshops will discuss socialists' participation in activities against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, in the Black liberation struggle, and in the fight for women's rights. Meetings will also be organized to discuss various ways to strengthen socialist propaganda efforts, such as election campaigns, sales of the *Militant* and *Perspec-*



Militant/Lou Howort

Hundreds of socialist workers will be attending Socialist Workers Party convention August 4-9.

tiva *Mundial* at plant gates, and the Militant Labor Forum series. Other meetings will be held to help organize different aspects of party-building, including Marxist educational programs, finances, and organizing the activities of active supporters of the party.

A variety of other activities will take place during the convention and conference. Special events will be held for people who are new to the socialist movement. Socialists who have recently been to Nicaragua, Grenada, Vietnam, and Kampuchea will share what they learned with talks and slide shows. Political films will be shown. There will be sports, recreation, cultural, and informal social activities, in addition to free time every day to give everyone an opportunity to meet and talk to socialist activists from the U.S. and other countries.

Translation of activities will be available in both Spanish and French.

There is no better way to learn about the Socialist Workers Party — its history, goals, ideas, and activities — than by attending the 1984 national convention and educational and activists conference. If you are interested in participating, contact the SWP branch nearest you (see the directory on page 12), or send in the coupon below.

I am interested in attending the 1984 Socialist Workers Party convention and educational and activists conference, August 4-9, in Oberlin, Ohio.

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Clip and send to: SWP National Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Supreme Court rejects Marroquín case

Continued from front page

On May 22, Newark district director for the INS, James Pomeroy, wrote a letter saying that Marroquín could stay here until the Supreme Court decided his case, or until his green card application was processed, whichever came later.

Pomeroy, however, left an escape clause for the government. Marroquín's right to remain here to pursue his green card would be ensured, said Pomeroy, "unless there is a change of circumstances which warrants termination of voluntary departure in my discretion. . . ."

At a June 11 hearing in a federal court in Newark, Judge Dickenson Debevoise declared a formal part of the court record the government's admission that INS regulations require the agency to give Marroquín 72 hours notice if it should try to deport him.

This would give Marroquín time to fight such a move in the courts.

Marroquín fled to the United States 10 years ago when, as a student activist in Mexico, he faced political persecution.

For the past seven years, the INS has tried to deport Marroquín because of his political views and activities. Marroquín has been active in the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America. He has become well-known as a defender of democratic rights for undocumented workers.

A member of the Socialist Workers

Party National Committee and a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, Marroquín is an ardent campaigner for socialism.

It's Marroquín's antiwar and socialist beliefs that inspire the government's drive to deport him. In addition, Marroquín, like other Latinos, is a victim of an employer-inspired racist campaign against immigrants. Passage of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill by the House of Representatives recently is an example of this drive to make immigrant workers the scapegoats for the capitalist economic crisis.

The attempt to deny Marroquín his democratic right to remain here has evoked protest from labor, Latino, Black, civil liberties, and church groups as well as many prominent individuals. A small selection shows the breadth of support for Marroquín's case:

Kathy Andrade, Department of Education, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, Local 23-25; David Dyson, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and Labor Committee on Human Rights in El Salvador; Dave Wilson, District 8 director, United Steelworkers; Leon Lynch, international vice-president, United Steelworkers; William Lucy, president, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; National Education Associa-

tion; Edward Asner, actor and president of Screen Actors' Guild; Ruben Bonilla, League of United Latin American Citizens; Operation PUSH; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Coretta Scott King.

Twenty-seven members of the U.S. Congress have also spoken out against the deportation of Marroquín.

This case has also attracted increased media attention. Following the Supreme Court's June 25 decision not to hear Marroquín's case, articles on the case appeared in the Newark *Star-Ledger* and New York's *El Diario*.

In addition, a short account of the high court's decision regarding Marroquín was carried in *USA Today*, one of the most widely circulated national newspapers.

The INS, however, remains determined to deport Marroquín.

The energetic political and legal defense campaign that has blocked government moves to deport Marroquín so far must be intensified. Messages calling upon the INS to stop its deportation proceedings against Marroquín and grant him a green card should be sent to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, INS, Washington, D.C. 20536. Copies of such messages and money to help finance the continuing fight should be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649, New York, N.Y. 10003.

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Mason speaks in Britain on Black struggle

BY MARGARET JAYKO

MANCHESTER, England — "Black Politics in the '80s: Which Way Forward?" This was the title of a panel discussion held here at the West Indian Sports and Social Club in the Moss Side community on June 5.

Moss Side was the site of one of the youth rebellions that swept more than 30 cities and towns in Britain in the summer of 1981. These rebellions against unemployment and racism had a big impact on British politics and spurred a big discussion among Black activists here about what strategy to pursue to win Black liberation.

The meeting was sponsored by the magazine *Race Today* and the Labor Party Black Sections Organizing Committee. Blacks in Britain's union-based Labor Party have begun to organize Black sections in order to make the party more responsive to the needs of Britain's Black communities. (In Britain, "Black" is used to refer to Asians, as well as to people from the Caribbean and others of African descent.)

Blacks in Britain — like Blacks in the United States — face rampant discrimination which shows up in higher unemployment, racist cop violence, and discrimination in housing, schools, and jobs.

The Labor Party is led by an officialdom which — like the trade union bureaucracy in the United States — subordinates the needs of Blacks and all working people to the interests of the capitalist system. The officialdom refuses to organize the kind of uncompromising, massive fight for the rights and needs of working people which is necessary to achieve the party's stated goal — socialism.

Mel Mason in Britain

Mel Mason, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, was one of those who addressed the meeting. Mason has been a leader in the struggles of Blacks in the United States for more than 15 years.

Mason toured Britain June 4-12, participating in antiwar protests, meeting striking coal miners, and talking to Black activists. His tour was sponsored by the newsweekly *Socialist Action*.

The other panelists included Mark Wadsworth and Paul Sharma. They are involved in the efforts to set up Black sections in the Labor Party. Gus John, from the collective that publishes *Race Today*, also spoke. John is from Grenada and is a supporter of the Grenada revolution. He's also a prominent leader in the Black community here.

Blacks and Labor Party

A range of views were expressed in the talks and discussion on the role of independent Black organization in the struggle for



Britain, July 1981. Blacks facing staggering unemployment and racism sparked youth rebellions in Manchester and throughout England. Leaders of Manchester's Black community and Mel Mason, Socialist Workers candidate for president, examined political tasks facing Blacks in England and United States, especially questions of independent political action and role of labor parties.

Black liberation; whether Blacks should participate in the Labor Party; electoral politics; and the relationship between the Black struggle and the fight for socialism. A majority of those attending the meeting were Black.

Wadsworth explained that Blacks are the "most devoted supporters of the Labor Party." In return, he said, all Blacks get is "platitudes." Blacks want positive action by the Labor Party on their demands. It's important, said Wadsworth, that there be left-wing, Black Members of Parliament.

He chided Blacks in Manchester saying, "You're not using your vote enough." The problem, said Wadsworth, is that Blacks are not registered in large enough numbers. "Jesse Jackson showed us" that it's possible to register many more Blacks to vote, he said.

Summing up his views on the fight for Black rights, Wadsworth said that what Blacks are asking for is "a slice of the action."

Racist attacks on Asians

Paul Sharma, an Indian, explained that almost all Blacks who voted in the last elections voted for the Labor Party. But Blacks haven't gotten much in return, he said. The Labor Party has done nothing, for example, about recent racist attacks in

Asian housing projects.

Gus John emphasized independent Black political organization as key in the fight for Black rights. He said that the working class in Britain must act in solidarity with the victims of British imperialism in the Caribbean, India, and Africa. The Labor Party doesn't struggle for Black rights at home or combat the role of British imperialism abroad, he said.

Black struggle in U.S.

Mason discussed the role of the fight for Black liberation in the class struggle in the United States.

He told the audience that Black nationalism "is not in contradiction to the working-class struggle." The fight waged by Blacks against their oppression, he said, "flows from the unique way in which we are oppressed, from the racism of capitalist society."

The independent political organization of Blacks, stressed Mason, advances the process of independent political organization of the entire working class.

Blacks in the United States are in the vanguard of working-class struggles, said Mason. He cited the example of the Black-led civil rights movement, which struck a blow for all working people by abolishing the system of Jim Crow segregation in the

South.

Mason also talked about the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), which he was a founding leader of. NBIPP's program, said Mason, is anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist. It illuminates the road forward for the working class. Mason is campaigning for the formation of a labor party in the United States, based on a militant, revitalized trade union movement. He views NBIPP as an important example for labor in accomplishing this task.

The revolution in Grenada — the vast majority of whose inhabitants are Black — struck a blow against racist oppression through putting the workers and farmers in power, said Mason. The Grenada revolution showed the way forward for Black politics in the 1980s.

Mason advocated that Blacks everywhere take a serious look at the teachings of Malcolm X, who was a militant Black revolutionary and an internationalist.

'Standing for socialism'

Earlier that day, Mason had visited two miners' strike headquarters in Manchester: Agecroft and Bold.

Both had organized videotape showings

Continued on Page 13

Socialist extends solidarity to miners

BY MARGARET JAYKO

KENT, England — "There's been a revolution among the women here." That's how one woman described the newfound sense of militancy and confidence of the women who have been organizing to support the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) strike here. She was talking to Socialist Workers Party candidate Mel Mason.

Mason spent June 10 traveling from one NUM club to another, meeting striking miners and their families, lending his solidarity, and discussing U.S. and international politics with these vanguard working-class fighters.

In Aylesham, Mason met miners and their wives from the Snowden mine in Kent. He was introduced to the miners by Helen Flynn, a bus driver and member of the Transport and General Workers Union, Britain's largest union. Flynn is a supporter of *Socialist Action*, the newsweekly that sponsored Mason's June 4-12 tour of Britain.

Mason's trip here focused on meeting coal miners, who have been on strike for more than four months against the National Coal Board's (NCB) plan to shut down

scores of mines.

Mason gave a brief rap in Aylesham to the more than two dozen miners and their families who were there. Many wanted to know how they could aid the striking Arizona copper miners Mason told them about. These copper miners have been on strike for a year against union-busting by their employer, Phelps Dodge Corp., which is backed by the government.

'Godfathers of trade union movement'

Mason explained that the officialdoms of the big U.S. unions involved in the strike have refused to organize the kind of solidarity activities that are necessary given the scope of the battle in Arizona.

The miners here immediately recognized the problem. In the course of organizing solidarity with their own strike, they've run up against union officials in other unions and in the Trades Union Congress (Britain's equivalent of the AFL-CIO) who refuse all-out backing to the embattled miners.

The rank and file must begin to discuss "how to deal with" the "godfathers of the trade union movement," one union member told Mason. This will be done, he con-

tinued, by workers coming into action against the employers and their government, forging links with each other, and sweeping aside the bureaucrats.

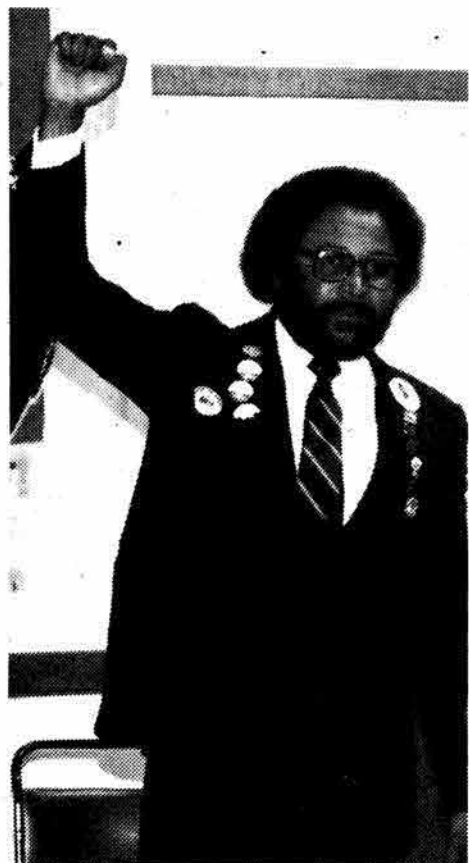
Mason met Kay Sutcliffe, a leader of the women's action group here that is organizing support for the strike. On behalf of the women's group, Sutcliffe presented Mason with a miners' lamp to give to the strikers in Arizona.

Indian communities back strike

It was announced that a delegation of Asians and Afro-Caribbeans would be coming to Kent June 23 to show their support for the strike. Kent miners had already gotten an excellent response to appeals for support from Asian communities.

When Mason was in Birmingham — Britain's second largest city — he learned about the strike support activities in the Asian community there. The local Labor Party had organized fundraising for the strike in Sikh temples, and Asian shopkeepers have donated money and food. The Indian Workers Association put on a social for the miners.

Continued on Page 13



G.M. Cookson

Mel Mason at anti-Reagan rally in England.

Vietnamese women move forward with r

BY DIANE WANG

Duong Thi Duyen, a member of the presidium of the Vietnam Women's Union, sat beneath a picture of women freedom fighters at the union's office in Hanoi as she spoke to the *Militant*.

The Vietnam Women's Union was first organized as the Association of Women for Emancipation in 1930, in the first days of Vietnam's struggle against French colonial domination. Now it has 8 million members, with chapters in nearly every village, farm cooperative, and factory of the country.

"We unify all kinds of women," Duyen explained, "as our leadership reflects. On our central committee we have Catholic and Buddhist nuns, as well as communists."

Women need only agree with the two main goals of the organization's program: the defense and reconstruction of Vietnam and the emancipation of women.

National liberation, women's liberation

"From the beginning, we understood very well the link between the struggle to liberate women and the struggle to liberate our country," Duyen explained. "National liberation was the first prerequisite for women's emancipation in Vietnam."

Under the French, many Vietnamese women were forced to work 14-hour days in coal mines, textile mills, or rubber plantations.¹ In later years, throughout the 1960s, women were brutalized by the U.S. war, thousands driven into prostitution for U.S. soldiers.

"Without women, we could not have liberated our country. And by actively participating, women proved their capacity and made big progress. They gained equality with men in fact, not just in word," Duyen said.

Women played a considerable role in Vietnam's fight against French and U.S. occupation. Not only did women assume new jobs in production as men joined the army. When General Giap organized his first guerrilla band in 1941, 5 of the 21 members were women. Women's militia and self-defense units made up 41 percent of the Vietnamese forces during the U.S. war. Nguyen Thi Dinh, who led the famous 1960 uprising in Ben Tre, went on to become deputy commander-in-chief of the liberation forces. Today she is president of Vietnam's Women's Union.

As part of anti-aircraft squads, as the "long-haired army" in the south, or as militants in Saigon, women became heroines of the revolution.

What women won

What did women win from that fight? "Women won equality and the opportunity to change their former low position," Duyen said.

"Before, we were confined to the home. We had only the right to serve the husband, to serve the children, to do all the housework. Now women have the right to participate in social activities and in politics. We have the right, not only to vote, but to stand in elections."

Nearly 22 percent of the elected deputies to Vietnam's National Assembly are women. Women are almost 45 percent of the local, district, and provincial people's councils.

This percentage had fallen somewhat in the first years after the 1975 victory and reunification of Vietnam. While women in north Vietnam had begun to make progress from 1945 on,² women in the south had continued under the legacy of U.S. colonialism. As a result, when the country was reunified, the national average of women's participation was lowered. By 1981 there

was again some progress in involving women in public leadership.

"Before, most women were illiterate," Duyen continued. "If a woman sought education, people said she only wanted to write love letters." The few women who did get schooling were confined to literature, "never math, never physics."

Now women have equal educational opportunities with men. In Vietnam 38 percent of the university students are women. Women make up more than 49 percent of the scientists and technicians in the state-run sector. Duyen pointed with pride to the example of Prof. Hoang Xuan Sinh, a leading mathematics professor at the University of Hanoi who is a woman.

Women make up two-thirds of the labor force in agriculture and 40 percent in industry. "Women work, and work well, in every field," Duyen said.³

Consequences of history and poverty

Of course, women have a long way to go. "We still have many difficulties because of the long war and because of the economic difficulties of our country," Duyen said. In a country as poor as Vietnam, it has been difficult to build the material foundation needed to make the full emancipation of women possible.

Vietnam needs economic development to help free women from housework and ease the grueling work at jobs. Just consider, for example, how much time women spend on shopping in a country without refrigeration, where electricity is in short supply.

"But the problem in Vietnam now is not legal equality, but capacity," Duyen explained. There is still a gap in the experience, abilities, and confidence of men and women. "The gap has lessened, but it still exists in general," Duyen said.

"It is the consequence of the long, long time we spent under feudalism and colonialist regimes," Duyen said. "Our revolution was only victorious in 1945 with the August revolution, and immediately after we had the very long war. I think that you can understand why there is still a certain gap."

"We would like to have more women deputies in the National Assembly, for example," Duyen said. "We have more than 50 percent women in the country and would like to have more than 50 percent deputies. But there is no point in electing a woman

3. In 1980 women were listed as being 54 percent of the factory directors or assistant directors and 32 percent of the handicraft cooperative managers.

if, in fact, she cannot fulfill the responsibilities.

"In many factories, enterprises, and offices, if there is a woman and a man with the same abilities, the woman will often be chosen for promotion," Duyen said, "but we need more women with leadership capabilities."

Women's Union role

"That is why the Women's Union tries to create favorable conditions for women so they can learn and increase their capabilities, so they can assume more leading positions," Duyen said.

Local branches of the union organize discussions about women's role in production and society or about international topics such as peace. These discussions broaden women's outlook and help develop their self-confidence.

Activities like raising money for local projects give women organizational experience. In this way, Duyen said, women become experienced; some are elected leaders of the Women's Union. Often those leaders are also elected to local public office.

While visiting the Nam Dinh Textile mill I had a chance to get a glimpse of the role of the women's organizations at the grass roots level. Tran Thi Mai, a 22-year-old spinner who is a leader of the Women's Union there, explained that they work with the women's department of the factory's trade union.

At this factory of 15,000 workers, 9,500 — more than half — are women. Mai said 60 percent of the factory's management are women, and the secretary of the trade union is also a woman. The Women's Union and the trade union women's department encourage production, promote family planning, and organize the factory's child care. Among the social benefits workers at this mill enjoy are five child-care centers.

Child care a priority

Child care is one priority for the Women's Union throughout Vietnam, Duyen said.

In some of Vietnam's northern provinces 60 percent of the preschool-age children are enrolled in child care. But nationwide only 35 percent of the children have child care available.

"We do not have enough," Duyen said. "There is progress, big progress especially in the south. In Ho Chi Minh City [formerly Saigon], when we liberated the south they had only one or two kindergartens.

Now we have developed many. But compared to the need of women, where almost every woman works, we do not have enough and must open more."

Vietnam's government is poor and cannot finance all the projects needed. So local chapters of the Women's Union raise money to supplement construction funds. (This approach is not only applied to child-care centers and women's projects, but to all construction efforts. People helped raise the money to build the Tri An hydroelectric plant, for example.)

Law on family

The Women's Union is also conducting a nationwide survey to propose amendments to the law on marriage and the family. The Women's Union drafted the original law, which was adopted in 1960. "Defense of women and children and democracy in the family were its principles," Duyen explained. That law abolished the traditional practice of polygamy and right to own concubines. It made wives equal to their husbands.

Now the Women's Union is doing the survey to examine how the law is actually applied in the north and south since reunification of the country.

Some new proposals are controversial. Some women have proposed that there be more concrete punishments written into the law for violators. Others question whether the minimum age for marriage should be different for women and men. Currently the age is 18 for women and 20 for men.

Once the Women's Union has completed the survey it will propose amendments. Like the original law, these will be discussed by the trade unions and other organizations and then submitted to the National Assembly.

The Women's Union also works very closely with the ministry of health to promote voluntary birth control.

Among the consequences of Vietnam's revolution was improved health care that doubled the life expectancy for Vietnamese since 1945. The population has more than doubled since the 1945 revolution, despite the fierce U.S. war. Yet Vietnam remains desperately poor, and rice production has only barely kept pace with population growth.⁴

The National Assembly approved a goal of lowering the birth rate to 2 percent or less in the next year.⁵

Everywhere in Vietnam today there are posters urging couples to have only two children. Unlike the coercive birth control programs carried out in Puerto Rico, India, or China, Vietnam's plan relies on voluntary participation.

However, along with education there are economic incentives. For example, some provincial People's Committees have offered bonuses for women who pledge to wait five years between having children or to newlywed couples who agree to wait two years after marriage to have children. In addition, while most women workers enjoy paid maternity-leave benefits, this is no longer true for women having more than two children.

"We must conduct a very big education campaign to explain the necessity of family planning for the health of the mother, the health of the children, and for the progress of women also. If a woman has too many children she cannot make any progress in learning, in working, in other activities," Duyen said.

Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, director at Tu Du Maternity Hospital and vice-president of the Women's Union in Ho Chi Minh City, described the campaign to the *Militant*. The Women's Union shows films, distributes literature, and organizes discussions about family planning. These

4. In 1979 Vietnam's per capita food intake was only 1,800 calories a day, compared to 3,373 calories for those in developed countries and 2,282 calories for developing countries. The Vietnamese estimate that if agriculture and harvests continue to improve and population growth is slowed, Vietnam can raise the daily caloric intake to 2,500 by the turn of the century.

5. Vietnam's birth rate has already been brought down from 3.95 percent per year in 1976 to 2.93 in 1980.



Peasant women selling oranges in Bac Giang. Two thirds of agricultural work force in Vietnam is women.

1. In 1940 women were 20 percent of the miners in the Hong Gai-Dong Trieu enterprise. In 1933 there were 14,000 women working in the textile mills of the Tonkin Cotton Enterprise. Women were 15 percent of the rubber plantations' work force.

2. In the first election to the National Assembly 10 women were elected, about 2.5 percent of the deputies. This rose steadily until 1971, when more than 32 percent of the elected deputies were women. In the elections following reunification in 1976 and 1981, the percentage fell to 27 percent and 22 percent respectively.

evolution

discussions are carried out in every Women's Union meeting, in local chapters, district, and provincial meetings. Once the Women's Union has convinced women of the advantages of planning their families, the Ministry of Health provides contraception.

Role in reunification

Duyen said that the Women's Union has a very large branch in Ho Chi Minh City. The organization has played a special role in the reunification of the country and overcoming the legacy of U.S. occupation in the south.

The Women's Union worked with the Ministry of Social Affairs to help retrain prostitutes in the south. After liberation these women were given medical care and vocational training. The Women's Union provided the teachers for many of these schools.

"Our conception is that these former prostitutes were only victims. Only when teachers show them real concern, sympathy, love, can they have success in reeducating them," Duyen said.

'Women won the rice war'

One of the major efforts of the Women's Union in Ho Chi Minh City has been the organization of consumers' cooperatives to provide cheap food and drive rice speculators out of business. "Speculators complain that women won the military war against the United States, and now they are winning the war of rice," quipped a government spokesperson in Ho Chi Minh City.

The southern part of Vietnam is still making a transition from an economy that was centered on the U.S. occupation to one that serves the Vietnamese people. The U.S. "pacification programs," air strikes, chemical spraying, and ground raids drove millions of people into Saigon, swelling the city's population tenfold.

Today there is still unemployment and an active speculators' market in Ho Chi Minh City. Inflation is driven up when products are hoarded by private merchants. The government is not yet strong enough to consolidate state trade and distribution.

That is where the Women's Union has come in. Nguyen Ngoc Dung, a leader of the Women's Union and deputy chairperson of the Fatherland Front, explained the significance of the Women's Union campaign to the *Militant*.

"Women are the housewives, the shoppers. So if women support the state trade they can isolate the traffickers," Dung explained. The Women's Union organized consumer cooperatives. These buy rice from peasants and sell it at a price lower than the rice speculators. They combine sales in the neighborhoods with education to explain how the speculators disrupt the economy and cause inflation.

This year, for the first time, inflation was not so dramatic following the new year's celebration when a flurry of spending is usually accompanied by big price hikes. This showed that the speculators had not been able to monopolize the rice trade as in the past. That is largely due to the Women's Union, Dung explained.

Future women of Vietnam

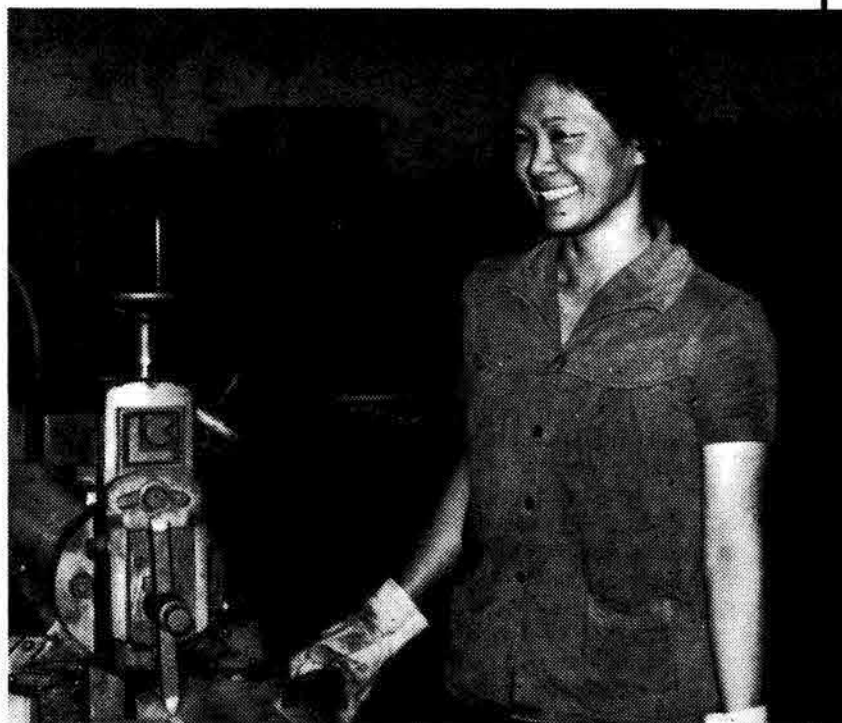
The respect and social role that Vietnam's women have so far achieved puts them far ahead of their sisters in other Asian countries. But what are their future prospects?

Dr. Phuong suggested that Vietnamese women will find their road to progress in solving their country's problems. "We are a developing country and do not yet have industrialization, so it is still difficult," Dr. Phuong said. "Also, the blockade by China and the United States is another difficulty for us in rebuilding the country.

"In a developing country like ours women need to take more initiative, be more creative, to resolve the difficulties of the whole country." That, Dr. Phuong said, was how Vietnamese women would realize their equality, taking the constitutional guarantee and making it a reality in daily life.

Nguyen Ngoc Dung spoke frankly about

Continued on Page 12



Militant photos by Diane Wang

Vietnamese women are 40 percent of industrial work force. The Vietnamese Women's Union works with trade union women's department to increase production, organize child care, and create opportunities for women to learn.

Japanese women's fight for equality

BY DIANE WANG

In Japan it is not unusual to see a woman follow her husband onto the subway train, stand, and hold the packages while her family sits.

Pornography is far more common on the everyday scene, including on prime-time television.

Prostitution tours to South Korea are big business.

These are evidence of the big problems and challenges facing Japanese feminists, problems that have their roots in the evolution of Japanese class society.

Japan made an abrupt leap from feudalism to capitalism in the second half of the last century. It became an ally of fascist Germany and Italy during World War II. Japan went from U.S. post-war occupation to the smashing of the labor movement in the 1950s. It remains today a leading imperialist power.

Debate over equal rights

Kaneko Saito, a leader of the Socialist Women's Association in Japan, talked to the *Militant* about the problems and challenges during an interview in March. Saito began by describing the debate raging over equal rights in Japan today.

In Japan women's wages are only 53 percent of that of men. The wage gap between male and female industrial workers has widened over the last 10 years.

The 22 million working women in Japan make up 39 percent of the labor force.

Most women go to work after they finish schooling. In fact, Japan's flourishing electronics factories are staffed primarily by young women workers. They are expected to live at home or in company dormitories. But once women marry, they are either fired or — since such firings are supposedly illegal — pressured to leave their jobs.

Many women return to some kind of work once their children are older, Saito said. As the worldwide economic crisis hits

Japan, more wives are being forced back to work. In fact, in 1982 slightly more than half of Japan's wives were working, the first time the figure had climbed that high since 1956.

But many of these married women become part-time workers. That means they are paid less than full-time workers and generally do not have any benefits of union protection.

The question of an equal right to a job has provoked a debate among feminists. Some focus on the fight to end discrimination. Others focus on the fight to maintain current protective legislation. In Japan there is legislation giving women maternal and menstrual leave, banning women from night work, and limiting overtime for women workers to two hours a day.

Saito said that some feminists in Japan question whether they should even seek nontraditional jobs for women in heavy or dangerous industries.

The question of an equal right to a job, Saito said, "was raised under the pressure of women who want discrimination prohibited by law. But the government and bosses want to use it to deprive women of their already established rights and to lower labor standards in general."

A commission made up of labor and business representatives could not come to agreement on proposals for new equal opportunity legislation this spring. The bosses would not hear of any penalties for discrimination, while the labor representatives, all women, demanded penalties.

The bosses' idea of "equality" is to abolish maternity leave and other rights women have won. Women, of course, want to maintain those gains, which help ensure real equality, plus get rid of discrimination.

The current discussions don't even begin to raise the question of affirmative action to remedy the decades of discrimination against women. Yet Japanese employers are aghast at the idea of merely being forced to guarantee equal opportunities for women. "It is only during times of foreign occupation or revolution that customs accepted as normal suddenly become criminal acts," grumbled a director of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Japan is under pressure to amend its laws because in 1980 the country signed the United Nations convention on ending sex discrimination. But Japan cannot ratify the convention because its laws are in contradiction with the UN declaration.

Right to abortion

Saito said that recent years have also seen attacks on women's right to abortion in Japan. Japan does not have an abortion rights law, but a eugenics law, permitting abortion for purposes of population control, or for cases involving rape, or medical or economic hardship.

In 1982 a member of the House of Councillors from Japan's ruling Democratic

Labor Party declared that "since Japan is now an economic power, there can no longer be any economic reasons for abortion." A right-wing religious organization called "House of Growth" launched a big campaign under the slogan of "respect for human life."

Women around the country responded with public meetings and protests, hunger strikes and rallies. Their efforts helped defeat a rollback of abortion rights.

At the same time, Saito said, Japanese women have also had to defend the right of handicapped women from the eugenics law, which mandates abortion of potentially handicapped people. "We insist the decision to have an abortion should be the woman's," Saito explained. "We deny the government the right to encourage abortion of the handicapped. The problem is to make it a matter of the woman's choice and not of government policy."

A third issue has been the question of imperialist war and nuclear weapons. As the United States sends more nuclear submarines and Tomahawk nuclear missiles to Japan, protests are increasing. A group called the Japanese Women's Caucus Against War, organized in 1980, has held yearly rallies and protests.

Child care has been a continuous concern in Japan, Saito said. "Since 1960 there has been a widespread movement to demand public child-care centers and to build centers."

"But now the movement is at a turning point," Saito said, "because since 1980 the bosses' and government's offensive has tried to reduce staff and raise fees for child care."

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party government headed by Yasuhiro Nakasone has been a source of stepped up attacks against women in all fields, Saito said. "He wants to attack women's right to be independent, and he wants to promote the idea that women belong in the home, working only to supplement the family income, working only part time."

Changing attitudes

But despite the government's efforts, attitudes are changing in Japan. In a 1983 poll some 71 percent of the Japanese women quizzed preferred the traditional standard of men working and women staying at home. This is a change from 1972, when 83 percent of the women had subscribed to the traditional role.

Women's liberation groups can get a hearing. Campaigning in solidarity with their South Korean sisters to end the prostitution tours from Japan to South Korea, setting up rape crisis centers and publicizing the issue of violence against women, joining together for equal opportunities, abortion rights, antiwar efforts — all of these activities are forging a women's movement in Japan.

Diane Wang traveled to Indochina, Hong Kong, and Japan in February and March.



Kaneko Saito

Militant/Diane Wang

New Orleans rally salutes Tchula 7

BY RON REPPS

NEW ORLEANS — "Black people in Tchula are talking back these days. Before the victory of Eddie Carthan and the Tchula 7, that kind of thing never happened." This was the message that Sam Calahan of the Tchula 7 brought to a victory rally held here May 26.

The close to 100 people who gathered to honor Carthan, Tchula's former mayor, and the Tchula 7 came from a wide range of community and political groups in and around New Orleans. Members of tenants groups from New Orleans and surrounding parishes, the South African Support Group, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, National Black Independent Political Party, Republic of New Africa, Committee for Nuclear Disarmament, and many others came to honor these freedom fighters from Mississippi.

The rally was organized by activists who had been involved in Tchula 7 defense here.

Eddie Carthan was elected in 1977 as the first Black mayor in Holmes County, Mississippi, since Reconstruction. He was framed up in 1981 and 1982, along with the six others of the Tchula 7, on assault and murder charges. The frame-up was an attempt to put an end to his fight for the rights of Black people in Tchula. Carthan was finally released from prison in October 1983.

Although he was acquitted of the murder charge in a 1982 trial, he and the other members of the Tchula 7 are still being victimized. Carthan was supposed to speak at the meeting here, but had to be elsewhere trying to arrange a loan to keep his farm. With all except one of his small businesses ruined and the chance for him to hold office impossible for the present, Carthan is back to farming.

All of the Tchula 7 had hoped to come to the rally, but because of economic hardships brought on them by the case, they were not able to. They took up a collection among themselves to make it possible for Sam Calahan to be present.

"In Mississippi," he said, "when you go to see a probation officer you have to pay a fee of \$15. Now I've never heard of any other state where it is like that. But for me, I still owe \$140 just for the fees." Calahan further explained the economic victimization that has been carried out against the members of the Tchula 7.

"The same white power structure that told people not to pay their water and other bills when Eddie was mayor — so they could run Tchula into debt — now puts taxes just on us. It's their game and they run it just the way they want to.

"You know, you hear all this talk about the New South, well there is no such thing," he explained. "It's just the old South with a little fixing up in front. The same plantation owners and rich people are still running things. But Eddie's case gave the people hope. Up until then Black people in Holmes County just took whatever the white man wanted to put out. Now you hear people demanding their rights and speaking back in a way you never saw before. This is the real victory of the Tchula 7."



Southern Advocate/Ted Quant

Tchula 7 (Eddie Carthan in middle). Black rights fighters still face victimization from Mississippi authorities.

The program included a history of the case given by Ted Quant of the Survival Coalition. "If Eddie had accepted their bribes and payoffs, he could have been a rich man. They would have even let him go on being mayor just so long as he did things their way. He could have been comfortable.

"But instead he chose to stand up for the Black people who elected him. He started to get them jobs so they wouldn't be as dependent on the plantations. He brought in

federal programs to improve the lives of the people of Tchula. And it was for doing this that he and the others of the Tchula 7 were framed."

"They [the rich whites of Holmes County] know better than to come at us physically," said Calahan. "They know we'll protect ourselves, and some of them might get hurt. So they come at us financially. Foreclosing on our land, taxing us more than other people, making us pay unjust bills for probation officers. But it was

worth it. To let the Black people of Tchula and all of Mississippi know that you can fight back and win, that was worth it. If I had to do it all over again I'd do the same thing. Only this time I'd do it smarter because we've all learned a lot since it all started."

Donations for Eddie Carthan and the Tchula 7 can be sent to the National Tchula 7 Fund, P.O. Box 503, Tchula, Miss. 39169.

A collection at the rally raised \$260.

Ky. labor hears Salvadoran teacher

BY CRAIG HONTIS

LOUISVILLE — Salvadoran trade unionist Marta Alicia Rivera came to Louisville and spoke to several groups of trade unionists in the area in May.

Rivera is from San Miguel, El Salvador, where she began teaching in 1972 and joined ANDES, the most important teachers union in the country. In 1975 she became secretary general of ANDES for the San Miguel region. Four years later she was kidnapped and brutally tortured by the National Guard, who left her for dead on the edge of town. After being rescued, she was able to flee to the United States, where she has been seeking political asylum since 1981.

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador has recently toured Rivera in cities throughout the United States.

While in Louisville, the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council sponsored a meeting for Rivera at the headquarters of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO. Jerry Tucker, president of the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, mailed out invitations to unions in the area to send representatives to the meeting. The South Central Indiana Labor Council was invited to par-

ticipate in the meeting as well.

Over 30 representatives of unions attended the meetings. The UAW, USWA, IAM, and the building trades unions were all well represented.

At the meeting Rivera explained the social and political conditions that brought the people of El Salvador to the point of open revolt. She talked about the conditions that Salvadoran workers live in and described the repression that those who try to organize unions in El Salvador face. She graphically described the torture inflicted on her by the National Guard for the crime of being a leader of the teachers union.

Rivera ended by appealing to trade unionists in the United States to support the struggles of their brothers and sisters in El Salvador and oppose the aid the U.S. government is sending the brutal regime in that country. "We cannot allow the tragedy of Vietnam to be repeated in Central America," she declared.

In the discussion that followed, many of the trade union officials at the meeting expressed sympathy for the cause of trade unionism in El Salvador. Much of the discussion, however, revolved around the question of the supposed threat by the Soviet Union and Cuba to peace in Central America.

Rivera answered these questions by pointing out that it is the actual social conditions faced by the people in El Salvador that cause the revolt, and no amount of money or military might will be able to stop this struggle for justice.

At the end of the meeting, a representative of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO presented Rivera with a 14 carat gold pin in the shape of the state of Kentucky with the state AFL-CIO emblem on it.

The official sponsorship of this meeting by the AFL-CIO made it possible to set up another meeting for Rivera at the union hall of Local 15 of the International Chemical Workers of America, which organizes the large Colgate-Palmolive plant in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Workers from the plant came to hear the Salvadoran trade unionist after getting off work that day.

Rivera talked about the conditions faced by workers at the Colgate-Palmolive plant outside San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador.

This plant exists in a "free trade zone"

where the owners don't have to pay taxes. The zone is completely militarized, and soldiers with machine guns watch over the workers in the plants. All union activity is violently suppressed. Unions still exist, although they are quite underground for obvious reasons.

The workers at Colgate's plant in El Salvador, who do many of the exact same jobs that workers at the plant in Jeffersonville do, are paid the equivalent of 35 cents per hour. The toothpaste they produce is then sold in El Salvador at a higher price than it is sold for in the United States.

The facts of the conditions in El Salvador made a tremendous impact on the workers at the meeting.

Most of the questions asked — as in the earlier meeting — centered around whether or not the whole situation in El Salvador is simply being manipulated by the Soviet Union. It was pointed out that this argument is nothing more than the cover for intervention by the U.S. government to maintain the extremely profitable corporate activities in the country. At the end of the meeting, workers agreed that it was very important to take back what they had learned to other workers in the plant who weren't able to hear Rivera.

In the weeks that followed, countless discussions developed on El Salvador as a result of the Salvadoran trade unionist's visit to Local 15's union hall. The fact that Colgate pays its employees in El Salvador 35 cents an hour comes up a lot, and especially gets thrown at the foremen when they try to say they only have the interests of the workers at heart.

The discussion further developed when reports were taken back on the meeting to Local 15's Executive Board, the next regular union meeting of Local 15, and at the next meeting of the South Central Indiana Labor Council.

The tour of Marta Alicia Rivera was very important in advancing the discussion of El Salvador as a trade union question that must be discussed by North American workers.

Subscribe to the Militant

Nicaraguan health worker speaks in U.S.

BY SYLVIA HANSEN

SAN DIEGO — Mercedes Tenorio, a Nicaraguan health worker, spoke to an enthusiastic crowd of 175 here June 10. Tenorio is a registered nurse and head of international relations for FETSALUD, the Nicaraguan health workers federation.

Many health workers from the University Hospital attended the meeting here.

Tenorio spoke of improvements in health care since the revolution and asked for support in confronting the remaining health problems in Nicaragua. She said that several hospitals in the United States, such as at the University of California, San Francisco, are now paired with Nicaraguan hospitals. U.S. health workers have helped get donations of much-needed medical supplies to Nicaragua.

Taking up the U.S. war against Nicara-

gua, Tenorio emphasized that "all conditions are in place for a major intervention by the United States." She stated that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's claims of wanting to negotiate for peace are a cover for what is really happening. While he speaks of peace, U.S.-backed terrorists attack agricultural communities in Nicaragua. These events go unreported in the major media.

Tenorio received applause when she said that Nicaragua "is an example and hope for all people fighting for national liberation." She spoke of the unity of the Nicaraguan people in combating U.S. aggression. "We will defend what we have conquered," she said.

The meeting was sponsored by the Friends of Nicaraguan Culture and the Social Responsibility Committee of the First Unitarian Church.

Machinists defeat raid on union in San Diego

BY DEAN DENNO

SAN DIEGO — Workers at General Dynamics Corp. Convair Division here have overwhelmingly rejected a divisive raid on their union, Machinists Local Lodge 1125. The vote was 2,726 for the International Association of Machinists (IAM) to 1,194 for Teamsters Airline Local 2707. Only 62 workers out of about 4,000 voted for "no union."

The extremely low vote for "no union," about 1.5 percent, took many IAM supporters by surprise and was added cause for celebration. Although the IAM is the largest union in San Diego, the union movement as a whole is not strong here. Many large employers, including GD's Datagraphix Division, are unorganized.

With this impressive victory behind them, members of Local 1125 are now turning their attention to the struggle for a new contract with GD. They are currently working under an extension of the previous contract, which expired April 29.

Taking advantage of the uncertainty caused by the raid, the Convair bosses refused to negotiate seriously. In spite of this, union officials have expressed the hope that the solid union victory in the

election will force the company to make some kind of offer. In addition, the union leadership has pledged that there will be no vote on any contract proposal until the membership has had three days to consider it.

This is important. The Teamster raid gained some support among Convair workers because of real dissatisfaction with the current IAM contract. Some of the provisions of this contract are the result of take-backs imposed by the company three years ago.

When that contract was ratified by the union membership, they did not have it in writing. It was presented and then forced to a vote in a single two-hour meeting with virtually no discussion. Workers are determined to avoid such a hasty decision this time.

The day after the election, the IAM issued a statement urging unity as negotiations resumed. Many former Teamster supporters are now wearing IAM hats or buttons in a demonstration of solidarity.

Union activists are still evaluating the vote. The 30 percent of votes for the Teamsters expressed pronoun sentiment, but also showed confusion about what a union is, where its strength lies, and how we can transform our union into a more effective tool to fight for our rights.

The raid is now over, but these questions remain important topics of discussion. This discussion has

also reached into the GD Electronics Division, which operates in the same plants as Convair, and where workers also belong to Local 1125. Wages in Electronics are even lower than at Convair, and full-fledged dual wage scale is in effect there.

But the discussion now going on can help unite Electronics workers and strengthen the IAM for the fight when the Electronics contract expires in 1985.

Dean Denno is a worker at General Dynamics-Convair and a member of IAM Local Lodge 1125.

Solidarity rally backs Papercraft strikers in Pa.

BY MARK WEDDLETON

PITTSBURGH — Entering their second month of a bitter strike, the embattled workers of Papercraft Corp. got a big boost here June 13 in a spirited labor-community solidarity rally of more than 400 people.

Forced onto the picket line April 28 after nearly four months of fruitless bargaining, the 500 members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 1446 are standing their ground against boss demands of a \$3 an hour pay cut, along with 40 more

take-aways, including a week's vacation and slashes in benefits, pensions, and company social security payments. Average pay is \$7.48 an hour.

Unlike other corporate fatcats, who claim "insufficient profits" as the reason to bleed workers dry with concessions, Papercraft board Chairman Michael Katz boasted in the company's annual report, "once again, net income, earnings per share and revenues reached record levels."

The cheering, chanting, placard waving June 13 rally heard pledges of support from top officers of the Paperworkers international union, the Allegheny County Labor Council, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Bakery and Confectionary Workers Union, Coalition of Labor Union Women, and a variety of community leaders.

The strikers were joined by allies from a number of other unions, along with family members, including small children sporting union buttons.

James Ferlo, a leader of the Support Our Neighborhoods Action Coalition (SNAC), which cosponsored the rally, won cheers when he said, "this is a rally against corporate greed. We stand behind the Papercraft workers because they deserve every damned penny they have earned."

"We applaud your courage, determination and unity against this

cold, callous corporation," SEIU International Vice-pres. Rosemary Trump told the rally to chants of approval.

Black community activist Richard Adams called for "unity between Black and white, male and female" in the fight against the rich.

Adams continued, condemning Washington's war against Central America. "Why should we send our youth to war against Nicaragua, to war in El Salvador to defend the interests of the same people there who are breaking our unions at home, the corporations? They're [Nicaraguans and Salvadorans] fighting the same people we are!" Again, the crowd erupted in applause, giving the Black community leader a standing ovation.

An open mike provided members of the steelworkers, ironworkers, hospital workers, meatcutters and other paperworker unionists a chance to pledge their support to the strike.

The SNAC has launched a boycott of Papercraft products, including Esquire shoe-care items, Tintex Dyes and LePage tapes and adhesives. Boise Cascade workers of UPIU Local 296 have begun a food bank to supplement Papercraft workers' strike benefits.

Mark Weddleton is a member of United Paperworkers International Union Local 296 — Boise Cascade.

Solidarity with Guatemala conference held in D.C.

BY EDWIN FRUIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thirty years ago this month, the CIA, with the support of the United Fruit Co., financed and directed a coup d'etat that toppled the democratically-elected Jacobo Arbenz government in Guatemala. On June 15 of this year, the Network in Solidarity With the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) sponsored a conference here to investigate the consequences of U.S. intervention in Guatemala since 1954.

Over 200 people from around the country attended the conference, which consisted of major talks, a series of workshops, and a cultural presentation.

The talks were given by Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general; Stephen Schlesinger, author of *Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*; and Norma Chinchilla, professor of women's studies at California State at Long Beach.

Schlesinger explained the interrelated role of the U.S. government and corporations such as United Fruit, which owned and controlled much of Guatemala's land, railroads, and ports. United Fruit was opposed to the reforms initiated by the government of Arbenz and asked Pres. Dwight Eisenhower to intervene.

Schlesinger pointed out that even today, 30 years after the coup, the CIA keeps classified 180,000 documents on its involvement. Since 1954, between 80,000 and 100,000 people have been killed by successive repressive regimes in Guatemala.

Clark said that in the first quarter of 1984, over 5,000 people in Guatemala had been arrested without cause and 57 political leaders had been "disappeared." Clark called for an end to all U.S. military aid to Guatemala, U.S. recognition of all nations in the region including Cuba, and an end to all covert actions.

Chinchilla explained that in Guatemala, the wealthiest 5 percent of the population receives 60 percent of the annual income, while the poorest 50 percent receive only 7 percent of the income. Life expectancy is only 50 years and half of all children die before age 5.

A message was read from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG), which represents the four revolutionary organizations that have taken up arms against the government. The message stressed the need of getting more information to the North American people about

the situation in Guatemala. It urged that the U.S. people give the same kind of support to the struggles of the peoples of Central America that they did to the Vietnamese.

Francisca Alvarez, a Guatemalan community activist, talked about the need to interrelate Guatemalan solidarity work with solidarity in Central America as a whole. She explained how it was this solidarity work that led to a recent agreement between Coca-Cola and its workers in Guatemala City, who have occupied the bottling plant. More pressure is needed, she said, to make sure the company does not back down.

At a workshop on Human Rights and Refugees, it was reported that there are close to 500,000 Guatemalan refugees, of whom 100,000 reside in Mexico. Ed Fisher, of Peace for Guatemala, explained that the Mexican government was relocating some 46,000 of them to the interior. This was partially in response to the Guatemalan army, which has made repeated forays into Mexico to attack and kill refugees.

The condition of the refugees is quite poor. They are not allowed to work and are wholly dependent on outside aid. One of the workshop participants gave a moving



Over 5,000 people in Guatemala were arrested in first three months of 1984; 57 political leaders have been "disappeared."

testimony on her own encounter with the Guatemalan army. She had been assaulted, shot, and left for dead. After recovering, she and her family were threatened and her son was "disappeared." Eventually, her family was forced to flee to Mexico. Her experience is a common occurrence under the dictatorship.

For more information on solidarity ac-

tivities with the Guatemalan people, contact NISGUA, 930 F Street, NW, Suite 720, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Edwin Fruit is in Local 63 of the New York Joint Board of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and did labor support work for the Coca-Cola strike in Guatemala City.

Texas UAW Local 848: 'no contract, less work'

BY GREG PRESTON

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Pursuing a strategy of "No contract, less work," United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 848 members have remained on the job at the LTV (Vought) Corp. since their previous contract expired last March.

Shortly after negotiations had stalled, Vought imposed its own conditions on the approximately 3,500 workers in the aerospace division.

Included in the company's terms are an end to cost-of-living adjustments, institution of a two-tier wage system where new hires come in at half pay, elimination of certain medical benefits, and a mandatory 50-hour workweek.

Last year the aerospace division of LTV showed a \$67 million profit.

The union's response to Vought's unilateral action was to file charges of failure to negotiate in good faith before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in Fort

Worth. On May 3 the charges were dismissed.

Following the setback dealt by the NLRB, Local 848 launched a campaign of refusing overtime with the slogan: "No contract, no overtime."

The first workers to refuse the company's overtime demands were summarily fired. The union is no longer urging members to refuse overtime.

In April, Vought discontinued deducting union dues from workers' paychecks in a move to further undercut union strength. However, according to Carroll Butler, Local 848 president, members have appeared at the union hall to continue paying dues.

Texas is a "right to work" state, so the company is under no obligation to check off dues even if the entire work force is in the union. Union membership at Vought is over 87 percent.

On May 24, the union sponsored a sol-

idarity rally at the company gates. Approximately 500 workers gathered to hear speeches by UAW International Pres. Owen Bieber and other top union officials. Bieber pledged, "the International Union will back [you] all the way."

Thus far, workers' fightback on the shop floor has proceeded along the general guidelines laid out in a UAW *Ammo* pamphlet entitled *Winning in Tough Times*.

According to Butler, these actions include shutting down production to file mass grievances; work-by-the-rules — following company rules to the letter — and walkouts over disputed health and safety violations. Union officials hope that the resulting slowdown in production will force the company back to the bargaining table.

The local union is now awaiting an appeal to the NLRB.

Greg Preston is a member of UAW Local 276 at General Motors in Arlington, Texas.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

The Current INS Campaign Against Immigrants: What Can We Do About It? Speakers from the sanctuary movement, Arizona Farm Workers Union, South Mountain Community College, and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 7, 7 p.m. 17 E Southern. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 268-3369.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Recent Developments in the Struggle for the Liberation of Southern Africa. A panel discussion. Speakers: Vussi Shangasi, member of African National Congress; Ron Wilkins, member of Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Glova Scott, Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

Celebrate and Defend the Nicaraguan and Cuban Revolutions. Speakers to be announced. Sat., July 21, 7 p.m. 1053 15th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Bookstore. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

San Jose

Simpson-Mazzoli Bill: An Attack on All Labor. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 30, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race

St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

Why Is There a War Between Iraq and Iran? Is the U.S. Neutral? Speaker: Jerry Freiwirth, Bay Area District Chairperson of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Simpson-Mazzoli Bill: An Attack on All Workers. Speakers: representatives from Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants; Casa El Salvador; Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Stop the Deportations! Speakers: Fritz Longchamp, Haitian Refugee Project; Man-kekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo, member of African National Congress facing deportation from U.S.; Marla Puziss, member of Socialist Workers Party and International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1784; representative of Central America Solidarity Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 1, 7 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Stop Union-busting! Speakers: Tommye Wiese, striking Toledo Sun Oil worker; Josefina Otero, laid-off steelworker, with video tape of Phelps Dodge copper strike; Emirene Mendoza, United Auto Workers attorney, member of Detroit Guatemala Committee, with video tape of Guatemalan Coca-Cola strike; representative of utility workers on strike in Detroit. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 30, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Health Care in the U.S. Today — Support the Nurses Strike! Speakers: representative of Socialist Workers Party; Claude Webb, registered nurse at North Memorial Medical Center. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 30, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

New York City

Simpson-Mazzoli Bill: An Attack on All Labor. Speakers: Héctor Marroquin, socialist fighting deportation to Mexico; representative of Committee for Fair Immigration Legislation; Apolinar Prínida, Latinas United for Political Action. Translation to Spanish. Fri., July 6, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Party to Celebrate Fifth Anniversary of Nicaraguan Revolution. Sat., July 7, 8:30 p.m. to midnight. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: New York and New Jersey Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (201) 643-3341, (212) 226-8445.

OREGON

Portland

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Rally & Grand Opening of New Militant Bookstore. Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; Jamie Partridge, Portland Labor Committee on Central America. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 30, Bookstore open, 5 p.m.; reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Why Working People Should Support the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speakers: Jeffrey Richardson, participant in Witness for Peace program in Nicaragua and a reporter for the Pittsburgh Courier; Paul Garver, staff representative for Service Employees International Union Local 585, toured Nicaragua with U.S. trade union delegation; Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, worked in Nicaragua in 1983. Sat., June 30, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Price

British Miners Fight to Save Their Union: an Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Bruce Kimball, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295, covered British miners' strike for Militant. Sat., June 30, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., room 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Vietnam and Kampuchea: an eyewitness report

A slide show and presentation by Diane Wang

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Fri., July 6, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. Slide show by Diane Wang and presentation by Kathleen Gough, author of *Ten Times More Beautiful*. Donation: \$3. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Sun., July 22, 10 a.m. "Reconstruction in post-war Vietnam," a class and discussion. Sun., 1 p.m. "Genocide and Recovery in Kampuchea." For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Sat., July 28, 8 p.m. 957 S. University Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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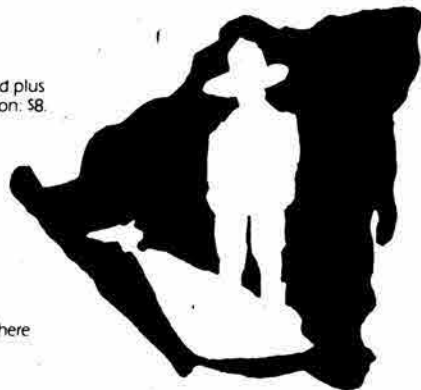
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RHODE ISLAND: Providence: YSA, P.O.

Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 767 S. State. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

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

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

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

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

Socialist extends solidarity to miners

Continued from Page 7

Mason left Aylesham and went to the headquarters of the Deal NUM. There, he presented a message for the miners that read: "May you emerge victorious in your struggle. You're a tremendous example for working-class fighters all over the world. Long live the NUM! In Brotherhood, Mel Mason."

At the Deal Welfare Club, Mason met Charlie Sheables. Sheables had led the occupation of the NCB's offices the day the cops arrested the NUM's president, Arthur Scargill. They were also protesting the jailing of Kent NUM Pres. Malcolm Pitt.

Cop brutality

Mason then went north to the Labor Club in Ramsgate. The women's action group there gave Mason a picture of themselves to give to the women strike supporters in Arizona. While there, Mason met Joan Webber, who has a complaint pending against the cops. She told Mason her story.

Webber had been attending the trial of Malcolm Pitt. She walked outside to smoke a cigarette. A miner who was standing outside asked if he could take her place in the packed courtroom. She readily agreed. As he tried to walk inside, however, 10 cops descended on him. Webber tried to help defend him, at which point the cops beat her up too.

One of the strengths of the NUM — the strongest and most militant union in Britain — is the internationalism of its leadership. The NUM organizes trips for miners to the workers states in Eastern Europe and Cuba, to see what life is like in countries where capitalism has been abolished and the working class is the ruling class. In Ramsgate, Mason was able to talk to one of the miners who had been to Cuba.

As Mason left Ramsgate, the miners invited him back to Britain for their victory celebration.

Sheffield

Mason also spoke at *Socialist Action*-sponsored meetings in Sheffield and Nottinghamshire.

In Sheffield, he was joined on the platform by Dave Douglass, a member of the Yorkshire NUM Executive and strike organizer for the Doncaster region.

Sheffield is the site of the Orgreave Coke Depot. Pitched battles have occurred there after cop attacks on pickets attempting to prevent the transport of scab coke from the depot to the Scunthorpe steelworks.

The reason why this strike is so bitter, said Douglass, is that the imperialist system is in bad shape. There are revolutions all over the colonial and semicolonial

Special campaign fund

A special \$5,000 fund has been established to cover the costs of socialist presidential candidate Mel Mason's recent trip to Britain and Ireland. Mason is now touring U.S. cities to speak about his experiences and to build solidarity with British miners and with those struggling for freedom in Ireland.

Contributions to this fund can be made payable to "Socialist Presidential Campaign."

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

☐ I would like to be a campaign volunteer.

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____

Zip _____ Tel. _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign, 14 Charles Ln., New York, NY 10014

(paid for by the Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee)

world by people who are "sick of being kicked from pillar to post" by British and U.S. imperialism. This forces the British imperialists, said Douglass, to move even harder against its own working class. The rulers are trying to fundamentally turn back the clock and take away many of the gains won by workers in Britain, he warned.

Against import controls

"I'm against import controls" as any kind of answer to the problems facing British miners, declared Douglass, because they "make other workers our enemies."

The miners strike is not simply an economic struggle, said Douglass. "The Tories have spent 72 times the cost of saving the pits on the police operation alone," he pointed out, thus proving that it is breaking the NUM — not saving money — that is at the center of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's concerns.

The reason for this, said Douglass, is that the miners union represents the bedrock of industrial workers in Britain. "If she [Thatcher] shatters through that, she'll shatter through the backbone of the British labor movement."

Douglass described the depth of police violence against the strikers and linked it to the level of cop brutality against Britain's Black communities and Ireland's freedom fighters.

Things will never be the same again in Britain after the miners strike, said Douglass. This strike will be a turning point in the fight against the ruling-class offensive. Miners have to "link up with minorities and anti-imperialist struggles — the tide of history won't be turned back," he said confidently.

Mason speaks in Britain on Black struggle

Continued from Page 7

of the film *Harlan County, USA*, the story of Brookside, Kentucky, miners' bitter battle in 1973 to win a United Mine Workers contract. Ian MacGregor, current chairman of Britain's National Coal Board — which runs this country's nationalized mines — was an official in the firm that owned the Brookside mine during that strike.

Miners in Britain have been on strike for four months against the government's plans to close down 70 mines and throw 70,000 miners out of work. While he was in Britain, Mason made a special point of meeting as many miners as possible, and emphasized his party's full support for their struggle.

Mason gave a brief speech at both halls. At the Bold National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) headquarters, a miner introduced him, saying that Mason was "standing for socialism" in the U.S. presidential elections. The media blocks out this campaign, the miner said, just like they do to the views of the striking miners in Britain.

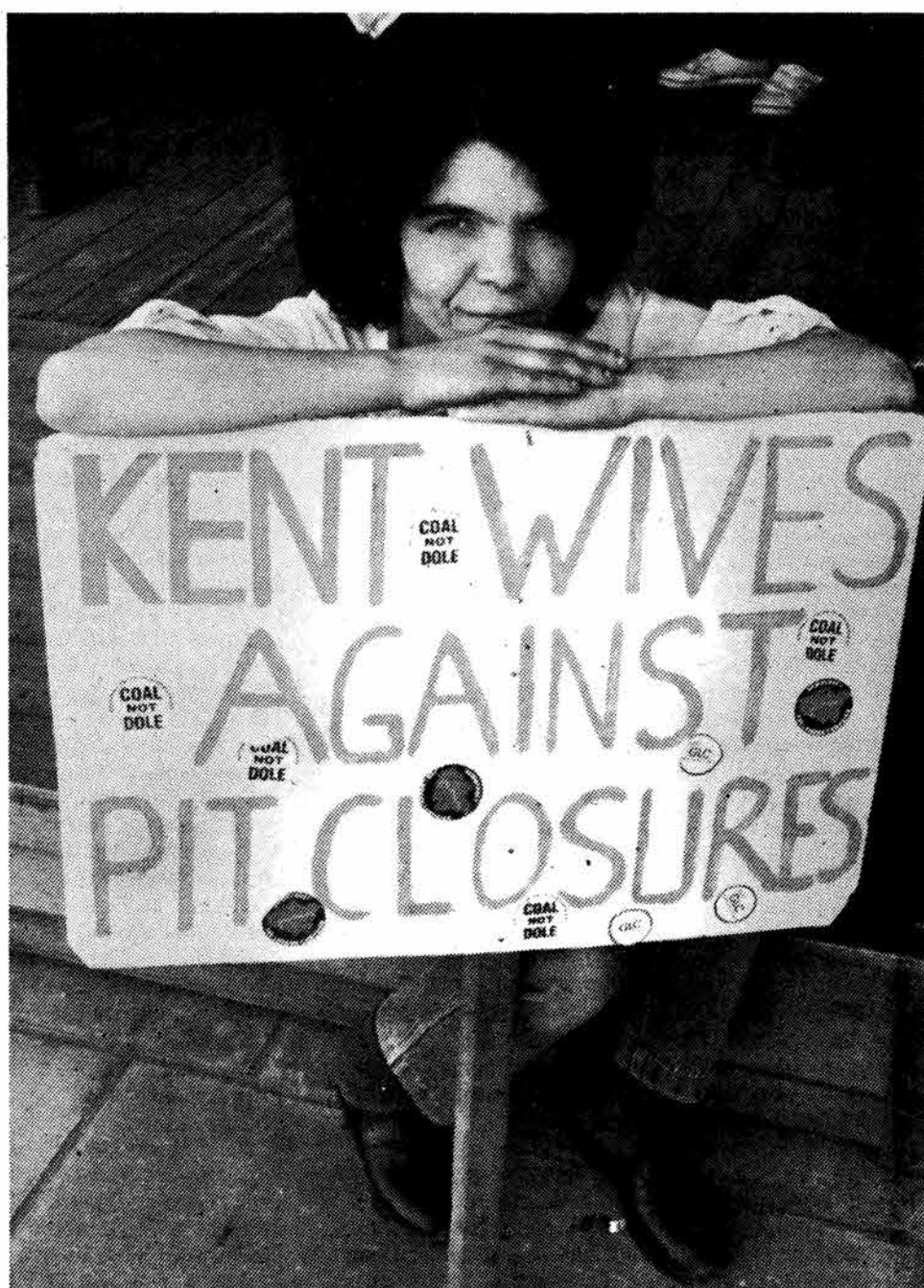
Mason told the miners he had just come from Ireland, where he participated in anti-war protests during Reagan's visit. He had learned firsthand about the Irish freedom struggle, which Mason is an avid supporter of. Mason said he came to Britain to participate in the June 9 protest here against Reagan's visit, and to talk to miners.

Mason described some of the labor battles in the United States today, particularly the strike by Arizona copper miners and auto workers in Toledo, Ohio.

Meeting with machinists

The next day, a supporter of *Socialist Action* organized a lunchtime meeting for Mason with 12 coworkers. They were all machinists at Coleman Fastener and members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Mason gave them a summary of the SWP's program and described the undemocratic nature of the election laws in the United States. Workers asked questions about Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic Party presidential spot. The problem of racism — in the United States



G.M. Cookson

Miner's wife at May Day rally in London. Socialist candidate Mel Mason met with Kent miners wives' organization during his trip to Britain.

and at Coleman Fastener, where no Blacks are employed — was also discussed.

Mason also spoke at a meeting sponsored by *Socialist Action* in Birmingham, Britain's second-largest city. Mason was there while a strike was going on at British Leyland's Longbridge auto plant against the firing of a Black worker who had hit a foreman who had called him racist names. The strike caused production to stop at six area auto plants.

'Rally Against Reagan'

Mason spoke at a "Rally Against Reagan" in Salford, which is just west of Manchester. Several Bold miners Mason had met earlier came to the rally.

Martine Bonadona, from the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, described her recent trip to Nicaragua. She talked about the effects of the CIA-led war against Nicaragua.

More Vietnamese troops leave Kampuchea

BY WILL REISSNER

Kampuchean radio stations reported June 15 that a third annual withdrawal of Vietnamese army units from Kampuchea will take place during June.

This year's withdrawal will include three regiments or brigades as well as a large number of independent battalions. It is thought that 15,000-20,000 troops will be involved.

Vietnamese troops entered Kampuchea, formerly known as Cambodia, in December 1978 in support of Kampuchean liberation forces fighting the murderous Pol Pot regime.

Although Pol Pot's forces were quickly driven out of most of Kampuchea, they have established important bases in Thailand, along that country's long border with Kampuchea. From their Thai bases the counterrevolutionaries have mounted raids into Kampuchea's interior.

During last year's wet season, from May to October, Pol Pot's forces received major shipments of arms and equipment from the Chinese and Thai governments. Despite

Despite the enormous obstacle this puts in the way of the revolution, said Bonadona, Nicaragua has made big advances in the five years since the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

Bonadona reported that she met a NUM member when she was in Nicaragua. He had gotten fed up, he told her, with Britain's National Coal Board and decided to go to Nicaragua to help miners there.

One of the miners spoke, appealing for support for the strike.

Mason urged all-out participation in the antimissiles demonstration in London on June 9 and told the audience that an important action against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean was taking place in New York the same day.

Kay Bastin, a member of the Greater Manchester Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Greenham Common Support Group, also spoke.

this stepped up aid, they were unable to significantly expand their area of operations inside Kampuchea.

With the start of the dry season in November, Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops hit the Pol Pot forces hard. Almost all their bases inside Kampuchea have been destroyed, and the corridors they used for entering Kampuchea from Thailand have been blocked.

Morale among the Pol Pot forces is reportedly sagging and the number of counterrevolutionary soldiers who have surrendered to Kampuchean authorities has grown.

In addition to applying military pressure against the Pol Pot forces, the Kampuchean government has increased its propaganda work among the counterrevolutionaries, calling on them to give up the fight. Buddhist monks and women are said to have played a key role in this effort.

Despite the setback to the Pol Pot forces, the Thai government continues to foster tension along its borders with Kampuchea and Laos, acting in collusion with Washington and Peking.

Cuba's invitation to Jackson

Cuba's invitation to Democratic Party presidential candidate Jesse Jackson to visit the island and meet with Prime Minister Fidel Castro is another attempt to remove the barriers erected by Washington against normal relations between Cuba and the United States.

Castro personally welcomed Jackson to Havana on June 25 and explained he had extended the invitation "out of a gesture of friendship to the people of the United States."

Cuba has faced the unrelenting hostility of the U.S. government since shortly after the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959. This has included the U.S.-organized invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961; CIA-sponsored assassination attempts aimed at Fidel Castro; constant military provocations; and today's continued maintenance of a U.S. naval base at Cuba's Guantanamo Bay, over the objections of the Cuban government.

The U.S. government has sought to isolate revolutionary Cuba economically and politically. It persists in a damaging economic blockade of the island. It pressures other governments not to trade with Cuba or maintain diplomatic relations. Washington itself has not had formal diplomatic relations with Cuba for more than 20 years. It denies U.S. citizens the chance to travel to Cuba.

The U.S. government has tried to brand Cuba as an outlaw. It falsely charges Cuba with "international terrorism" at the very same time that Washington mines Nicaraguan harbors and steps up its military support to the reactionary capitalist governments in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Cuba has consistently answered these charges. In the face of U.S. hostility it has persistently probed for opportunities to normalize relations.

"It is not we who declare ourselves the enemy of the U.S.," Castro explained in an April 1984 interview published in *Parade* magazine. "It is the U.S. that declares itself beforehand the enemy of revolutionary countries. What the U.S. does is to place conditions, demand that countries cease being revolutionary, that countries sever their ties with other countries, that countries sell themselves."

In a January 1984 interview with *Newsweek* magazine Castro pointed out that the deep political differences between Cuba and Washington "should not mean that there might not be major areas in which both countries and governments could work constructively."

"We have never rejected a dialogue with the Reagan administration," said Castro. He noted that Cuban Vice-pres. Carlos Rafael Rodríguez had met earlier with then-U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Castro himself followed up on this meeting in talks with U.S. Gen. Vernon Walters in Havana.

"But we cannot say that a dialogue was established," Castro said, "it was rather a confrontation of viewpoints."

The obstacles Washington creates to such a dialogue have not stopped the Cuban government from seeking every avenue to have discussion. Cuba has welcomed U.S. elected officials who have been willing to visit the island and talk with government representatives. Top Cuban officials have granted many interviews to U.S.

correspondents in an effort to make Cuban views known to the U.S. people.

Cuba's invitation to Jackson is the latest effort of this kind.

While Jackson was in Cuba, Castro announced that his government would release 22 U.S. prisoners held in Cuban jails. Subsequently the Cuban government announced plans to release 26 Cuban prisoners as well.

John Ferch, head of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana, admitted that most U.S. citizens in Cuban jails are there on narcotics charges and that they are treated humanely and in accordance with Cuban law.

Nevertheless, the big-business media in the United States was quick to seize on the Jackson trip and the Cuban gesture to unload another barrage of lies about "political prisoners" in Cuba and their alleged mistreatment in Cuban jails. This campaign is intended to obscure the fact that prisoners in Cuba have been convicted of serious criminal acts ranging from the aforementioned drug running to violence against the Cuban people and their revolution.

The U.S. media barrage is also intended to prevent Cuba's message of friendship to the people of the United States, and its willingness to establish normal diplomatic relations, from getting across.

Jackson too has come under attack for accepting Cuba's invitation. Those in ruling-class political circles who favor a harder line toward Cuba object to Jackson's position favoring normalization of diplomatic relations and his criticism of U.S. government policy on this issue.

"I happen to think that the American people are not overly enthralled with criticism of their own country in a foreign land," said Vice-pres. Bush before Jackson's trip.

James Reston, a long-time top columnist for the *New York Times*, went much further. In a June 27 article titled, "What's Jesse Doing?" Reston expressed his strong disapproval of Jackson for "going on to play buddy with Fidel Castro."

"Mr. Castro will give Jesse some prisoners," wrote Reston, mocking Cuba's good faith gesture, "and might even agree to take back some Cuban convicts, now polluting Miami."

Reston also complained that Jackson "is acting as if he were President before he's nominated or elected." Evidently, in Reston's eyes, such behavior is only acceptable from Democratic or Republican party representatives who are white.

Both the racist attacks on Jackson and the deep hostility toward revolutionary Cuba are apparent in Reston's comment that Jackson "is presuming to negotiate a settlement, which is, to put it gently, a little cheeky, and to put it legally, probably a violation of the Logan Act, which forbids private citizens from negotiating with foreign governments."

Behind this smoke screen of lies about Cuba and attacks on Jackson is the attempt to undercut sympathy in this country for Cuban offers and initiatives toward friendship with the U.S. people.

Working people should reject this and demand: end the U.S. blockade against Cuba! U.S. forces out of Guantanamo! Normalize relations with Cuba now!

Maurice Bishop on emancipation of Grenadian women

When the U.S. government invaded Grenada last October, one of the gains it wanted to stamp out was the advances women had made through the revolution that took place there in 1979. The workers and farmers government, led by Maurice Bishop, that came to power in 1979 made women's rights a high priority.

Just three months after the revolution, on June 15, 1979, Bishop gave a speech to the National Conference of Women in Grenada.

The following are excerpts from that speech. The entire text of the talk, titled "Women Step Forward," is contained in the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, available for \$6.95 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling when ordering.

Just as in the days of slavery, the woman's main function was to produce children so that the slave master would have more human labor that he could exploit; so today in some parts of the world that situation continues.

Again, under the system of capitalism where the interests of capital and profit demand that there is always a large army of unemployed people to act as a reserve pool

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

of labor for business and for capital, the woman is always at the bottom of that ladder being the last to be hired and the first to be fired.

This historical exploitation has both a subjective aspect and an objective aspect. In its subjective side, it has to do with the habits, the values, the ideas, the culture that has been handed down right from the earliest days. We look at the Bible, for example, and it speaks of the Trinity, and the Trinity is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, all presumably being members of the same sex.

But apart from these subjective factors there are very serious objective factors that have limited the development and the growth of the women in class society, in the social system that we have where everyone is exploited for profits. We find for example, that there are no day-care centers so, even if the woman is lucky enough to find a job, there is no place where she can leave the children at home in order to go out to do that job.

The lack of community laundries, the lack of pipe-borne water, all these too are very serious limiting objective factors in ensuring that our women have time to do more things. Obviously if you have to spend half day washing by hand when there are things called washing machines and they can be provided for the use of the community, then a lot of your time is going to be wasted.

Therefore, we are particularly happy that the women of our country, united with their Caribbean counterparts and their international counterparts, have begun this very important process of trying to identify what are the problems facing our women in Grenada; of trying to identify a serious and relevant role for the women in our country and of beginning to pose solutions to those problems. It is clear, however, that having found the problems and having identified the solutions that these solutions can only come into effect if there is unity of man and woman in the attempt to try to solve the problems that have been identified. The woman cannot do it by herself; the man cannot do it by himself.

Without the liberation of the woman there cannot be the liberation of the man, so man also has the responsibility of pushing for the liberation of our women.

The People's Revolutionary Government, since our coming into being cannot pretend that we have done anything in a serious way at this point, to solve the objective problems facing the women in our society. We have, however, done a number of things to assist in eradicating some of the subjective difficulties tied up with old habits and old culture and old prejudices.

First and foremost we have proclaimed the principle of *equal pay for equal work* and we have made it clear that our position is going to be that wherever and at whatever level in our society where the woman does exactly the same work as the man, then she must receive the same pay as the man.

Secondly, we have proclaimed the *principle of maternity leave*.

We have also issued directives that any minister or civil servant, that they must move rapidly to change the wording of laws to ensure that they begin to speak of the equality of men and women in our society.

We have also issued directives that any minister or civil servant who chooses to engage in the old practice of the sexual exploitation of our women for work — you remember the old practice that used to exist up to a few months ago where the women were sent from hand to hand in exchange for a job? — we have made it clear that anyone caught engaging in that practice will be immediately dismissed and we are very serious about that.

Congress covers up U.S. war

Continued from front page

ments, major gains in the control of contagious diseases, cheap credit to farmers from the nationalized banks, democratic participation in government bodies from the neighborhood to the national level — this is what Nicaraguan workers and peasants are willing to give their lives to defend.

Washington cannot let this revolution simply take its course without making a serious attempt to crush it. Its example to the oppressed and exploited of Latin America and the world is too attractive — "too dangerous" is how Reagan would put it.

The workers and peasants of Nicaragua have certainly inspired their brothers and sisters in El Salvador, who are gaining ground in their war against the U.S.-backed regime there, despite the massive amount of U.S. firepower that's been thrown against them.

So the Pentagon has no choice but to more and more intervene directly to try to accomplish with the U.S. government's military might what can't be accomplished by CIA-trained mercenaries.

U.S. personnel now directly mine the harbors, conduct raids on Nicaragua's ports, train contra troops, and fly spy flights from Honduras.

Washington's masterminding of this operation is so obvious, and the Sandinista government's international campaign to expose Washington has been so successful, that even the World Court was forced to find the U.S. government guilty as charged.

But the more Washington pours into the war in Central America, the stiffer resistance it meets.

That is why Washington is busily preparing the ground for the direct use of large numbers of U.S. combat

troops. That's why thousands of U.S. GIs are permanently based in Honduras conducting continuous military "maneuvers."

In the face of this reality, the Nicaraguan government has taken a series of steps to deepen the revolution, advance class consciousness, and strengthen the country's defense.

These include: distributing 1.3 million more acres of land this year to working farmers; new blows against merchants who hoard scarce consumer goods for speculative purposes; the dismantling of contra networks in the cities; and beefing up the armed forces and militia, including through a second round of conscription.

Diplomatic efforts aimed at keeping Washington on the defensive politically have also been made, including the June 1 meeting between leaders of the U.S. and Nicaraguan governments.

Just as the Nicaraguan workers and peasants are taking measures to turn back the attacks today and prepare for the future escalation, working people in the United States must do the same thing.

We are the ones who will fight and die in a war against brothers and sisters who have the same enemies we do: the U.S. employers and their paid political servants.

The recent conventions of both the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees passed resolutions condemning Washington's war against Nicaragua.

Those resolutions reflect the sentiments of millions of workers. These sentiments can and should be turned into public protest activities to demand: U.S. hands off Nicaragua!

Seniority ruling aims to divide women, unions

No women work today at the Ford Stamping Plant in Walton Hills, Ohio.

The few women who managed to fight their way into the plant — fewer than 100 out of a peak work force of some 4,300 — were all laid off in 1979 because of their



WOMEN IN REVOLT Pat Grogan

low seniority. Almost all have now lost their recall rights.

Before 1973, Ford refused to hire women. Period. Then, in 1973, after the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a lawsuit, a few women were hired, only to be fired the day before their probation ended. In 1977, Ford finally responded to pressure and hired some women. But when the layoffs hit, not a single woman had enough seniority to keep her job.

The plight of women workers at this Ford plant has been repeated in mines, mills, and factories across the country. And now, the Supreme Court has made it the law of the land.

On June 12, the Supreme Court upheld the last hired, first fired system that keeps the union movement divided and weakened and undoes the gains of affirmative action.

In a case involving Black fire fighters in Memphis, Tennessee, the court ruled that seniority lists could not be modified to protect the gains of Blacks, Latinos, and women in the face of layoffs.

The decision opens the door to further attacks against affirmative action and equality.

William Bradford Reynolds, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, said he will advise the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and the EEOC not to negotiate any new agreements using affirmative action quotas.

Commenting on the Supreme Court ruling, Reynolds said, "It is an exhilarating decision."

More than 50 affirmative action programs could be on the chopping block, including the 1974 Consent Decree in the steel industry and recently negotiated plans between the EEOC and the major auto companies such as Ford and General Motors.

The media has gone on a big campaign to confuse working people on the meaning of the Supreme Court decision.

They present the decision as the outcome of a fight between the unions on the one side and women and Blacks on the other.

The headline in the June 13 *New York Times*, for example, reads, "Seniority Is Held to Outweigh Race as a Layoff Guide — Union Leaders Applaud Ruling . . ."

You can almost hear the mallet pounding the wedge deeper. They try to make it seem as if the unions won and women, Blacks and Latinos lost. This is false.

The truth is that the employers won and all working people lost. This ruling not only dealt a big blow to Blacks and women, but also weakened the unions' ability to fight in the interests of all working people. A strong union movement can never be built on the basis of inequality, racism, sexism, and privilege.

The employers want to convince women and Black rights fighters that the labor movement cannot be won to defend equal rights.

The impact of the Black and women's movements has been considerable in the labor movement. Affirmative

action programs were won as a result of struggles on the part of Black and women fighters for an end to discrimination in the workplace. They forced the companies to institute some affirmative action measures and pulled along union misleaders, often kicking and screaming, into supporting them.

Progress was made. By 1979, the AFL-CIO and virtually the entire labor movement backed up the United Steelworkers of America in a key affirmative-action fight known as the Weber case. Today, the employers argue that with high unemployment, affirmative action is not realistic. Union bureaucrats echo this line, defending seniority systems that mean women and Blacks will be the first laid off.

There is an increasing discussion in the labor movement about changing seniority systems, one that women's liberation fighters should be in the thick of.

We should point to the stand of the National Education Association and show how it has set an example for the union movement.

At their July 1983 convention, NEA delegates passed a resolution that said a court should have the power "to impose racial or sexual preferences in hiring, promotion, and layoff to the extent necessary to eliminate the effects of unlawful discrimination, even if such preferences are contrary to a bona fide seniority system."

The women at the Ford plant in Walton Hills are fighting for their jobs. They are demanding that Ford comply with affirmative action quotas. They are also fighting against the forced overtime that keeps some workers in the plants on inhuman schedules, while others are unemployed. Along with women in mines and mills across the country, they are fighting to win the labor movement to champion the rights of the most oppressed.

The women's liberation movement can play a big role in helping to advance this discussion by backing up these sisters.

Canadian labor takes steps to back women's rights

The following article on the May 28-June 1 convention of the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) is excerpted from *Socialist Voice*, the newspaper reflecting the views of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada.

The CLC is Canada's equivalent of the AFL-CIO and represents some 115 trade unions.

This was the first time that a CLC convention scheduled a thorough discussion on affirmative action. The convention decisions mark a major step forward in winning the union movement to back women's rights.

In Canada, affirmative action falls under human rights legislation. Neither the federal nor provincial governments have established affirmative action programs with teeth in them to force the employers to end entrenched discrimination.

However, women workers have won some important battles, and forced some of the big employers in the steel, rail, and auto industries, among others, to hire women.

Women steelworkers led the fight for affirmative action in Canada. In 1979 five women in Hamilton, Ontario, launched a campaign to force the Steel Company of Canada (Stelco) to hire one woman out of every 10 new hires.

Stelco had not hired a single woman production worker in almost 20 years, despite the fact that it admitted that 10,000 women had applied for jobs, in that period. This represented 10 percent of all job applications in those years.

Broad support in the labor movement was won. Between 1979 and 1981, 185 women were hired.

When the layoffs hit, all the women lost their jobs because of low seniority. Today, all but 10 women have lost recall rights.

While the discussion at the CLC convention marks progress, many questions, as in the United States, are still being debated, especially on modifying seniority to prevent the gutting of affirmative-action gains.

BY MONICA JONES

MONTREAL — The Canadian Labor Congress deepened labor's commitment to fight for women's rights at its May 28-June 1 convention with the adoption of a position paper on affirmative action and a constitutional amendment expanding its executive council to include at least six women.

The "Policy Paper on Women and Affirmative Action," which is largely mod-

eled on a report compiled by the Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL) Women's Committee, puts the CLC squarely behind a series of measures to combat discrimination against women in the work force.

The first delegate to take the floor was Frances Soboda, a vice-president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labor. She outlined why women need affirmative action:

"If we look today at Canada — as unbelievable as it is — women still earn less than 60 percent of what men do, 60 percent still. Seventy-five percent of women who work, work in the job ghettos of clerical, sales, and service. These are the first areas hit by cutbacks, concessions, and technological change."

It is this entrenched discrimination, which is extremely profitable to the employer, that the CLC paper aims to combat. It defines affirmative action "as a comprehensive program designed to overcome past and present discrimination." Included are not only nondiscriminatory hiring and promotion practices, but also equal pay for work of equal value, child care, and policies against sexual harassment.

The CLC paper calls for:

- **Mandatory legislation.** "The voluntary approach to affirmative action has failed," the paper states. "The federal and provincial [governments] must make it mandatory for employers to negotiate programs with the union. . . . Unions must participate in the drafting of such legislation. . . ."

- **Bargaining strategies.** "The CLC encourages affiliates to hasten economic equality by negotiating affirmative action programs," the paper says and it goes on to list 21 possible demands, including across-the-board wage settlements and retraining in the event of technological change.

- **Union education and action.** This includes the increased involvement of women on the executive council.

Traditionally there have been two controversial issues at the heart of discussions on affirmative action in the labor movement: the question of hiring quotas to force reluctant employers to hire women, and the question of adjustments to the seniority system to ensure that gains women make are not wiped out in a period of layoffs.

While the CLC sees affirmative action as overcoming past discrimination and suggests targets and timetables to measure progress, it misses the crucial issue of hiring quotas. The failure of the voluntary approach has shown that it is necessary to force employers to hire a certain percentage of women workers. Women who have been unjustly discriminated against de-

serve special compensation to make up for lost ground. That's what hiring quotas are all about.

The sections on seniority and bargaining strategies address a real problem recently hired women face during periods of layoffs and the paper opens the door to a full and overdue discussion on this question.

The CLC proposes special measures in the event of layoffs during apprenticeship programs "to ensure an equal complement of women is maintained." And it points to the need to address the "last hired-first fired impact on women breaking into non-traditional areas . . ." but then it leaves it up to local unions "to consider ways of dealing with the disproportionate effect of layoffs on women."

It is these two measures — hiring quotas and seniority adjustments — that must be at the heart of any affirmative action program. Both are needed to ensure that such a

How Nicaraguan city repelled attack

Continued from Page 5

the contras carried away an undetermined number of dead and wounded. "There were no losses in the ranks of the unit we fought in," added Alexa, a combatant from the Ministry of the Interior.

Once the task force realized it was impossible to occupy the town, they headed toward the village of Mozonte, six kilometers [four miles] northeast of Ocotol, where they ran up against the Territorial Militias. Artillery and 120 millimeter cannon pounded the places the task forces fled to.

Six counterrevolutionaries were killed by the militia members.

The mercenary forces sought to head back in the direction of Honduras, from which they had come. Four of these elements were captured, along with weapons and other military equipment that the mercenaries left in the streets of Ocotol.

Some of the brothers who fell defending the city of Ocotol were identified as: Julio Tercero, coordinator of the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS) in the city, murdered in cold blood; Juan Carlos Mendoza, member of the Sandinista Youth, also tortured and murdered; Eusebio Cuadra, Physical Protection Corps; Marvin José López, leader of the Nicaraguan Institute of Natural Resources (IRENA); Jaime Lez Flores, second lieutenant in the EPS; Rodolfo Gómez Mejía, full-time soldier; Santos Pérez López, Physical Protection Corps, and Luis A. Rubio Vargas, both

program has teeth — that is will effectively combat discrimination women face at work. In not focusing around these measures, the CLC program is weakened.

The adoption of the CLC paper comes on the heels of an ambitious affirmative action campaign led by the OFL Women's Committee.

[During hearings it conducted] the OFL received over 170 briefs, from a diverse range of organizations, including the Frontenac Women Teachers, Women Working With Immigrant Women, Women Into Trades and Technology, and unions representing auto, steel, communications and public-sector workers.

The response to the OFL campaign reflects deep-going changes that are taking place in the labor movement, in particular the growing number of women in the work force and their determination to fight for their rights.

members of Battalion 31-21.

SOMOTO, Nueva Segovia — The towns surrounding Somoto and Ocotol were on a war footing last night as their answer to the attack against Ocotol and to fine-tune their own defense capabilities.

At 3 p.m. a militant meeting took place in Ocotol, at which the bodies of the counterrevolutionaries killed in the city center, among them the ring leader identified as "The Greek," were displayed.

Carlos Manuel Morales, regional government delegate, recounted the actions highlighting the heroism of the Sandinista People's Militias.

Special recognition was given to the first company of the Santos López Irregular Warfare Battalion for its distinguished role in the city's defense.

Also that afternoon, [the people of] Estelí went into the streets in a big demonstration. The previous day, Estelí had set the goal of increasing the number of people taking part in revolutionary vigilance, so that when the attack on Ocotol took place the defense mechanisms were pressed into action.

In Somoto, the people were in a full state of vigilance last night against the possibility of a counterrevolutionary attack. The Territorial Militias backed up by the EPS and the Ministry of the Interior took up defensive positions around the city, while the Civil Defense brigades concentrated on protecting children, old people, and women.

Miners stand up to British gov't 2 strikers killed, 3,282 arrested in fight to save jobs

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

SHEFFIELD, England — On Friday, June 22, 12,000 coal miners marched through the streets of Pontefract, Yorkshire, for the funeral of Joe Green, killed on picket duty by a truck delivering parts to a local power station. His death was the second in the 14-week coal miners strike.

The striking miners, who came from all over Britain to honor their dead comrade, are involved in a bloody war with the Conservative (Tory) government of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is striking against British government plans to close scores of mines and throw tens of thousands of miners permanently out of work.

The toll in the battle has been high. Two are dead, hundreds of workers have been injured, and a staggering 3,282 have been arrested.

Soldiers in cop uniforms

The miners have been confronted with tens of thousands of police, drafted from all over the country. It is suspected that soldiers are being deployed in police uniforms. Rumors of soldiers from mining families spotted by their striking relatives have circulated widely. The June 15 edition of the *Miner*, the NUM's paper, had a headline, "Troops Drive Police Van in Miners' Demonstration," with photographs to prove their case.

Over 80 percent of those arrested have been charged with the catch-all "breach of the peace" or "obstruction." Bail conditions are designed to stop any further involvement in picketing. For some pickets, living in mining villages, this has virtually amounted to house arrest.

Police squads have been sent into mining communities such as Blidworth in Nottinghamshire, Maltby, and Armthorpe in Yorkshire. The *Miner* described what has been happening: "Men in uniform, who go by the name of law-keepers, have run amok, breaking the law at random, physically and verbally abusing inhabitants of a pit village."

"For a period, Blidworth resembled not a mining village in the heart of Notts [Nottinghamshire], but the bloodied and oppressive and fearful streets of Belfast." Belfast is in the British Army-occupied north of Ireland.

In Maltby, the *Miner* continued, "the intimidation was mostly on weekends. Frank Slater, delegate at Maltby Colliery, was dragged out of Jumbo's Chinese Takeaway at midnight on Friday, June 8. In full view of between 20 and 30 customers, police walked into the shop, identified miners and dragged them off. Mr. Slater was thrown into a police car, his arm badly gashed."

Dramatic impact on economy

The Thatcher government is putting massive resources into trying to defeat the miners. Dave Douglass, delegate to the Yorkshire Area committee of the NUM, explained what this entailed. "The government has spent more than £1 billion to paper over the effects that the strike has had on the economy. The bulk of power stations are coal-fired. They can operate with oil, but very inefficiently, and at three times the cost. This can't go on indefinitely as a certain amount of coal is still needed."

"We are having a very dramatic effect on the economy," Douglass continued. "When you also take account of the police and army operation against our pickets, the cost of neutralizing our action has already cost two and a half times the price of 'winning' the war with Argentina!" he said, referring to Britain's 1982 invasion of the Malvinas Islands.

The capitalist class is playing for high

stakes. From the beginning of the strike, the government has denied that it was in any way involved. It was purely a matter for the National Coal Board (NCB) and the Mineworkers, Thatcher claimed.

This "lack of involvement" stretches back before 1979, when the Tories were first elected. Before the Conservative Party election victory the Tories drew up a battle plan, known as the Ribley Report, outlining how a Tory government would prepare for an eventual confrontation with the miners. In 1981 a cabinet level committee of senior civil servants was set up to prepare detailed plans to defeat a miners strike. The committee considered using troops to drive coal trains and the use of scab truck drivers.

Appeal for solidarity

The NUM too recognizes the big stakes in its fight against mine closures. Its answer to British government strike-breaking is to appeal for the maximum solidarity from the rest of the union movement and other British working people.

"We've appealed to each union directly for support," Dave Douglass explained. "To stop the movement of coal by rail, road, or sea. To cut off all supplies and services to scabs who are still working. To extend the days of action, to come on our picket lines, and so on. This is how you work towards a general strike," said Douglass.

The rail workers have come to the fore in giving solidarity to the miners, stopping the movement of coal stocks which resulted in layoffs for rail crews in many cases. This has just been extended to the key Shirebrook Rail Depot, through which coal produced in Nottinghamshire passes.

The 15 percent of miners who have scabbed on the strike are mainly concentrated in the Notts area. The fact that they are still working has been used by conservative union leaders to excuse their failure to back the NUM. Nowhere has this been more damaging than in the steel industry.

Bill Sirs, secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC), has refused to give more than token support to the miners, pleading that to do more would result in the closing of major steel mills. In recent years, 100,000 jobs have been lost in the steel industry.

Sirs first insisted that the miners allow coal to go to the steel industry, so that blast furnaces were not damaged through cooling down. It was discovered that the amounts of coal demanded were allowing the British Steel Corp. (BSC) to continue almost normal production. Sirs then claimed that if steel wasn't produced by BSC, their orders would be lost to foreign competition.

Douglass explained the NUM's response: "Having been badly deceived by Bill Sirs we have taken the initiative in stopping everything — all fuel, iron ore, and all other supplies for the steelworks, until we reach an agreement which protects the plant but that stops all production of salable steel."

Shifting the blame

Instead of joining forces with the miners to fight for jobs, the ISTC leadership has opened the door for the Tory government to shift the blame for the decimation of the steel industry onto the miners strike.

The NUM is changing through the experience of the strike, observed Jack Taylor, Yorkshire area NUM president, at the Yorkshire miners' gala. "Everybody used to say 'the young men are not like us.' We had '72 and '74 [the last two national strikes of the NUM] and we knew what it was about. But the future of this union is in good hands. The young men have come of



G.M. Cookson

British miners and supporters march on London, June 7, 1984.

age in this dispute."

As Douglass explained, "The unity in struggle of miners, from different pits, from different regions, on the picket lines, on demonstrations, in the swapping of badges [buttons], is forging a national union through the strike."

All over the country miners' wives, women from mining communities seeing the threat of destruction to those communities, and other women who support this strike are joining together, organizing women's action committees.

Women making history

As Maureen Douglass, from the Hatfield, Main miners' wives group explained at the May 12 Barnsley demonstration of 12,000 women strike supporters: "What we are doing as women, in this 1984, maybe 1985, miners strike, is making history. We are setting a pattern for the future, for the involvement of women in political struggles, which will show what a formidable force we can be."

"Without our organized support this strike couldn't win, but we also want the active support of the whole trade union labor movement, and all of us can work to win this support..."

"None of us here will be daunted by hardship, no matter what difficulties we face, for certain we will win."

Many hundreds of thousands of trade unionists have also given their support to the miners. Trades Union Congress (the British equivalent of the AFL-CIO) regional committees in Scotland, Wales, Yorkshire, the Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast have organized days of action in solidarity with the strike.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been collected in workplaces and at rallies and meetings all over Britain. In many factories there are weekly collections. Delegations of trade unionists and members of the union-based Labor Party have been organized to take money, food, and solidarity to the mining communities.

The Labor Party National Executive has called upon local branches to collect 50 pence per week from every member. Some local government councils under Labor Party control have turned over buildings, and other facilities to collect and distribute food to miners' families.

A defeat for the miners would give a

green light to the Tories to run roughshod over the rest of the working class. The capitalists have made no secret of their objectives: a massive reduction in wages and social spending, in favor of profits.

Legislation has already been passed to take control of local government council spending and savagely cut it. Further laws attacking trade union rights are currently being drafted. In health, education, and the privatization of nationalized industries — which includes the coal industry — the pattern is the same.

A victory for the miners would be a severe setback to the rulers' plans and would inspire working people all over Britain to fight back. That is what is at stake for the working class.

NUM 10-point program

The NUM has put forward a 10-point program as its basis for ending the strike. It includes the demand that the National Coal Board withdraw the pit mine closure program it announced March 6. The NUM's program includes several points related to expanding the use of coal in British industry.

The union is also demanding "the introduction of a four-day workweek." It argues that "with the advent of new technology," it is possible to create more jobs in the mines rather than cut them. The NUM also calls for "an agreement to substantially increase wages, thus reversing the trend which has, over the past nine years, seen an erosion of wage rates in the mining industry."

The union proposes an early retirement plan allowing miners to retire with full benefits at age 55. Such a plan, the NUM insists, should include "the same terms and conditions applied to men accepting redundancy [layoff]."

Finally the NUM demands that incentive bonus payments be incorporated into base pay rates for all miners. The NCB has used the incentive pay plan to divide the NUM. Many Notts miners who are crossing NUM picket lines receive considerably higher pay than other miners because of the bonus system.

The NUM's program poses a clear alternative to the "profits first" plans of the Thatcher government. The battle shows no signs of ebbing.

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