

## New British terror in Northern Ireland

BY RICH PALSER

BELFAST, Ireland — One man was killed and at least 20 people were injured when the British Army and Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) attacked a peaceful demonstration in West Belfast on Sunday, August 12.

Sean Downes' heart stopped when he was hit in the chest by a rock-hard, four-inch-long plastic bullet fired at close range. Others — including children — were injured as the RUC hit out indiscriminately with batons and plastic bullets.

The march — an annual event — had been called to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial in British-ruled Northern Ireland. Despite being officially ended, internment is still maintained in Northern Ireland through other means. Activists in the freedom struggle are tried in special juryless courts. Convictions are made on the uncorroborated evidence of paid perjurers, and those charged may be held up to two years in custody before even coming to trial.

### British miners join delegation

As in previous years, this year's march was joined by contingents from the U.S.-based Irish Northern Aid Committee (Noraid) and the Troops Out Movement (TOM) in Britain. Among the Troops Out contingent were striking coal miners who are increasingly concerned about the use against miners' picket lines of police tactics first tested in Northern Ireland.

Having seen firsthand the false press reports of their own strike, the miners had come on a three-day visit to Northern Ireland organized by the Troops Out Movement to see for themselves what life is like for the oppressed Irish community.

The TOM contingents headed the August 12 anti-internment march. As we set



Television camera shows cops shooting Irish nationalists in brutal assault on Belfast demonstration August 12.

out from the Falls Road, British troops, rifles at the ready, were stationed at every street corner along the route.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary were also present in great force to prevent Irish Northern Aid publicity director Martin Galvin from joining the march.

The British government had banned Galvin from entering Northern Ireland as part of the 130-person Noraid delegation, claiming his presence would "not be conducive to the public good."

Irish Northern Aid, which raises funds in the United States for the families of politi-

cal prisoners in Northern Ireland, has come under attack from the U.S. and Irish governments as well as British authorities.

Galvin's only crime, however, was that his political views have more in common with the 100,000 people in Northern Ireland who voted for Sinn Féin, a legal party that supports the struggle of the Irish Republican Army, than with the British government's views.

In a statement issued through the Noraid delegation as it entered Northern Ireland, Galvin said, "The British do not have any

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## Dist. 1199 strike solid at N.Y. hospitals

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

NEW YORK — More than 15,000 predominantly Black, Latino, and female hospital workers crowded into New York's Madison Square Garden the night of August 21 and decided, amid a roar of cheers, to continue their 41-day strike against 30 private hospitals and 15 nursing homes in the city.

In response, hospital officials renewed threats to hire scabs to permanently replace the strikers — members of District 1199, Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

"The hiring will begin by Monday, August 27," declared William Abelow, president of the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes, bargaining group for the struck hospitals. This can only be avoided, threatened Abelow, "if striking employees return to their jobs."

The hospitals are already using hundreds of scabs, in the form of "volunteers" who, together with supervisory personnel, doctors, and other nonunion employees have kept the hospitals open while the more than 50,000 orderlies, housekeepers, clerks, social workers, physical therapists, technicians, and — at five of the hospitals — nurses have been on strike.

Abelow threatened to hire permanent replacements earlier. But it is only now that the hospitals have set a definite date when they will attempt to bring hired scabs across the militant 1199 picket lines. Should the hospitals follow through on their threat it can set the stage for a major confrontation with the city's labor movement.

Originally the major issues in the walk-out included wages, benefits, and the right of all workers to alternate weekends off. Many 1199 members are poorly paid, earning about \$15,000 a year. The union demanded a nine percent wage hike and an increase in vacation time and paid holidays.

The hospitals responded with what 1199 President Doris Turner termed an "insulting" offer of a four percent raise. In fact, the union pointed out, when givebacks and freezes were included, the offer amounted to only a 2.3 percent increase. A somewhat revised version of this offer was decisively rejected by the union membership by a vote of 21,796-1,242, at the end of July.

Today the main issue is union busting. The August 21 vote came in response to Turner's report that hospital negotiators refused to guarantee that every striking worker would get their job back when the strike ended.

In an August 4 editorial titled, "Strike on 1199 — strike on," the *Amsterdam News*, New York's major Black weekly newspaper, noted:

"We are left to conclude that . . . there never was, on the part of the League, an intent to bargain in good faith . . . that an opportunity was seen to break a Union and that the minions of the hospital trustee elite are following a purposeful course of breaking 1199 even as they continue to file . . . expansion plans now totalling a cost of more than a billion dollars that will ultimately be paid for by our tax dollars."

The union busting goal has been clearly evidenced by hospital sabotage of three potential strike settlements over the past 10 days.

A tentative agreement was reached August 12 that included a wage increase of five percent in each year of the two-year contract. But the agreement fell apart when

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## U.S. socialist candidates tour Canada

BY YVONNE HAYES

TORONTO, Canada — Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, are currently touring Canada, learning first-hand of the war on working people being carried out by the Canadian capitalist class. Both are extending solidarity to striking workers, women fighting to defend abortion rights, and to the oppressed people of Quebec.

Québécois are an oppressed nation within Canada. Like Blacks in the United States, the French-speaking Québécois suffer the highest unemployment, the worst living and working conditions, and discrimination in all aspects of life.

Working people in English Canada are

also under sharp attack from the employers.

The offensive by Canada's rulers at home is coupled with deepening Canadian involvement in the U.S.-led war against the people of Central America and the Caribbean. Mason and González traveled to Canada to campaign against this war with the parliamentary candidates of the SWP's sister party, the Revolutionary Workers League/Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire.

Federal elections are scheduled to be held here September 4. The RWL/LOR is running five candidates against the two capitalist parties — the Conservatives and Liberals. Where the RWL/LOR is not fielding candidates, it urges support for

Canada's labor party — the New Democratic Party (NDP). Most of the major industrial unions in English Canada, as well as many public sector unions, are affiliated to the NDP.

González was the featured speaker at an August 18 campaign rally here. She was joined on the platform by RWL candidates Bonnie Geddes and Larry Johnston, both members of the United Steelworkers of America. Over 50 people attended, including workers from Toronto's General Motors plant and activists in the Nicaragua and El Salvador solidarity movements.

Geddes spoke against Canada's partnership with the U.S. government in the imperialist domination of the world. Canada has recently taken more responsibility for the NATO war alliance. It is financing the construction of roads and airstrips in Honduras to transport military matériel, and offered to aid in the U.S. occupation of Grenada.

"Canada plays soft cop to U.S. hard cop," said Geddes, "but despite the 'peace-keeping' image it tries to maintain, a cop is still a cop." The revolution in Nicaragua and the advance of the popular struggle in El Salvador threaten Canadian imperialist interests. The Canadian-owned Noranda gold mines in Nicaragua have been nationalized since the workers and peasants came to power there. Noranda and other corporations — such as Geddes' employer Alcan — maintain economic interests throughout the region, from

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## SWP fights for Mich. ballot spot

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — The bipartisan board of Democrats and Republicans in charge of Michigan elections is threatening to keep the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González off the November ballot.

Michigan supporters of Mason and González collected more than 30,000 signatures, well over the 19,963 required to place parties other than Democrats and Republicans on the ballot.

Also on the Michigan SWP ticket are U.S. Senate candidate Helen Meyers and

Andrew Pulley, socialist candidate for U.S. Congress. Meyers is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1200 in Detroit and Pulley is a national co-chairperson of the Mason/González campaign.

Despite the more than 30,000 signatures submitted by the socialist campaign, on August 17 the State Board of Canvassers ruled that the petitions did not contain enough "valid" signatures of registered voters.

The board's decision was based on a "random sample" checking of selected sig-

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY LEE MARTINDALE

During the Socialist Workers Party's 32nd National Convention, held at the beginning of August in Oberlin, Ohio, socialists from around the country met to discuss and evaluate their experiences selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the plant gates.

Norton Sandler, an SWP leader, presented a report to the meeting. He reviewed the party's decision to involve every member in a regular weekly plant-gate sale, outlined the progress that has been made towards this goal, and reviewed the challenges that remain.

Socialists seek to participate in and build the major industrial unions that form the powerful center of the labor movement. They talk politics with their fellow workers and try to win them to socialist ideas. The SWP has decided to focus its attention on nine unions which organize basic sections of industry. This enables members of a small revolutionary party to work together on common campaigns, and learn from one another's experiences.

In addition to working in these

industries, SWP members and supporters meet and talk politics with unionists through regular sales of the socialist press at plant gates. While individual socialists, like thousands of other workers, get hired and then laid off and have to look for new jobs, the party's efforts to increase the influence of socialist ideas in the union movement continues on an ongoing basis. The ongoing activity allows socialists to stay in touch with coworkers who are still working. And even when no socialists are working at a particular plant, when a few workers buy the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*, it adds a socialist point of view to those being considered and debated out by workers in the plant.

Using the coverage in the *Militant* and *PM*, plant-gate teams build solidarity with other unionists who are fighting the bosses' attacks. A socialist from the Iron Range in northern Minnesota told the meeting that many iron-ore miners learned about the copper strike in Arizona and the coal miners strike in Britain from *Militant* sales teams along the roads which lead to the mines.

The teams also promote solidarity with sections of the working class — like immigrant workers, Blacks, and women — who are under attack by the bosses and their government.

Like socialists on the job, salespeople at the plant gates campaign against the U.S. government's war in Central America. In New York and New Jersey, hundreds of leaflets were distributed by plant-gate teams for the June 9 demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

By taking the socialist election campaign to the plant gates, the socialists provide an alternative to the view that voting for a capitalist candidate every four years is participation in real politics. The SWP campaign points to militant actions — like the demonstration of 3,000 unionists in Toledo in solidarity with the AP Parts strikers — as examples of real working-class politics.

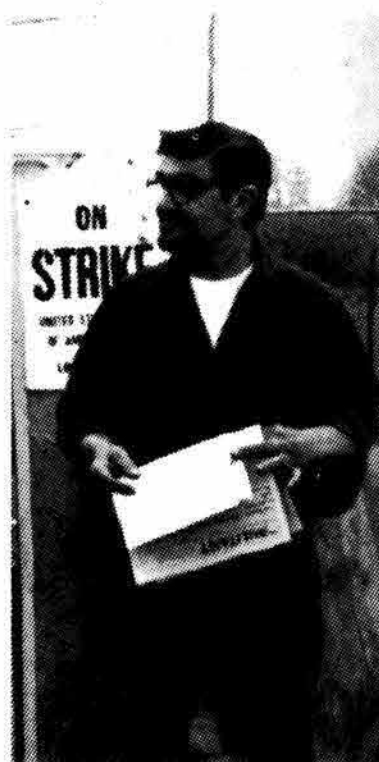
Plant-gate sales help socialists learn more about the problems facing workers in industries other than the ones where they work. Socialists from Arizona described

how they followed the copper miners' struggle, and threw themselves into building solidarity with it, by traveling regularly to the copper mines to sell the *Militant* and *PM* during the past year. These sales help the socialists develop and share with their coworkers a class-wide perspective on working peoples' problems and struggles.

The escalation of the U.S. war in Central America, and the increased attacks on working people here that accompany it, makes getting out the truth about the struggle in El Salvador and the revolution in Nicaragua even more important.

And with the expiration in September of contracts covering hundreds of thousands of auto workers and coal miners, building solidarity with the United Auto Workers union and the United Mine Workers union will be a central task of militant unionists everywhere.

The meeting went over what steps the party needs to take to improve plant-gate work in order to meet these challenges. Next week's column will report on these discussions.



Militant/Katy Karlin  
**Militant newspaper is sold on Sun Oil picket line. Convention of socialist workers talked about how best to circulate revolutionary press at plant gates around the country.**

## Farrakhan scores free-speech victory in Youngstown

BY TI ROSEN

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — A victory for the democratic rights of working people was won here on July 20. That evening, the marquee on the Starr Theatre read "Louis Farrakhan."

The Starr Theatre is a few doors down from Powers Auditorium. Officials from Powers refused to rent the hall out to the "Evening in Black" kick-off rally of the 14th annual African Cultural Weekend. The evening featured Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. "Security problems" were cited as the basis for denial of the auditorium.

The local chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party along with 21 Black organizations and churches have launched a boycott against Powers.

The Starr, which seats 1,400, had no empty seats that night. Farrakhan began his talk by hailing the meeting as a huge victory, reminding the overwhelmingly Black audience of the moves made to prevent him from being heard. The coordinators of the event were besieged by calls from churches in the Black community opening their doors to Farrakhan if no other site could be secured.

Recognizing the 30 to 40 activists from the Arab community present, Farrakhan drew special attention to the offer from the Arab Community Center that their "doors would always be open to Brother Farrakhan." The audience erupted with

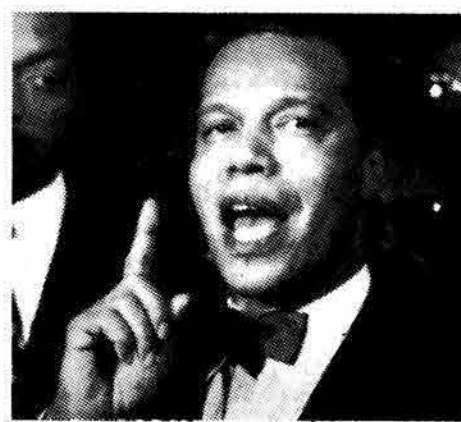
applause and a standing ovation.

Louis Farrakhan has recently come under slanderous attack from the media since he came to national attention in his support to Jesse Jackson's bid for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. He has been misquoted and quoted out of context. Repudiations of Farrakhan have been rolling in from leading Democratic and Republican politicians, traditional liberal Black leaders, and members of the "left."

Farrakhan thanked the audience for coming out to "hear the truth." He specifically thanked the whites and Jews who had

come out to hear what he really had to say. Farrakhan made clear he does not see whites or Jews as the enemies of Blacks. He said, "When Blacks and Jews have common interests they should work together."

The youthful crowd bought out the stock of Malcolm X books and tapes at the Pathfinder literature table outside the theater. Thirty-one copies of the *Militant* with the centerspread, "Jackson campaign, no step forward for Blacks," were purchased. There were many lively discussions on independent political action following the "Evening in Black."



Louis Farrakhan

## UAW official wins back General Dynamics job

BY JANICE SAMS

DETROIT — United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1200, representing 1,800 workers, scored a big victory against General Dynamics, the biggest "defense" contractor in the country. On July 17, Jim Coakley, president of the local, won his job back after a 15-month struggle.

Coakley, who was reelected as local president by a two-to-one ratio in May, had been fired April 18, 1983. He was charged with alleged misconduct in a dispute with plant security officers investigating a supposed marijuana cigarette butt in the van of another UAW member, Jesse Hernández.

On April 13, 1983, Hernández was

stopped and questioned in a company parking lot by plant security, company personnel officers, and deputy U.S. marshals. He refused to open his van for inspection. Coakley was called to the plant by shop stewards. When Hernández was told his van would be impounded, the local president drove it off the lot. Coakley was then fired for impeding an official investigation and Hernández was fired for possessing marijuana and refusing to permit inspection of the vehicle.

In March of this year a three-day hearing was held, and in July an arbitrator decided there was "no just cause" for discharging Coakley and Hernández. Coakley was reinstated with full seniority and back

wages. Hernández was given a 30-day suspension for violating company rules but will receive 14 month's back wages and benefits.

"There is no question they [General Dynamics] wanted to get me out of the plant and tried to ruin me politically," Coakley said. He was chairman of the UAW national bargaining committee in the 1982 contract negotiations with General Dynamics. A contract was only reached after a strike.

On July 19 Coakley was able to tour the plant for the first time in 15 months. He was met with applause from the union membership.

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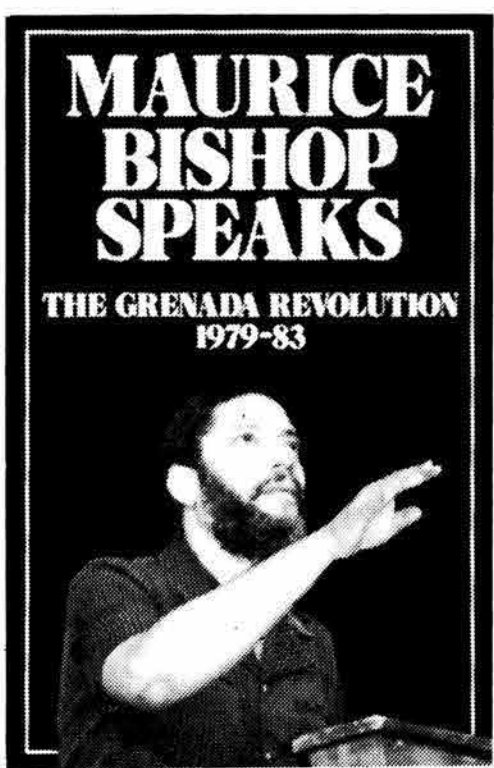
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# U.S. Customs harasses socialist candidate

BY HARRY RING

Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, was the target of illegal harassment as he returned from a recent visit to Nicaragua.

Also subjected to harassment was Sam Manuel. A leader of the Socialist Workers Party, Manuel is San Francisco coordinator of Mason's campaign.

Manuel is demanding return of Nicaraguan literature illegally seized from him by

**See editorial on customs agents as political cops, page 18.**

U.S. Customs agents. A receipt given him describes the confiscated literature as "possibly seditious."

The victimization of Mason and Manuel did not occur in isolation. It coincides with a mounting campaign by the FBI of illegal harassment of Central American solidarity activists. Under the guise of "investigating terrorism," FBI agents have been harassing people who recently visited Nicaragua or are active in groups opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. An increased means of intimidation is visiting neighbors, landlords, and employers of those targeted by the FBI.

The Socialist Workers campaign committee is now discussing this entire issue, including what happened to Mason and Manuel, with those affected by the FBI drive, and with concerned civil liberties groups.

The coplike treatment of Mason and Manuel occurred in the customs section at Miami International Airport August 1. They were among 20 people who had participated in a Perspectiva Mundial-Militant tour of Nicaragua. The only Blacks in the group, they were the only ones subject to harassment.

Manuel, who was ahead of Mason in the Customs line, was grilled by an agent who demanded details about his Nicaragua visit. He was then passed on to another agent who took his passport. He returned with a Customs supervisor who further questioned Manuel and was overheard saying, "We may have to call the FBI on this one."

While the interrogation continued, Manuel's baggage was carefully examined. Despite his refusal to answer such questions, they persisted with queries like, "What is your theory of communism?"

Coming across a flashlight in Manuel's

baggage, one agent asked if he has participated in Nicaraguan military maneuvers.

The supervisor opened a carton of Nicaraguan books and pamphlets Manuel had bought for the San Francisco Socialist Bookstore.

Throwing up her hands, she exclaimed, "That's it! We'll have to call the FBI."

Manuel was asked if he knew it was "illegal" to bring such literature into the country, which, of course, it is not.

He was told the carton of literature would be turned over to the FBI and if that agency ruled it "seditious" it would be seized.

Manuel demanded and received a receipt for the confiscated material.

Meanwhile he was required to empty his pockets and the contents of his wallet were examined. His drivers license was sent for a computer check, with an agent reporting back it was "clean."

The following day when Manuel called customs about the confiscated literature he was told it had been turned over to the Secret Service. They refused to explain how the Secret Service was involved in the matter.

Meanwhile, Mason was subjected to equally hostile interrogation.

"What were you doing in Nicaragua?"

"I was on tour."

"What were you really doing in Nicaragua?"

Learning from Mason's passport that he had recently visited Ireland and Britain, the same kind of questions were asked about that visit.

Opening one of Mason's bags, an agent removed a Nicaraguan textile-union paper with a cover photo of a militia member with a gun.

The agent loudly enquired, "Is that an AK-47?"

"It's a picture of one," Mason responded.

After further questions, Mason was told he could leave. He and the other tour members decided to remain on the spot until Manuel rejoined them. Responding to their questions, an agent advised Manuel was under scrutiny for bringing in "communist," "seditious" literature.

Mason demanded to know what put them above the Constitution and gave them the right to decide what literature people could read or bring into the country.

The agent left and returned to say Manuel would be released shortly, which he was.

U.S. CUSTOMS RECEIPT FOR RETAINED OR SEIZED MERCHANDISE		NO. 1513806	
1. CONTROL NO.		2. SEIZURE NO.	
3. G.O. ENTRY NO.		4. DATE	
5. REASON (Sections of law violated)		6. IDENTIFICATION NO. (Bag tag, B/L, A/W)	
7. SIGNATURE OF CUSTOMS OFFICER			
8. NAME & ADDRESS OF CARRIER/REPRESENTATIVE RECEIVING MERCHANDISE			
9. SIGNATURE OF CARRIER/REPRESENTATIVE			
10. SIGNATURE OF PASSENGER (If someone other than passenger takes delivery of goods)			
11. DATE			
12. DATE			

REMARKS: POSSIBLE SEDITIONARY MATERIAL  
HOLD FOR FBI EVALUATION

Q. QUANTITY	H. TYPE OF CONTAINER	I. VALUE OF MERCHANDISE
1 BOX	CARD BOARD BOX	2

LEAFLETS, POSTERS, BOOKLETS

Receipt for illegally seized literature. Candidate Mason and supporter, Manuel, were grilled by U.S. Customs. Literature was turned over to Secret Service.

## Modest gains are won by Convair machinists

BY DEAN DENNO

SAN DIEGO — The 4,000 members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local Lodge 1125 returned to work July 16 after a 13-day strike against the Convair Division of General Dynamics. Although the settlement contained one major concession — the reduction of starting rates by \$1 per hour — the company's other takeaway demands were successfully beaten back, and a few real gains were won.

The successful conduct of the strike increased the union consciousness and confidence of an important segment of the working class in San Diego. The previous strike lasting more than one day at Convair took place 38 years ago. In addition, a raid attempt by the Teamsters union earlier this year had sown some confusion among union members. Teamster officials made sweeping promises while claiming that the mere threat of a strike would be sufficient to win big concessions from Convair.

In this situation many IAM members questioned whether it would be possible to conduct an effective strike. This was answered by an impressive show of unity around the strike, with only a few percent of union workers crossing the picket lines.

Compared to the company's final offer before the strike, the settlement provided improvements in payments for health insurance, a 3 percent wage increase in the last year of the contract, and better contract language regarding seniority and promotion rights. There is also a slight additional increase in pension benefits and partial

compensation for workers hired since 1981 who are not receiving the full amount of cost-of-living payments.

Another important victory of the strike was the elimination of the company's demand for a \$3 per hour reduction in the maximum pay rates, a measure to be applied to all new hires. This victory was presented by many union officials as ending the threat of a two-tier wage scale. Unfortunately, some of the problems caused by a two-tier wage scale remain in the contract that was accepted.

The contract continues the previous cost-of-living (COLA) formula, under which only workers who are on the payroll at the time of a COLA adjustment receive that pay increase. In the last three years this has meant the loss of up to \$1.26 per hour by workers hired near the end of the contract. In addition, the new contract cuts starting rates by \$1 per hour. The combined effect of these provisions is that it will take a new employee over eight years to reach the maximum pay rate for their labor grade. Under the old contract it took about four years.

Pay rates for union workers at Convair now range from \$4.40 to \$14.10 per hour. This excessive spread helps the company to divide the workers and makes the maintenance of solidarity within the union more difficult. In addition, the large wage spread within each labor grade and the long time required to reach the maximum rate give the company an incentive to fire older, higher-paid workers and replace them with newly hired workers.

At the meeting which ratified the contract, some union leaders acknowledged that there were shortcomings in the proposal. They pointed out, however, that attempting to win further improvements would require a long strike, and that the company would respond by hiring scabs and threatening to fire strikers. The union, they said, was not adequately prepared to deal with these threats and would face a serious defeat.

Recent contracts in the aerospace industry have included substantial company takebacks. In spite of staying out for 117 days, the strikers at McDonnell Douglas earlier this year were forced to accept a contract with a two-tier wage scale. In this context, the outcome of the Convair strike is a step forward on which the workers can build for future struggles.

## NAACP launches voter registration march

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People began a 350-mile march August 19. Termed the "Overground Railroad," the march is intended to encourage Black voter registration. Following a route roughly like that used by escaping slaves in the 1800s, the march will proceed through the Middle Atlantic states including stops in Washington D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Newark, among other cities, before finishing in New York City on Labor Day. At each stop NAACP chapters will hold rallies, conduct voter registration, and hold workshops on how to organize registration drives.

## Antiwar protests held in L.A.

BY MIKE MALONEY

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Olympics and the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki provided the focus for protest actions here on July 28 and August 5. Unlike the jingoistic flag-waving of the Olympics and the media coverage, these actions were directed against the U.S.-backed war in Central America and the build-up of U.S. nuclear weapons.

The July 28 demonstration was organized by the Coalition for Peace and Justice in Central America and the Caribbean, formerly the November 22 Coalition. About 1,000 people participated, including a large number of Chicanos who were active in organizing and publicizing the demonstration. Chants included "U.S. and CIA out of Nicaragua" and "No draft, No war, U.S. out of El Salvador."

The August 5 demonstration and march was initiated by the Federation for Progress

and supported by antinuke, anti-intervention, and solidarity groups. This included CISPE, Casa El Salvador, Women's Coalition Against Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and City Councilman Robert Farrell.

Some 7,000 demonstrators turned up. The mostly young crowd included many high school students. Many marchers were on their first demonstration.

Speakers included Dr. Charles Clements, Midge Constanza, Dolores Huerta from the United Farm Workers, Dennis Brutus, Sylvio Vallecillo from the Sandinista Youth Organization, and Alberto Arene from El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FDR-FMLN) Political Diplomatic Commission.

Singer Holly Near also spoke. She had recently returned from Cuba and spoke favorably of the accomplishments of the revolution.

The day before the march a conference called "The Deadly Connection: Nuclear Disarmament and Non-intervention in Central America" drew 300 people. Lisa Honig from Britain's Greenham Common Women's encampment, Francisco Campbell from the Nicaraguan Embassy, and Alberto Arene from the FDR spoke.

Earlier this summer some 150 activists attended a conference sponsored by the Coalition for Peace and Justice in Central America. The speakers emphasized the need to immediately organize against the imminent U.S. military intervention in Central America.

These rallies and conferences reflect the growing antiwar sentiment among U.S. working people.

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# Socialists map working-class strategy against U.S. war drive

From August 4-9 the Socialist Workers Party held its 32nd National Convention and an Educational and Activists Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. More than 1,000 people attended.

Below we are reprinting major excerpts of Malik Miah's welcoming remarks on behalf of the convention delegates. Miah is an editor of the *Militant* and a national cochairman of the Socialist Workers Party.

On the facing page we are publishing the full text of Cindy Jaquith's August 4 speech on the current stage of the Central American and Caribbean revolutions against U.S. imperialism. Jaquith is also an editor of the *Militant*.

Next week's issue will include more coverage on the convention and educational conference.

## Malik Miah

On behalf of all the elected delegates, alternate delegates, and fraternal delegates I would like to welcome all members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance; our guests, including working farmers, activists in the National Black Independent Political Party, the National Organization for Women, and militants in many trade unions; as well as our cothinkers from sections and sympathizing groups of the Fourth International and other international revolutionary fighters, to this 32nd national convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

Over the next five days, the delegates will be considering two resolutions that have already been discussed for several months by the members of the Socialist Workers Party in their branches.

The resolution on the perspective of fighting for a workers and farmers government in the United States was adopted by our National Committee in March 1982. It will be presented in reports at the convention and the delegates will discuss and vote on that resolution.

Secondly, the delegates will consider a political resolution that looks at the current stage of the class struggle not only in the United States but around the world. This resolution discusses how to advance the building of a proletarian revolutionary party in the most powerful imperialist country in the world — the United States. It looks at how the working class, which over the last decade has suffered some important setbacks and defeats under the blows of the imperialist ruling class, is beginning to come to grips with this reality. It describes how workers are beginning to

learn lessons as they go through more and more battles — battles like that of the auto workers at AP Parts in Toledo; battles of Chicano and *mexicano* copper miners in Arizona; battles as the one we are seeing today in New York, where more than 50,000 hospital workers are taking up the challenge to try to win a decent contract; battles that are beginning to develop in the Black community against police brutality and the racism that Black people suffer; battles by women and working farmers.

## Struggle brings change

This resolution does not fall into the political framework shared by most so-called socialist, communist, and radical tendencies in this country today. It does not begin from the mistaken viewpoint that fundamental social and political changes come about through capitalist elections. Rather, its premise is that social progress is won through struggle, through combat, through the type of examples that we see our brothers and sisters carrying out in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

It is in this framework that we will also be discussing how the revolutionary proletarian vanguard in the United States can better organize to prepare us and our class to respond to the expanding and deepening imperialist war in Central America.

The drive by imperialism toward regional war to counter the extension of the socialist revolution in our hemisphere, marks everything we do today in building our party. It shapes all our activities. It's the framework in which we carry out all our political work — in the unions, in Black organizations, Puerto Rican organizations, Chicano organizations, and farmers' organizations. It's the framework in which politics takes place.

The revolutionary vanguard has a central responsibility to educate in the working class about how to respond to the U.S. imperialist war drive and on the importance of building a massive antiwar movement centered in the working class.

We must point to the example of the Cuban leadership which is determined to organize and mobilize the Cuban people to respond to U.S. aggression. It's why they are arming every Cuban worker and farmer to respond to imperialist aggression. They understand that this is necessary in order to defend their revolution.

We must point to the leaders of the Nicaraguan Sandinista National Liberation Front who explain that it is only by the masses being politically educated and having arms that they can protect and defend the Nicaraguan revolution. They are preparing their people for the inevitable direct military intervention of U.S. imperialism.

This is also what the revolutionaries in El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front explain to their people.

## We must prepare

We must also prepare. We must organize and educate in every way possible, around the question of war, the rulers' preparation for a bigger war, and how the U.S. working class must respond to that war.

In many ways this is an antiwar convention, a convention which will organize our party to respond to the war.

Key to doing this is rooting the party in the industrial trade unions. Through our members being collectively organized in nine national trade union fractions [the way the SWP organizes its political work in the trade unions] we will carry out our perspective to fight against the war by drawing in the working class in the biggest way possible to respond to the war that already exists and is escalating.

This is what we will be talking about at the meetings here of SWP members who belong to the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; International Association of Machinists; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; International Union of Electronic Workers; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; United



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Socialist industrial workers discussed how best to press for union action against U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. Socialist Workers Party's 32nd national convention — combined with educational and activists conference — also took up the response of unionists to the bosses' offensive.

Auto Workers; United Mine Workers; United Steelworkers; and the United Transportation Union.

We also will be discussing the current and future confrontation in Central America and the Caribbean and the role of U.S. workers in it under all four convention reports and in an antiwar workshop.

It is our responsibility and obligation to do whatever we can to turn the growing antiwar sentiment within the working class into active opposition. Sentiment alone will not stop the war. It must be turned into action against the ruling class.

We think that it is possible to deepen the process of involving working people and the union movement in the fight against war today. We are in a better position to do that than any other organization that claims to represent the interests of the working class in the United States. This is because we have begun the important process of transforming ourselves into a party rooted in the industrial working class.

Because we have been doing that for the last seven years we have a better understanding of the possibilities that do exist today for actively drawing in the working class, through its unions, to fight against the war. We will be there when the battles that are going to take place inside the unions on how to respond to the war open up.

As a party that is rooted in the working class, we have already learned that we can use the examples of Nicaragua and Cuba to explain our perspective of what a workers and farmers government is, what we are all about, and what we aim to do in the United States. This perspective will help us carry out our antiwar work.

Our party is in a much stronger position to take the fight against war into the working class than we have ever been before, even during the Vietnam War period. Then the economy was expanding. This is not the case today and therefore there are bigger opportunities to connect the imperialist war abroad and the employers' government war against working people at home.

We have already seen some examples of what can be done in the trade unions with the development of organizations like the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. There have also been trips by trade unionists to Nicaragua and El Salvador, including top union officials.

## Organize union tours to Nicaragua

Although the unions are not yet initiating or leading the fight against the war, the growing battles in the working class in re-

sponse to the employers' attacks and the escalation of the war abroad means that involving the unions today is an increasingly more realistic perspective. The party's Political Committee is proposing to all our national union fractions that they make organizing antiwar discussions and activities in the unions and on the job their central campaign.

In particular, we think socialist workers should go to coworkers, trade union officials, and others to organize tours of workers to Nicaragua to learn the truth about that revolution. All you need is a dozen workers from your United Auto Workers local, from your mine-workers local, from your oil-workers local, or from other unions to go down to Nicaragua, meet with the revolutionary workers and farmers, learn the truth, come back, and take that experience to the U.S. working class.

Since the majority of party members are now in industrial unions, organizing these tours gives life to our antiwar campaign. It will also put us in a stronger position to meet the real openings and opportunities that do exist to campaign against war outside the trade unions. We can help antiwar activists to draw in the unions. Just as importantly, by taking this initiative, we can help the unions draw others into the fight against the U.S. imperialist war.

The proposal is that each fraction will discuss antiwar work, and the tours in particular, on a regular basis, beginning on a national level: how to do this; who to draw in; how to have the political discussions on what the war is; and what the war's relationship is to the employers' offensive against working people at home. This will lead to broader political discussions on how to transform the unions into revolutionary instruments for basic social change.

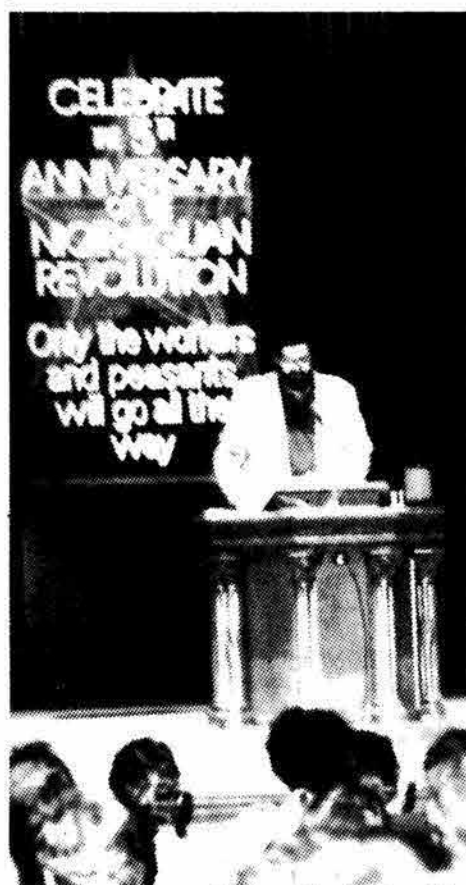
This perspective is an active, action perspective to confront the war question head-on inside the unions and to get workers involved in the antiwar fight. We think this will help broaden the influence of our revolutionary current inside the labor movement and inside the entire working class. It will become the axis of all our antiwar and solidarity activity.

## Building NBIPP

The industrial fraction meetings will also be discussing how they can build the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) among coworkers.

The NBIPP is an important vanguard formation, not only of the Black nationality but for the entire working class. It stands

**Continued on Page 8**



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Malik Miah reported to convention guests on behalf of SWP delegates.





Above, U.S. occupation of Grenada, made possible by counterrevolutionary coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was murdered. Right, Nicaraguans demonstrate they will not let same thing happen to them. If the Yankees come, Nicaraguans say, they won't find us with our guns unused in storerooms — as happened in Grenada.



Barricada/Wedel

# U.S. vs. Central American and Caribbean revolutions: where struggle stands now

Cindy Jaquith

In the last year, as Washington has deepened its aggression against the workers and peasants of Central America and the Caribbean, there have been both advances and setbacks for our class.

In Nicaragua, the Sandinista-led workers and peasants have continued to consolidate their revolution and deal important blows to the U.S.-organized mercenary army attacking their territory.

In El Salvador, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) has advanced in clarifying its political line and in unifying the revolutionary forces fighting the dictatorship.

In Cuba, as Fidel Castro explained in his July 26 speech, the workers and peasants have both made progress economically and carried out a major expansion of the country's military forces in the last year.

But we have also suffered a big defeat — the overthrow of the workers and farmers government of Grenada, the assassination of its central leadership, and the U.S. invasion and occupation of that once-free island.

## Center of world politics

Central American and the Caribbean are at the center of world politics today because it is there that the socialist revolution is being extended. This is why Washington has begun its war: to reverse the advance of the world revolution. The objective is to prevent the Salvadoran rebels from taking power, and to overthrow the Nicaraguan workers and peasants government.

This war inevitably means sending in U.S. ground troops. We make no predictions on how soon, or what country they will invade first. But the whole world knows a Vietnam-style war is coming in Central America and the Caribbean.

Nowhere is this better understood than in Cuba.

In his speech at the July 26 celebration in Cienfuegos, Cuba, Fidel Castro outlined the scope of the U.S. aggression and the necessary response revolutionaries must make.

While reiterating Cuba's longstanding willingness to engage in talks with Washington to hold off the war, Castro emphasized that Cuba is prepared to defend itself from U.S. aggression.

Cuba is a small country compared to the United States, but don't underestimate our forces, he warned. Whoever wants to do battle with us should recognize we know how to defend ourselves, said Castro. "The aggressors will pay a very high price..."

## 500,000 more Cubans armed

In the last year, Castro reported, Cuba has given military training and arms to

another 500,000 people. The Territorial Troop Militias now number 1.2 million men and women.

The entire country is organized for defense. "Every foot of our territory has been studied," said Castro. "Every province, city, and corner of the country has its assignment. Plans have been made down to the last detail of what to do in the event of any one of the various forms of aggression our country might suffer."

A permanent crew of 18,000 construction workers is building military fortifications for the island, Castro continued. The cadres of the Communist Party, government, and People's Power have taken courses and systematically prepared themselves for the tasks they face.

These massive defense preparations have advanced alongside impressive economic growth in the last year, Castro reported in his speech. In the first six months of 1984, Cuba's commercial production increased by 9.9 percent. Industry grew 8.8 percent, agriculture 6.4 percent, construction, 19.8 percent.

Only a socialist revolution, said Castro, can carry out both this kind of economic development and defense. "Only a socialist revolution, with the full support of the people, absolutely identified and united with them, is capable of creating the defense potential our country counts on today. . . . We rely on a heightened political consciousness and on a profound revolutionary consciousness."

"These factors did not exist before the revolution. They didn't exist when we were fighting for liberation, nor after the triumph. They have developed over 25 years of revolution. In addition, we count on a deep internationalist consciousness — hundreds of thousands of our compatriots have completed internationalist missions. . . .

"We have a future. We have a superior life to that of the other peoples in this hemisphere. Who can ever get us to return to the past?"

The internationalist consciousness of the Cuban people, and their determination to fight for a socialist world even at great cost to themselves, have been qualitatively strengthened in the last five years by the experience of the Nicaraguan and Grenada revolutions.

## Transformation

The overturn of the governments of the capitalists and landlords in Grenada and Nicaragua in 1979 transformed politics throughout all of Latin America and the Caribbean. These two peoples' revolutions reaffirmed that with a conscious leadership, the workers and peasants can carry a popular mass struggle through to the end, seize power, and establish their own revo-

lutionary government. What the Cubans had done 20 years earlier was no exception.

Second, Nicaragua and Grenada demonstrated what even small nations impoverished by imperialism can accomplish when workers and peasants are in power. The toilers of every other Latin American and Caribbean country — except Cuba — were being crushed under the weight of imperialist exploitation exercised through the International Monetary Fund, falling world market prices for their exports, unemployment, hunger, and disease. Children of workers and peasants in Grenada and Nicaragua, however, were getting milk for the first time, vaccinations, and schools. Despite the unrelenting economic warfare directed against them by the U.S. rulers, both countries achieved a net economic growth, in contrast to the decline of the economies of the imperialist-dominated nations.

The Nicaraguan revolution — and Washington's escalating war to stop it — has produced a deepening class polarization in the region. Moving to one side are the workers and peasants; to the other, the capitalists, landlords, and the church hierarchy.

The existence of the Nicaraguan bastion of worker-peasant rule has given an impulse to revolutionary organization and action throughout the region — expressed most sharply in El Salvador, and also seen in Guatemala.

The class struggle is heating up in Honduras, which Washington is trying to turn into a giant military base for its war against the workers and peasants of Nicaragua and El Salvador. This spring, tens of thousands of unionists have demonstrated repeatedly in Honduras against the thousands of U.S. troops occupying their country, for a better standard of living, and against government attacks on the labor movement. In late June demonstrators marched in Comayagua, Honduras, where one of the U.S. airbases is being built. The main slogan at this action was "Yankee garbage out of Honduras."

The governments that make up the Contadora Group — Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela — are coming under the intense pressure of the U.S. war and the imperialists' demands that the miserable standard of living of the working people of those countries be driven even lower. These capitalist regimes are being pushed to line up more closely with Washington. In a break from previous practice, for example, the Mexican government sent its foreign minister to the June inauguration of José Napoleón Duarte, El Salvador's latest butcher-in-chief.

The growing U.S. military penetration of the region, combined with the economic squeeze by the imperialists, has reverbera-

tions in the Caribbean as well — from large protest actions in Puerto Rico against its use as a Yankee military base, to uprisings against food prices and police brutality in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

## Church hierarchy

The Catholic Church hierarchy has not remained silent. In July, a conference of some 50 Catholic bishops in Latin America issued a denunciation of "religious persecution" in the region, falsely accusing Nicaragua of victimizing priests. Joining the notorious counterrevolutionary archbishop of Managua, Obando y Bravo, at a news conference were the archbishops of Guatemala, Honduras, and San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas.

Rivera y Damas's office had shortly before denounced the FMLN of El Salvador for successfully attacking the Cerrón Grande dam and knocking out a chunk of the dictatorship's soldiers. This is no way to carry out a dialogue, the archbishop complained.

Every step forward by the workers and peasants — from the revival of the labor movement in countries such as Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, to the Guatemalan Coca-Cola strike — helps strengthen the Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, and Cubans to meet what's coming. At the same time, they have not underestimated — nor should we — the defeats the world workers movement has suffered in the last year.

The workers and peasants have not taken power in any other country since 1979. Imperialist aggression has escalated, aimed at halting the advance of the socialist revolution, at crushing every popular mass struggle from Ireland to southern Africa, from Palestine to the Philippines. This brings enormous pressures to bear worldwide on the vanguard of the working class and its allies, pressures that we feel in the United States too.

## Three giants

At our last national gathering one year ago, we celebrated what Fidel called the "Three Giants" in Central America and the Caribbean — Grenada, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

But today there are only two giants. We must absorb what the loss of the third giant — the Grenada revolution — means for our class.

The Grenadian workers and farmers carried out the world's first successful anti-capitalist revolution in a Black, English-speaking country. Through a mass popular uprising led by the New Jewel Movement (NJM), they overthrew the U.S.-backed regime of Eric Gairy. They expropriated the sizeable holdings belonging to him, his family and retainers. They established a

Continued on next page





May 1st demonstration in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Last spring, tens of thousands of Honduran workers and peasants demonstrated against U.S. troops occupying their country and against government attacks on the labor movement.

## Continued from preceding page

workers and farmers government. This government organized, mobilized, and armed the island's working people to combat imperialist domination, to establish democratic institutions through which they could increasingly decide and administer social and economic policies, and to lay the basis for expropriating the capitalists and big landowners in the transition to a workers state.

Under the leadership of Maurice Bishop, who was the head of the NJM, the government was committed to advancing the interests of the workers and farmers of Grenada and the world. Grenada's revolutionary government reached out to the other islands in the Caribbean and sought to unite the victims of imperialist exploitation in struggle and to break down the artificial barriers imposed by the colonial powers.

As Bishop said in his last speech in the United States on June 5, 1983: "One of the greatest curses of colonialism was that they divided the region. . . . They taught us different languages. And then they made a great play of the fact that you are Dutch-speaking, you are Spanish-speaking, you are French-speaking, you are English-speaking, and, more recently, you are American-speaking. And based on this linguistic nonsense, they taught us to hate each other."

Bishop pointed to the Caribbean island of Cuba as an example for all those struggling to get out from under imperialism. The Grenada revolution's solidarity with Cuba opened a new stage in the influence of the Cuban revolution in the Caribbean.

## Impact on U.S. workers

The Grenada revolution also spoke directly to the U.S. working class — especially to its many Caribbean immigrants and Afro-Americans. As Bishop explained it, from Washington's standpoint, "We can have a dangerous appeal to the 30 million Black people in the United States." A deep identification with the Grenada revolution did develop among a significant layer of vanguard Black fighters in this country.

For all these reasons the U.S. rulers conspired to undermine and overthrow the Grenada revolution from the very beginning. But despite the U.S. economic sabotage, the massive campaign of lies and slanders, and the attempts to assassinate its leaders, the Grenada revolution was advancing. It began to develop and plan the expansion of agricultural production, the basis of Grenada's economy. It brought unemployment down in four years from 50 percent to 12 percent. It made education and health care a right, not a privilege. It extended democracy to the masses through local councils and mass organizations. It fought for women's equality and an end to sexual harassment in the workplace. Its stature in the region — and the world — was growing.

It was not inevitable that Washington would succeed in restoring capitalist rule to Grenada. The U.S. invasion of last Oc-

tober was successful because the revolution had already been killed. It was betrayed from within the Grenadian leadership itself, by the murderous factional operation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

Coard's secret faction was distinguished by its resort to bureaucratic and administrative measures which would supposedly enable the revolution to leap over the objective problems it faced — instead of mobilizing the working people themselves to fight for their own class interests. The Coard faction blocked recruitment to the NJM of proletarian cadres emerging to lead the revolutionary process. His clique disarmed the militias and locked up their weapons on the eve of the counterrevolutionary coup. The accurate political designation for such a grouping is Stalinist.

When Coard arrested Bishop and seized power, there was an uprising of the island, with more than a quarter of the population — over 30,000 people — pouring into the streets to free the man they trusted and respected as their leader.

The Coard forces turned their guns on the unarmed masses, then they murdered Bishop and other central leaders of the revolution. They handed Reagan the country on a silver platter.

## Neocolonial regime

The U.S. invasion marked Washington's first direct use of U.S. combat troops in the Americas since 1965, establishing the precedent the U.S. rulers wanted. The workers and farmers government overthrown by the Coard faction has been replaced with a neocolonial, proimperialist regime. The island that tasted freedom from imperialist domination for four and a half years is now an occupied territory.

The new capitalist government in Grenada is returning land to the big landlords who fled after the revolution. It is closing down education centers. The CIA-inspired AFL-CIO outfit, the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), is back in business subverting the labor movement. Grenadian women, who took their first steps toward liberation under the revolutionary government, are being forced back onto the streets to sell their bodies to U.S. GIs.

Grenada's new airport — once the pride of the revolution — will now serve only to advance imperialist exploitation of the island's resources. It is slated to have its grand opening on October 25, the anniversary of the criminal U.S. invasion. Reagan plans to personally preside over the ceremonies.

## Resistance to occupation

But there is resistance to all these moves — especially from Grenada's youth and vanguard workers. The shock of the revolution's overthrow and Coard's reign of terror did not demoralize all the fighters. The most conscious layers of Grenadian working people are beginning to assess what happened and to defend the gains of

their revolution that Washington is rapidly moving to dismantle.

Despite the U.S. occupation, revolutionary forces seeking the way forward, now organized in the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, have been able to function openly and get out their ideas.

A difficult road lies ahead. The Grenadian masses face — once again — the task of overthrowing the proimperialist capitalist state backed by the armed and direct might of Washington. They must carry out another anticapitalist revolution.

This will require the forging of a proletarian revolutionary leadership, one that bases itself on the workers and farmers, absorbs the lessons taught by Bishop, and comes to grips with the character of the betrayal that took place at the hands of Bernard Coard. A leadership capable of clearly explaining to the masses what lies ahead for them under imperialist domination and what it will take to end that domination. A leadership that can help the masses organize to fight for immediate demands today to protect their standard of living and their rights, while at the same time educating on the need to overthrow the government of the capitalists, landlords, and their U.S. masters and reestablish a workers and farmers government that would once again put Grenadian working people on the road to socialism.

## Nicaraguans prepared

Washington would like to repeat in Nicaragua what it has done to Grenada. But as the Sandinistas say, if the Yankees come, they won't find us with our guns locked in storerooms.

Today there are 200,000 armed workers and peasants in Nicaragua — in the militias, in the army, in the special battalions, and in the reserves. Tens of thousands of youth who have been called up for the draft are currently undergoing basic training. On July 14 of this year there was a demonstration in Managua called by AMNLAE, the national women's organization, to celebrate the first contingent of women going off for Patriotic Military Service. National leaders of the Sandinista Youth (JS-19) held a meeting recently and decided that they would take the lead by volunteering to do their military service now, as part of a national campaign to deepen the participation of the whole country in defense.

This is all part of the political and military preparation the FSLN leadership is organizing to be ready for the U.S. invasion they know is coming. As they have explained for years, the goal of Washington is to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, to "destroy the power of the working people and to attempt to place in power the pro-Yankee bourgeois classes," as FSLN Commander Humberto Ortega explained in June.

But the mercenary army Washington has put into the field against the workers and peasants has not fared so well. For three years these terrorists have been trying to take a village somewhere in Nicaragua where they could run up their flag — the Vatican colors — and declare a provisional counterrevolutionary government.

They have failed to take and hold a single town in all that time. You'd know it if they had — the bourgeois press in this country would be shrieking with delight about the victory of the "freedom fighters" and Washington would be rushing aid to the so-called liberated territory.

The predictions that the mercenaries would convince the Miskitu Indians to carry out an anti-Sandinista uprising have fallen flat. In fact, the Miskitus have just held a convention in Nicaragua, attended by 350 delegates from 63 villages, where they voted to form the Organization of the Miskitus of Nicaragua (MISATAN). The goals of MISATAN are to struggle — within the revolution — to advance the Miskitu national culture, including the establishment of Miskitu as an official language, and to reunite Miskitu families divided by the war.

The long-predicted uprising on the Atlantic Coast has failed to materialize. Instead, the Sandinistas are steadily bringing more Blacks and Indians into the militias, the Sandinista Youth and neighborhood defense committees.

## U.S. invasion pushed off

The counterrevolutionaries have caused serious damage to the Nicaraguan econ-

omy — millions of dollars worth — and they have killed more than 7,400 Nicaraguan comrades in combat. But they have not succeeded in establishing a base inside the country, a piece of territory where they enjoy the support and aid of a section of the population, an area where they can operate freely and challenge the FSLN for control.

To the contrary, the mercenary army is sustained wholly from the outside — by Washington — through airlifts of food and weapons. If this aid stopped — and it's going to increase, not stop — the mercenaries would be finished.

They're taking a beating from the Sandinista-led workers and peasants and this has pushed off the U.S. invasion.

Washington would be much closer to sending in troops if its paid killers had established a beachhead somewhere, say a village near the Honduran border or a port on the Atlantic Coast. That would make it easier to invade militarily and easier to justify such an invasion politically. It would help convince those sections of the U.S. ruling class still wary of the political cost and prospects for success of an invasion that it's time to do it.

But while the invasion has been pushed back — due to the ability of the Sandinistas to raise the international price of such an invasion — the imperialists' determination to overthrow the revolution has not changed. The invasion will happen. We don't know when — this year, next year, or further down the road.

## Class polarization within Nicaragua

The deepening of the Sandinista revolution and the escalating imperialist war against it have widened the class polarization inside Nicaragua. On one side stand the workers and peasants, who are making the revolution and have everything to gain from defending it; on the other side are the capitalists, landlords, and privileged petty-bourgeois layers that look to them, particularly in the urban areas. Figures in the Catholic Church hierarchy in Managua have become the spokesmen for the counterrevolution, the "dogs who bark by remote control" from Washington, as FSLN Commander Tomás Borge called them recently.

Why do the peasants fight for the revolution? Because the mercenaries attacking them are the landlord's police — former members of Somoza's National Guard. They have come to take back the land the peasants now own for the first time. They kill the students who teach the peasants how to read. They burn down schools, clinics, and day-care centers.

Why do the workers volunteer for the special military brigade set up by the Sandinista Workers Federation? Why do they put in so many "Red and Black Days," when they work at the factory without pay to boost production? Because under Somoza they had no free trade unions. They were at the mercy of the boss. They had no health care. No schools for their children.

Why do the youth sign up for the draft and volunteer to be the first to go to the battle front? Because under Somoza, the youth had no future. They were kidnapped off the streets by the National Guard and carried off to Lake Managua, where they were tortured, mutilated, and then killed.

## 'Nicaragua exists'

All of us who have had the chance to visit Nicaragua have been struck by the transformation of the working people there by the revolution. An example that stands out in my mind was a woman in her forties who runs a stall at the big Eastern Market in Managua. When our tour group met with the Sandinista Defense Committee (CDS) at the market, this woman, a CDS member, dedicated to our group a poem she had written. "I was illiterate all my life," she explained. "The revolution made me a poet."

At the recent Sandinista Assembly of the FSLN, where it announced candidates for the upcoming national elections, Tomás Borge gave a speech in which he touched on what the revolution has accomplished thus far. The most important conquest, he said, is that "Nicaragua finally exists" — "for the first time in history, Nicaragua is Nicaragua and Nicaraguans are Nicaraguans. We used to be a country of torture chambers . . . of men without land, of children without schools, of sick people with-





Barricada

**Terrorist priest Peña watches Sandinista security search his suitcase and uncover explosives. Reactionary role of Catholic church in Nicaragua is being exposed.**

out hospitals, a country without a face.

"At last Nicaragua exists, and because of that, we have taught half a million people to read and write, we've ended polio, we've saved the lives of many children who were dying like flies from hunger and disease, we've given the people land, guns, and hope."

National independence. Dignity. Land. Life for one's children. The power to rebuild a society plundered by imperialism and the guns to defend that power. This is what the revolution has accomplished, and this is why the workers and peasants are giving their lives to preserve it.

#### Imperialist slander campaign

It's the fact that the workers and peasants are gaining in self-confidence and in their ability to rule that drives the U.S. rulers and their Republican and Democratic mouthpieces wild. They resort to the same kind of lies and slanders they have traditionally used against Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution to try to prejudice U.S. working people against Nicaragua. Two days ago, for example, Congress held special hearings. They brought in a Nicaraguan CIA stoopigeon to testify that Humberto Ortega is not only running drugs to U.S. teenagers, but he's a drug addict himself!

The U.S. media has been running a spate of articles predicting the collapse of support in Nicaragua for the Sandinista government. They did the same thing to Cuba during the early 1960s. Then they claimed that because Cuba had introduced ration cards — which simply prevent capitalist speculators from buying up all the available supplies of basic foods and other necessities and enriching themselves while others starve — there was sure to be an uprising. They said the Cuban revolutionaries were incapable of running the economy — it was grinding to a halt. They forecast the overthrow of Castro.

The bourgeois press articles on Nicaragua also claim rationing is unpopular there. That the shortages of basic goods are going to produce confrontations with the government. That people are going to rise up against the draft and the so-called persecution of the Catholic Church.

This all makes no sense. The Nicaraguan workers and peasants lack many things, but one thing people do have is guns, lots of them. If they wanted to overthrow the FSLN they could do it.

The imperialists are also trying to play their Catholic Church card, boasting Managua Archbishop Obando y Bravo as the saviour of the Nicaraguan people. Obando made a secret trip to New York not long ago to raise some money for his Christian

endeavors. According to excerpts from a secret memo that were published in *Barricada*, the FSLN daily, Obando met with executives of W.R. Grace and Co., the shipping empire with vast holdings throughout Latin America.

The memo, by a Grace executive, says Obando told them he's training "cadres" to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. He said he was getting donations of rosary beads but a little hard currency would help too.

After the memo was published, Obando explained these were "pastoral cadres" not "military cadres." But one of his "pastoral cadres" got stopped by Sandinista security agents recently and when they opened his suitcase, lo and behold, inside there were no Bibles, no rosary beads, not even a drop of holy water. The suitcase was full of grenades and TNT. The Nicaraguan government broadcast a video of the whole thing on television, along with films they'd made of the same priest conspiring with a known CIA mercenary to carry out assassinations and provocations against the revolution.

#### Reactionary instrument of class rule

The Catholic Church is increasingly being exposed in Nicaragua as the reactionary instrument of class rule it is. In recent years, some forces within the church have tried to adapt to the revolutionary developments in Latin America to better maintain the church's hold over sections of the working population.

There's a parallel with the way the Democratic Party in this country has adapted to the idea of a woman running for vice-president, or a Black running in the primaries for president. The Democrats can do that without changing their reactionary class role one iota, just as the church can adapt without changing its fundamental purpose. The church preaches submission to authority to justify and uphold the class inequality and attendant institutionalized violence of the property owners in every class-divided society. It instills superstition, mysticism, and resignation in the minds of the masses.

How have the Sandinistas met the challenge of the church in Nicaragua, and the fact that many Nicaraguans who support the revolution still hold onto religious beliefs?

They've recognized that the task of the revolution is not to "fight religion" but to transform society and advance the class consciousness of the workers and peasants. In the course of this, working people will come to see their own class interests more clearly and they'll recognize in whose class interests the church acts as well.

The FSLN leadership consistently explains that the conflict between the church and revolution is not over religion — it's over politics: which class shall rule? They've taken advantage of opportunities to show how the church comes down on the side of the bosses, the landlords, and the imperialists.

Ever since the Nicaraguan Catholic bishops put out their Easter pastoral letter calling for "negotiations" with the CIA-led mercenaries, for example, the FSLN has been calling the mercenaries "those uplifted by the pastoral letter."

#### 'An attitude of class'

FSLN Commander Jaime Wheelock explained the Sandinistas' approach in an interview conducted by Chilean journalist Marta Harnecker. The first layers of the population attracted to the FSLN-led struggle against Somoza, he said, were students, workers, women, and peasants. "At a certain moment... as part of the dynamic of the deepening struggle, we also saw the incorporation, in an organized way, of young people who had come around a Christian movement that... included a few progressive priests."

"We understand their participation to be political, not religious," Wheelock explained. "What we did was link up with them as combatants... We did not propose an alliance with the Christians."

Wheelock emphasized that the question of the institution of the church must be separated from the question of individuals with ties to the church. Among Nicaraguans who are Christians, "some are opposed to the revolution and others support it. But this attitude, at bottom, is an attitude of class. It is not a stance based on religion."

Many Nicaraguan working people who hold religious beliefs are members and leaders of the mass organizations. There are even a few priests who hold government posts, and are members of the FSLN.

But the FSLN, the political vanguard of the working class, does not promote religion. To the contrary, it uses appropriate opportunities to educate the workers and peasants with a scientific world view and exposes the real political role of the church.

One example is a speech Tomás Borge gave last year on the question of education. A polemic against religious indoctrination under the guise of education and in favor of secular schools, the speech examined the role of religion as a key prop of class society. Borge described the reactionary role of the church in medieval times, and then explained how the bourgeoisie uses religious ideology today as a weapon against class consciousness.

To defend its interests, Borge explained, the capitalist class not only uses physical repression against the working class, but "spiritual repression, creating an ideological apparatus far more refined but hardly less brutal than that of the feudal epoch. Just like the feudal lords, the bourgeoisie uses religion as an instrument to preach conformity, resignation, and conciliation of classes."

#### Nicaraguan elections

A further step toward deepening class consciousness and consolidating worker-peasant rule is the election for president, vice-president, and national assembly which Nicaragua will hold on November 4. For five years the opponents of the revolution made the fact that there had been no general elections in Nicaragua the centerpiece of their denunciation of the supposedly unpopular regime. Now that an election has been scheduled there has been an about-face. Since there is clearly no way the old exploiting classes can return to power through a popular ballot, it is the elections that are today being denounced as "undemocratic!"

In order not to reveal their lack of support, the main capitalist parties have refused to participate in the elections, charging they are supposedly unfair. The FSLN leadership replies that the elections are, in fact, the first democratic elections the country has ever had — and that's why the capitalists and landlords will not be able to return to power. The elections are not to decide which class will hold power. That was settled by the blood and sacrifice of tens of thousands of working people in the struggle that culminated in the victory of July 19, 1979.

No election ever has or ever will determine what class holds power. The FSLN is offering vanguard fighters a valuable lesson in the fraud of bourgeois electoralism — which perpetuates the myth that elections and other forms of parliamentary activity are the real politics, not the struggle between classes.

The Sandinistas are utilizing the elections as one way to further institutionalize popular rule in Nicaragua, as well as to educate the masses on the road forward to strengthening the revolution and the FSLN as the vanguard revolutionary party.

FSLN presidential and vice-presidential candidates Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramírez are using their campaign to promote defense of Nicaragua and the revolution against U.S. aggression, and to consolidate "people's power." Their platform calls for extending the program to give land to those who work it; helping workers to organize unions and protect their standard of living; prioritizing the remotest areas of the country, such as the Atlantic Coast, for supplies and development projects; defending women's rights; and expanding health care and education.

The Sandinistas are institutionalizing the revolution in other ways, too. They are integrating the broadest possible layers of the population into defense of the country — through the militias, the reserves, the draft, and the neighborhood defense committees. They're strengthening the Sandinista unions and the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers. Through the Sandinista Youth, they're educating and mobilizing working-class and peasant youth to become future leaders of the revolution.

AMNLAE, which has a growing number of chapters in the factories and working-class neighborhoods, is spearheading the effort to build women's participation in the revolution.

Efforts are also under way to organize important nonproletarian sectors of the population — such as small market vendors and artisans.

These are all steps toward organizing to increase the active involvement of working people in making and administering the political decisions that determine how they live, to develop proletarian consciousness, self-confidence, and discipline. The strengthening of the mass organizations, the institutionalizing of new governmental organs, and the process of building the FSLN as a mass party, incorporating the most dedicated leaders of the working classes, are all interrelated tasks. Each one is an indispensable aspect of consolidating and further proletarianizing the revolution.

U.S. imperialism is finding in Nicaragua that it's a lot harder to crush a revolution once the workers and peasants have in their hands the weapon of their own government. That's why the imperialists are pouring so much money into propping up the dictatorship in El Salvador right now. They're determined not to let the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) win and confront them with another Nicaragua.

The escalation of the U.S. war against the Salvadoran people is being carefully covered up. In the last few weeks, for example, Salvadoran President Duarte has unleashed another wave of saturation bombing attacks on FMLN-held civilian areas. U.S.-piloted spy planes are spotting the target areas for the Salvadoran bombers. There's barely been a word on this in the U.S. capitalist press.

Instead of the truth about the scope of the aggression against the Salvadoran workers and peasants, U.S. working people are being fed a steady stream of lies about how things are "different" today in El Salvador because Duarte is in office. But Duarte is just the facade behind which

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Barricada/L. Aris

**Woman registering to vote in Nicaragua. Government elections are further step in deepening class consciousness and consolidating worker-peasant rule.**



# Socialists map strategy against U.S. war

Continued from Page 4

on a revolutionary anticapitalist program, a program adopted after much discussion among militant activists trying to chart a course toward an independent Black political movement. It is based on 20 years of discussions and struggles by the Black movement, striving toward an alternative perspective to that offered by the liberal pro-capitalist misleaders of the Black movement.

The Socialist Workers Party, from our founding in 1938, and particularly since the rise of the Black nationalist movement in the early 1960s, has been involved in all the discussions on the need for independent Black political action.

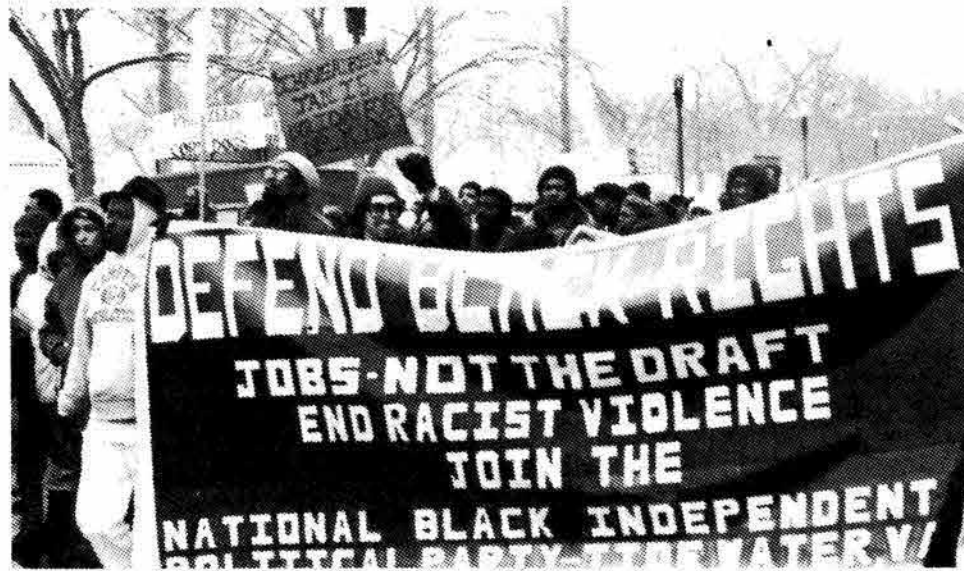
The NBIPP is one of the most important political formations that the Socialist Workers Party supports and has members actively participating in and building. Building the NBIPP is an important part of the process of developing a working class vanguard leadership in which Black revolutionary socialists will play a leading role.

Our trade union fractions will be discussing how to build NBIPP because the question of independent political action is a decisive one for the working class.

## Electing a National Committee

The delegates have another very big responsibility, which is the election of a new National Committee — the central leadership of the party responsible for implementing the decisions of the convention. It is the highest decision-making body of the party and has the power to act promptly and effectively in the name of the party between conventions.

The perspective of building a proletarian party is not just important for us in the United States. Preparing to respond to the imperialist war is the responsibility of the international working class. It's true for all revolutionaries. Whatever country you may be in, you need to organize your party along the lines of opposing the austerity drive and opposing U.S. imperialist war in Central America and the Caribbean, which is the center of world politics.



"The National Black Independent Political Party is an important vanguard, not only for Black nationality, but for entire working class." SWP convention took up how to build NBIPP among coworkers.

We have here, at our convention and educational conference, a number of comrades from other countries who are trying to do exactly what we are trying to do.

We have two leading comrades, for the first time at one of our conventions, from Iceland. They are active in one of the largest union federations, carrying out the same type of political perspective that we are, deepening their roots within the working class, and discussing big political issues with their coworkers, including the U.S. war drive.

We have a sizeable contingent of comrades from Britain who have been active in support of the striking coal miners there.

We also have comrades from New Zealand. The working class there just kicked out the conservative government and the Labor Party was put back in office. This was an important experience for the working class that our comrades participated in.

We also have a very sizeable delegation from our comrades up north in Canada. There are also comrades here from Australia, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic,

Ireland, and Sweden.

Since our last convention in 1981, a number of revolutionaries have died. From the Socialist Workers Party, there were Morris Chertov, Anne Chester, Farrell Dobbs, Richard Frankel, Tom Kerry, Tom Nagle, Ed Pollock, Howard Rosen, and Marvell Scholl. In addition, two long-time members of the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International, Pierre Frank from France and Peng Shu-Tse from China also died.

Other comrades who have died were the revolutionary fighters led by our comrade Maurice Bishop and the other patriots of Grenada, the Cuban airport workers who also fought against the U.S. imperialist invasion of Grenada, and hundreds of comrades in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

I think the best way that we can salute these comrades and what they've given to our movement and to the class struggle is to continue to fight and to continue our deliberations at this convention, especially our campaign against the U.S. imperialist war in Central America.

You cannot carry out the kind of activities that our party does without paying serious attention to finances. And the bedrock of the finances of a revolutionary party is our membership. It's what we contribute, it's how much we can give to the party on a voluntary basis to advance our perspective. And we always strive to give the maximum.

One of the things that we'll be launching this week, which will end up with a big socialist rally the last night, is a national election campaign fund of \$100,000.

The purpose of this fund is more than just to cover the basic expenses of campaign literature and Mel Mason and Andrea González's U.S. travel.

It's for us to do what an internationalist proletarian party must do. It's so we can have more trips by Mel to Ireland and Britain; more trips by Mel to Nicaragua; Andrea to Martinique and Puerto Rico and to the Dominican Republic.

We have to take our message to the entire working class on an international level.

Part of building a proletarian party today is *professionalism*. Without professionalism we cannot carry out the huge tasks that we have before us. And professionalism is necessary on all levels. It's not just how you go to your coworkers and talk about what's happening in Central America, as important as that is, and invite a worker to a forum. It also involves making the leaflet and getting the leaflet out, raising the money, having the discussion inside the party, so we have political clarity on our line and on our perspectives.

To carry out our work, we also have to meet and discuss, to step back and think, to consider different points of view, come to a decision, and then act. This is true not only prior to and during conventions, but all year long.

## We're an inclusive party

That means we have to be a thinking machine in the sense that we have to educate ourselves. That's why the delegates have organized not just a convention, where we will come to a decision on the political resolutions, but we are also organizing an educational conference so comrades and friends can discuss important questions.

This enables us, for example, to go back and study the history of the Socialist Workers Party and learn about our continuity. Our discussions about how to build the party today are based on how the SWP prepared for war in 1938-39, and the decision of comrades back then to deepen their orientation to the working class. At the 1938 founding convention the delegates voted that 90 percent of the SWP's activity must be in trade unions and every comrade must be geared into that work.

We also need to continue our study of the writings of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin, to learn about our continuity, to use that to educate ourselves, so we can better carry out our perspectives today.

Our strategic perspective of workers and farmers taking political power is a perspective we have in common with the revolutionaries in Central America and the Caribbean. Based on that perspective, we are trying to build a revolutionary vanguard party which seeks to include in its ranks all class-conscious and militant workers who stand on the Marxist program and who are active in building the revolutionary movement in a disciplined manner. That's why we're an *inclusive* party, inclusive of all those comrades who are ready to devote their lives to this perspective, to become professional revolutionaries.

We hope those of you here who are participating in our gathering as guests, who are not yet members, will consider this perspective, because it is the only one that can help advance our class to its strategic goal of taking power.

## Cannon's 1939 message

1984 marks the 10th anniversary of the death of James P. Cannon, who was the founder and central leader for many years of the Socialist Workers Party. Cannon was also a founder and central leader of the

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# U.S. vs. Central American revolution

Continued from preceding page

Washington is deepening its involvement in the war.

The only thing "different" is that having promoted the illusion that Duarte is more moderate, more "democratic" than the U.S. puppets who preceded him, the U.S. rulers feel more confident they can step up the war. The Democrats and Republicans are more united behind the deepening U.S. military intervention and more willing to send whatever funds, weapons, and U.S. troops are necessary to try to crush the revolution.

There's a bipartisan conspiracy in Congress to downplay the U.S. involvement in the Salvadoran civil war by playing up meaningless votes against aid to the Nicaraguan mercenaries, who the imperialists will make sure are adequately supplied regardless of any motions Congress may pass.

An example is the August 3 *New York Times*, which ran a story headlined "House Votes to Deny Help to Nicaraguan Insurgents." You're supposed to think the Democrats and Republicans have finally done something to stop the U.S. war in Central America. But buried in the very last paragraph of the article is the fact that while the House was conducting this charade, the Senate was quietly pushing through millions of dollars more in military aid to the Duarte regime in El Salvador. By the time the House and Senate were through, Duarte and his generals had another \$70 million for their bombing raids and torture chambers.

Remember all those Democrats who said they'd never let another cent of aid go to El Salvador until human rights were protected? What happened to their "moral outrage" about the death squads? They've all fallen in lockstep with Reagan in escalating the war. Duarte is not only Reagan's man, he's the Democrats' man too — he's Wal-

ter Mondale's man, Geraldine Ferraro's, and Jesse Jackson's.

The European imperialist powers, some of which took their distance from the Salvadoran dictatorship at an earlier stage, gave Duarte a whirlwind tour in July. The West German government promised him \$18 million to continue the U.S.-backed war, and Socialist Party leader François Mitterrand, head of the imperialist government of France, welcomed him to Paris.

## Sharpening class struggle

This spring and summer have seen the biggest wave of strikes in San Salvador since 1980. Tens of thousands of workers have gone out. The revival of the urban class struggle — and the active role workers who support the FMLN are playing in these labor battles — can only help propel forward the unification of the five separate groups that make up the FMLN, bringing them closer to fusion into a single proletarian party.

Each step the Salvadorans take toward unity based on a revolutionary perspective aids us in this country too. It strengthens our ability to bring the U.S. working class and the unions into the fight against the U.S. war.

Everything we will be discussing at this convention is aimed at preparing for this war — from building our forces in the industrial unions, to organizing to get as many of our coworkers and fellow unionists as possible to visit Nicaragua and bringing Sandinistas here to speak to U.S. workers and farmers, to helping build united protests against U.S. intervention and deepening labor's participation in them.

Through the Socialist Workers Party presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, we are also helping prepare the U.S. workers for the role they

must play. Our candidates bring the example of the Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Grenada revolutions to the U.S. working class, and extend the solidarity of working people in this country to the fighters they meet through their trips to the Caribbean, Central America, and Europe.

We spread the lessons of these revolutions and the need to defend them through our circulation of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, including the hundreds of copies sold weekly at plant gates across the country. A central feature of our press is the eyewitness reports on the unfolding of the Nicaraguan revolution from our Managua bureau and the on-the-spot coverage we provide from Grenada and the rest of the Caribbean.

We often call the coming war in Central America and the Caribbean a new Vietnam. It will be a new Vietnam in some respects — the introduction of U.S. ground troops will set uncontrolled forces in motion throughout the region, with unpredictable consequences for imperialism.

But unlike the period of the Vietnam war, when there was a prolonged economic expansion and a substantial improvement in the living standards of big sections of the U.S. working class, Washington is escalating the Central America war at a time when the employers here are on a major offensive to attack the standard of living and rights of the U.S. working class.

Because of this, U.S. workers and our unions will be increasingly pushed to the center of the resistance when the U.S. sends troops to Central America. The fight against the war is completely intertwined with the class struggle here at home. We will see class battles the likes of which we have never seen before.

This is the perspective we take to class-conscious workers. And we say to them, if you agree, then join us. The Socialist Workers Party is your party as well.





G.W. Cookson

Clare Fraenzl, one of four socialist U.S. miners who have travelled to Britain to extend solidarity to miners strike there, speaking at East London meeting last April.

# British miners welcomed at SWP convention

## More solidarity with strike planned

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

OBERLIN, Ohio — "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie. Out! Out! Out!"

For a few moments that chant, directed at British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by striking miners in the British coalfields, could be heard at the welcoming session of the Socialist Workers Party's national convention and educational conference, held here August 4-9. It arose in response to *Militant* editor Malik Miah's announcement that two striking members of the British National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), and one of their wives, an activist in the Nottinghamshire women's strike support group, were among the international guests at the gathering.

Solidarity with the militant striking miners was a prominent theme of the Oberlin gathering. U.S. workers in attendance were eager to learn everything they could about the strike, including the lessons British workers are drawing about how to fight back against the employer-government offensive against working people and their unions.

### NUM on front lines

The NUM has been on the front lines of this worldwide battle for months. In March, miners in Yorkshire, England struck to protest British National Coal Board plans to close some 20 mines and throw 20,000 miners permanently out of work. Many of the threatened mines are in the Yorkshire area, but strikers pointed to the Thatcher government's longer term plans to shut some 70 mines in the nationalized coal industry, eliminating 70,000 jobs. No miner's job was safe, they said, unless the union stood together and fought back.

The strike spread quickly and became a national one. The NUM national leadership, headed by President Arthur Scargill, has organized a campaign of militant mass action by miners and their supporters aimed at shutting down the mines, stopping the transport of any coal, and putting a halt to its use in British industry until the union's demands are met.

This determined effort has required a genuine mobilization of the ranks of the union. The government has responded by sending tens of thousands of cops against the strikers and cracking down on democratic rights. The courts have attempted to intervene against the NUM.

During the SWP convention a Central Committee member of the British section of the Fourth International (a world socialist organization), who is an activist in the postal and communication workers' union, explained that this has resulted in over 4,000 arrests of strikers and their supporters. Two miners have been killed in confrontations with the police.

The British socialist told the convention that the miners battle is the most important labor struggle in an imperialist country in more than a decade. The strike has politicized the working class and the British labor movement. Dock workers, rail workers, and fighters in other unions who want to take action against the Thatcher government's antiunion drive are pressing their own unions to act in solidarity with the NUM.

The strike has also led to important discussion and debate in the British Labor Party. Top party leaders, while formally backing the strike, refuse to act decisively to help win it. But many militant workers

are inspired by the idea, expressed by NUM President Scargill, that British workers need a Labor Party and a government "as loyal to our class as Thatcher is to hers."

### Women come forward

The British socialist also pointed to the important ways in which the strike has drawn women further into political life. No women work as underground miners in Britain but, led by the wives and other family members, women have formed a big battalion backing the union in this fight. The convention broke into prolonged applause as the British socialist described the active role of the women's support groups that have sprung up in an unprecedented way during the strike.

She told the convention that this activity by women began, in part, in response to "back to work" actions led by the wives of scabs, especially in the Nottinghamshire area.

There the union remains divided. Mines in this area are not immediately threatened with closure and incentive pay plans have resulted in much higher pay for miners there, compared to workers in other mines. Miner Mark Hunter and his wife Julie, two of the guests at the SWP convention, are among the strike activists who are trying to persuade Notts miners to stop scabbing and take a stand with the rest of the union.

### Meeting of U.S. socialist miners

One group of convention participants who were especially eager to learn more about the strike were those socialist workers who are members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). The UMWA is headed towards its own contract confrontation with the coal operators in this country when the current national agreement expires on September 30. Many miners expect the union will again be forced out on strike as it was for 72 days in 1981, and for 111 days in 1977-78. The socialist miners met twice to discuss their activity in the UMWA, including their efforts to help defend the union in the coming contract battle.

Steve Shukla, a striking NUM member from Yorkshire, attended the socialist miners' meeting as an observer. On the second day he spoke to the U.S. miners about the British strike.

Shukla, 26 years old, is already a nine year NUM veteran. He graduated from school on a Friday, as he told this reporter, and the next Monday he went down into the mines. His father was a miner before him and today both are on the NUM picket lines.

Shukla expressed confidence that the NUM will win the strike. But, he said, he didn't expect it to be over anytime soon. The stakes involved are clear to both sides. A victory for the miners can begin to reverse the Thatcher government's antilabor offensive. But if the government wins it will be emboldened to launch even harsher attacks on the British unions and all working people.

### UMWA solidarity

Solidarity, from workers in Britain and other countries, has been very important Shukla said. Like the U.S. workers at the convention he was inspired to hear that the UMWA's International Executive Board voted in July to send a \$25,000 contribu-

tion to the NUM as an expression of support for the strike.

Socialists who are active in the UMWA have been in the forefront of urging such solidarity. Four miners at the meeting here had travelled to Britain to learn about the strike first hand. They recognized that little news about the strike has been available to U.S. workers. As part of an effort to help crack this media blackout and get the truth out, all four of these socialist miners wrote accounts of their visits in the pages of the *Militant*.

The four have spoken about what they learned on their trips at forums sponsored by the *Militant* in many cities. All miners at the Oberlin meeting have been making special efforts to get the *Militant*, with its regular news on the British strike and its call for solidarity, into the hands of as many workers as possible.

The reason why was evident in the discussion here. The socialist miners explained that UMWA members, and all U.S. workers, have a direct stake in the outcome of the British miners' battle. If the NUM wins it will have an impact on the employing class attacks on workers around the world. If the NUM loses, the employers here will be even more determined to try to break the UMWA and step up the drive against all U.S. unions.

This understanding was apparent among other convention participants too. Many stopped by a table set up by the British strikers. Convention participants donated close to \$2,000 to the NUM in exchange for stickers, buttons, and other strike material.

More than 200 people attended a class presentation on the strike given by a British socialist from Sheffield, England, a militant center of the NUM. Following the class, the two striking British miners participated in a question and answer session. The U.S. workers at the class were eager to learn as much as possible about the class struggle methods the NUM is using in the strike.

Along with the fight against the U.S. war in Central America and other questions of international working class solidarity, the British strike was also a topic of discussion at eight other meetings held here by

socialist workers active in unions where the SWP is building a national presence. These included the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers; International Association of Machinists; International Ladies' Garment Workers; International Union of Electronic Workers; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; United Auto Workers; United Steelworkers; and the United Transportation Union.

Joe Swanson, who presented the main report to the meeting of socialists in the UTU, had also recently returned from a trip to Britain. Louise Goodman, another UTU member recently recalled to work by the Southern Pacific Railroad in California after a long layoff, and Chris Gauvrau, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Massachusetts and an activist in the IUE at the giant General Electric plant in Lynn, Mass., were making plans to travel to Britain as soon as the SWP convention ended. They too plan to report back to their fellow workers and will be available to speak at *Militant* forums and other meetings.

### British miners on tour

Mark and Julie Hunter and Steve Shukla had made arrangements to stay in the United States after the SWP convention to speak about the strike to U.S. workers at *Militant* forums, union meetings and other events.

Following the convention, the Hunters headed back to the coalfields of Pennsylvania and West Virginia with socialist U.S. miners. Shukla hopped in a car with socialist auto workers headed back to Detroit. From there he planned to travel to Toledo to talk with striking oil and auto parts workers, and to visit the coalfields of Southern Illinois and the factories of St. Louis.

The participation by these three strike activists in the SWP convention and conference, and the warm response they received from the U.S. workers here, said something important about the kind of party the SWP is striving to become — a party of working class fighters who understand that the struggle of working people against their exploiters is truly an international one.

## Socialists map antiwar strategy

Continued from preceding page

Fourth International.

In 1939, the United States and other imperialist countries were moving toward a full-scale war — World War II. At that time, there were discussions in the SWP about how to prepare our party — like we're preparing now — to fight that war. Preparing our party by organizing and proletarianizing our ranks, by deepening our roots in the working class.

And just like now, many petty bourgeois radicals at that time began to retreat from the class struggle as the pressures of the imperialist offensive and the capitalist crisis bore down on them. That also affected our party and led to, eventually, a major fight and a split in the SWP in 1940.

Prior to the second convention of the party in 1939, Cannon wrote a series of articles in the *Militant* discussing the questions before the party. He made the following point in one article, in reference to those who split from the revolutionary movement:

"It's criminal folly to waste time or even to argue the question with these runaway-boys and heralds of defeat before the battle. Our convention must let the dead bury the dead and turn the face of the party to the workers who are the real source of power and of inspiration and well-grounded optimism."

"The proletariat in the United States is the source of unlimited power. It can raise the whole world on its shoulders. That is the unshakable premise of all our calculations and all our work."

"For us there is no way but forward at an accelerated pace. . . . Can we strengthen and improve our responsibility, our discipline, and our morale? Can we blast a path to fresh circles of undefeated and undisciplined workers and make our party in truth a party of the proletariat in its composition and in all of its activity?"

"Affirmative answers to these questions and concrete, practical plans to implement them are what the party needs from this convention."



# Grenada's workers resist U.S.-installed

The *Militant* recently sent two correspondents, Mac Warren and Ernest Harsch, to Grenada. This week we print the third eyewitness story from our reporting team.

BY ERNEST HARSCH

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — The situation facing working people in Grenada is qualitatively different than it was just a year ago. Then, the workers and farmers of this small Caribbean island held political power, through the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) headed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Today they are struggling to defend themselves from mounting political, economic, and social attacks launched by the employers' and the U.S.-installed capitalist regime.

Under the PRG, trade union rights were enshrined in law — and enforced. Working people played an active role through their mass organizations in helping to decide the affairs of the country. Today there is a government-supported drive to weaken and destroy the unions.

Unemployment was being steadily reduced. Today it has risen to 30 percent.

Numerous social programs — in health care, education, housing, and other fields — brought tangible benefits to the masses of Grenadians. Measures were taken up to advance women's equality. Today these have been reversed or severely slackened.

In October 1983, the workers and farmers lost their government. The PRG was overthrown in a counterrevolutionary coup organized by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. On October 19, Bishop, several other government ministers, and leading unionists like Vincent Noel and Fitzroy Bain were brutally murdered.

Less than a week later, Washington invaded Grenada with thousands of U.S. troops, supported by several hundred troops from other Caribbean countries. A new, capitalist government was installed, known as the Interim Advisory Council.

Working people were thrown onto the

defensive. Not only had they lost their best weapon — the PRG — but many of their mass organizations had collapsed or been greatly weakened during and after the October events. These included the National Women's Organization, the National Youth Organization, and some of the trade unions. The fact that some leaders of these organizations had been supporters of the Coard faction contributed to their decline.

## Attacks and resistance

The Interim Advisory Council, acting on behalf of the U.S. occupation forces and their local allies, launched an offensive against the surviving gains of the Grenada revolution. Some programs, like the adult literacy campaign and the free distribution of milk to children, were halted. Numerous state enterprises were shut down, throwing hundreds of Grenadians out of work, or were turned over to private capitalist interests. Assistance to poor farmers was cut back. Political activists were subjected to harassment and victimization.

The workers and their trade unions, because of the leading role they played in the revolution, have become particular targets of this offensive. Many union leaders were briefly detained after the invasion. The offices of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union (CIWU) and the Bank and General Workers Union (BGWU) were broken into earlier this year and some files taken.

But despite the enormous difficulties they face, workers are resisting the assault of the government, the employers, and the U.S. occupation forces. Their resistance is reinforced by their memories of the Grenada revolution; they are determined to defend and regain the rights they had known during the PRG's four-and-a-half years in power.

Since late May, another factor in this has been the formation of a new revolutionary party that champions the interests of working people: the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM). The MBPM upholds

the policies of the PRG and of the late prime minister for whom it is named. Its fight against the U.S. occupation and the government's antilabor policies helps to strengthen the struggles of all Grenadian working people.

## Washington's two strategies

In carrying out their attacks against the rights of working people, the U.S. occupation authorities are utilizing several different approaches, in addition to the measures being carried out by the Interim Advisory Council.

"Imperialism is using two strategies," a CIWU leader explained to the *Militant* in an interview obtained in early July. "One is to encourage employers to frustrate workers in the workplaces, to lessen their willingness to struggle."

The other is to employ the reactionary leaderships of certain unions to try to weaken and destroy those unions that were most closely identified with the revolution, such as the CIWU and the BGWU. This latter strategy is being supervised by the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a CIA outfit that operates under the guise of providing "assistance" to unions.

## Bosses on the offensive

Grenada's employers, who saw their prerogatives greatly restricted during the period of the PRG, now see an opportunity to strike back against the workers, to whittle away the gains that workers had achieved.

They are greatly aided in this by the high level of unemployment. Since the U.S. invasion, unemployment has jumped from 12 percent to some 30 percent. This was caused by the disbanding of the People's Revolutionary Army and the shutting down of projects like the asphalt plant, the agro-industrial plant, the Youth Employment Program, the Sandino prefabricated housing plant, and other enterprises. Some that were not shut down entirely cut back on the number of workers they employed. Although construction on the international airport has now resumed, many of the former workers there cannot get their old jobs back. Former soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Army are subject to a de facto blacklist in hirings.

In this situation, employers have also found it easier to fire or dismiss employees on the flimsiest of pretexts. Although in some cases unions have been able to block such firings, in many they have not.

According to a CIWU member at the Nutmeg restaurant here, one kitchen worker was fired several months ago. She explained to me that the union intervened to try to save the worker's job, "but the management was hard and wouldn't rehire him. They're feeling bolder now."

Grenada Breweries, the Marketing and National Importing Board, and other institutions and companies have threatened layoffs. Distributors Supermarket briefly shut down in April, dismissed its workers, and then reopened with some new employees. The CIWU, which represents the workers there, charged that this was a blatant attempt to break the union.

Many employers have attempted to impose a de facto wage freeze on their workers or have resisted negotiating new contracts after the old ones have expired. This has been the case at the Coca Cola plant, the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association, and other workplaces. The government itself has demanded that teachers forego any salary negotiations for at least a year, a demand that was rejected at the Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) annual conference in April.

The management of the Bata shoe store here in the capital is pressing its workers (organized by the CIWU) to make a whole series of concessions, including a reduction in vacation time, an increase in the workweek, a bare 5 percent wage increase, and the scrapping of a profit-sharing clause in the existing contract that was won under the PRG.

While the employers have been making gains overall, the unions in some cases have been able to blunt the offensive.

In a few instances, the workers have even scored victories. In April, the Bank and General Workers Union (BGWU) signed a new three-year contract with the Grenada Cooperative Banana Society, following some tough negotiations. The contract provided for a 70 percent wage increase, cumulative over three years, to the lowest paid workers, while the rest of the workers received significant pay hikes as well. The agreement also retained the principle of equal pay for equal work, paid maternity leaves for women workers, and other provisions first won under the PRG.

## CIA 'unionists'

An especially pernicious role in the attacks on the unions has been played by AIFLD.

A CIA front organization that includes AFL-CIO bureaucrats on its board of directors, the agency's goal is to house-break the Grenadian union movement in order to end resistance to the antilabor drive and to help stabilize imperialist domination over the country. It does this by training and financing union officials who are willing to stand against the workers' interests and by seeking to disrupt and hamper those unions whose leaderships it considers "subversive."

Militant unionists are routinely slandered as antidemocratic or as foreign agents. A U.S. government inter-agency team that visited Grenada Nov. 17-19, 1983, shortly after the invasion, charged that "only two, perhaps three, of the unions have in the past functioned in a manner that can be called democratic. The leadership of other unions was radical in the extreme, composed of thugs and highly polished Soviet bloc-trained polemicists."

The team recommended that AIFLD "should take the lead in restructuring and training the unions as quickly as possible."

An AIFLD office has now been set up in Grenada, headed by one Charles Wood. It has a budget of some \$400,000, no small amount for a country of this size — 110,000 people.

The AIFLD's chief Grenadian agent is Osborne Baptiste. A former member of the CIWU, he has been especially active in slandering the leaderships of the CIWU, BGWU, and a few other unions. Baptiste has visited numerous workplaces on the island, asking for the names of union Executive Committee members, spreading stories about misallocation of funds, and seeking to break members away from the more militant unions.

In January, Baptiste was expelled from the CIWU during a meeting of some 150 union members. He was chased out amid chants of "CIA! CIA!"

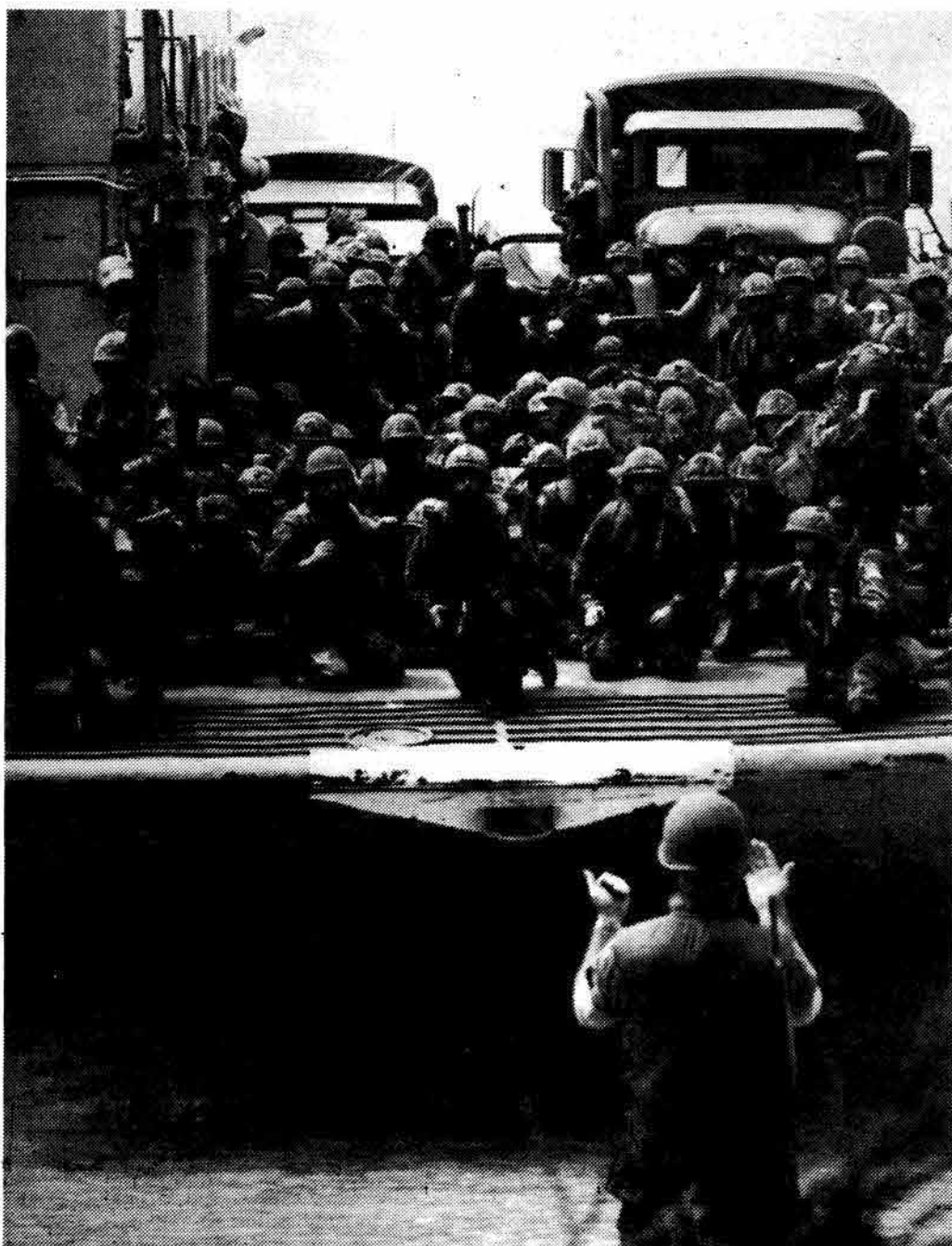
Since then, Baptiste has been especially active in the countryside, visiting many of the agricultural estates. He has announced the formation of a new agricultural workers union.

In this, Baptiste has benefited from the virtual collapse of the Agricultural and General Workers Union (AGWU), which had been formed during the revolution and had been led by revolutionary leader Fitzroy Bain (who was murdered during the October coup). One CIWU official blamed the union's decline on the "default" of the leadership that succeeded Bain.

The AIFLD also has a close relationship with the right-wing leadership of the Seamen's and Waterfront Workers Union. The leadership of the SWWU, which is based among the dockworkers, has had a long history of collaboration with AIFLD and opposed many of the policies of the PRG. (Osborne Baptiste functions out of the SWWU headquarters.)

Since the U.S. invasion, the SWWU has become a key force in the assault against the more militant unions. It first crushed the BGWU branch on the waterfront. Then it launched raiding operations against other BGWU branches. Seeking to present itself as a general union (organizing more than just dockworkers), it has edged out BGWU branches at the Spice Island Inn, De Caul's garment factory, and the Grenada Beach Hotel (which now serves as the headquarters for the U.S. troops stationed here).

The reverses suffered by the Grenadian



U.S. invasion troops in October 1983. Bishop government was overthrown in counterrevolutionary coup. Less than one week later, U.S. forces invaded Grenada.



# Puppet government

Workers' movement were reflected in the low turnout and lack of enthusiasm for this year's May Day celebration.

## Poor May Day turnout

Participation in the action was just a quarter of what it was in 1983, when the BPP was still in power. The AGWU, which had won an award in 1983 for mobilizing the largest number of members for May Day, was totally absent this time.

Except for the AGWU, however, all the unions in Grenada participated. The workers observed a minute of silence in memory of slain unionists Fitzroy Bain and Vincent Joel.

Some unionists spoke, as did a representative of the AIFLD itself. The featured speaker was Patrick Emmanuel, the government minister in charge of labor. Emmanuel sought to cover up the government's support for the antilabor offensive by portraying himself as a friend of the workers. He declared that "there is an unhealthy atmosphere prevailing among some employers which seems to suggest that as a consequence of the October events at trade unionism in Grenada is dead."

An editorial in the May 12 *Indies Times*, which is now the weekly newspaper of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, commented that Emmanuel "did say that the Interim [Advisory Council] will not stand by and watch the rights of workers eroded. But workers have taken so much assurance in the past months that there is need for more than a statement. Some concrete action is needed."

The editorial also noted the reasons for the lack of enthusiasm among the participants in the May Day action: "Thousands of workers are reeling under the burden of unemployment and could only have spent the day wondering where the next dollar bill will come from. Equally many workers could have been worrying whether they are next to join such ranks. They see employers flexing their muscles more and more and threatening to roll back every one of their hard won gains."

"Their Trade Unions [are] being virtually pushed aside in the anti-Union onslaught now taking place."

## Militant unionists fight back

Some unions are seeking to stand their ground in face of this onslaught. Foremost among them is the CIWU.

Led by revolutionaries, supporters of the late Prime Minister Bishop, the CIWU has it up stiff resistance against the attacks of the government and the employers. As a result, it has been able to maintain the same membership (about 655) that it had before the overthrow of the revolution. This is no small feat under the present circumstances in Grenada.

The CIWU represents workers in 39 workplaces, most of them in the private sector. It has made new proposals, is currently engaged in negotiations, or has recently concluded agreements in 17 of these enterprises.

The CIWU has also been able to function within the Trade Union Council (TUC) to isolate the AIFLD operatives and to beat back some of the government's antiworker moves.

The TUC, which encompasses all of Grenada's unions, almost collapsed after the U.S. invasion. But on March 31 officers were elected to a new Management Committee of the TUC, at a convention involving representatives from the CIWU, AGWU, GUT, SSWU, Public Workers Union (PWU), Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU), and the Taxi Drivers and Drivers Association. Basil Ford of the PWU was elected president of the TUC, and Anselm De Bourg of the TAWU was chosen one of the two vice-presidents. The SSWU won no top TUC positions.

One of the TUC's first acts was to condemn the activities of the AIFLD's Osborne Baptiste. Five of the unions (CIWU, AGWU, PWU, GUT, and TAWU) signed a statement in the name of the TUC. They unhesitatingly denounced the activities of Baptiste and call on all workers to be on the lookout for those who will try to divide the

Labour Unions by using slander or any other method."

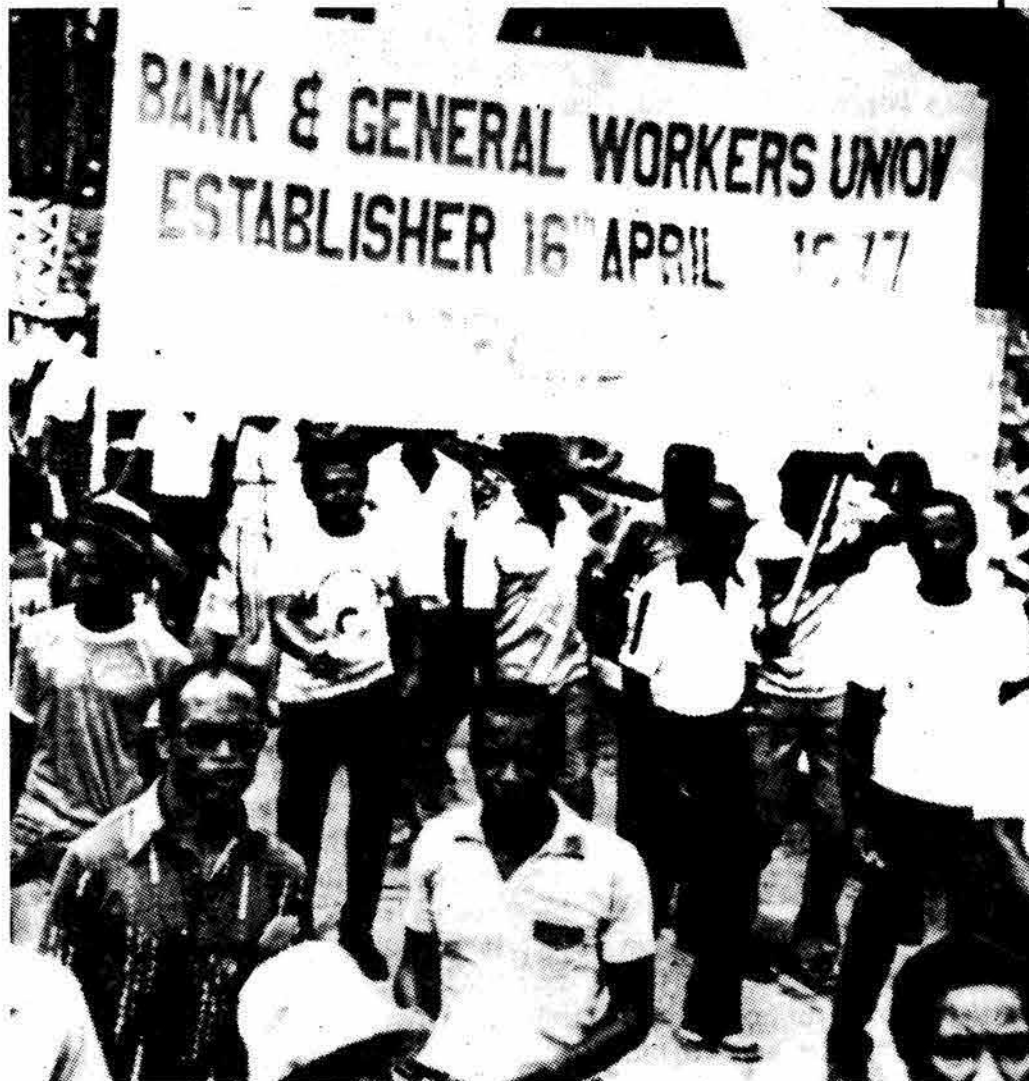
A few months later, in June, the TUC also rejected various changes in the labor laws proposed by the Interim Advisory Council. Those changes, cited in a May 11 letter to the unions by Labor Commissioner Percival Louison, would have reintroduced the antistrike laws that existed in the days of the Eric Gairy dictatorship, would have weakened the unions' ability to win and retain official recognition in the workplaces, and would have abolished the closed shop.

Given the government's general lack of political authority among the Grenadian population, the TUC's rejection will make it extremely difficult for the government to try to enact such blatantly antiunion measures at this time.

In his interview with the *Militant*, the CIWU leader pointed out that the workers can make some headway, even under these difficult circumstances, "if they have a leadership that will really stand in the interests of the workers."

He also stressed that such a leadership "needs not just a national perspective, but also an international perspective. Our struggle is not just a national struggle."

International solidarity, the CIWU leader said, will be particularly important for the struggle of the Grenadian workers. He explained that the CIWU hoped to build up links with unionists in the United States, Canada, and other countries.



Bank and General Workers Union members at 1984 May Day events. March was much smaller than those that took place prior to the overthrow of Bishop government.

## Maurice Bishop on the trade unions

Below are excerpts from Maurice Bishop's speech to the opening of the Third Trade Union Conference for the Unity and Solidarity of Caribbean Workers, held in Grenada Nov. 18, 1981. This speech is from *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, a collection of speeches by and interviews with the slain leader of the Grenada revolution. The book is available from Pathfinder Press (see the advertisement this page).

What is happening now in our country is that everybody is becoming affected by the dialectic of democratic participation that is sweeping through our villages and workplaces. Involvement in one organization or meeting leads directly to involvement in another. A worker who attends a workers' parish council hears something which he wants to bring to his trade union. So he goes to the meeting of his union, although he may not have attended one for years. And when he finds, quite surprisingly, that his union is taking a vibrant, democratic direction, he involves himself in one of its new committees or structures for fundraising, sports, or planning for educational seminars. His confidence is raised through all this activity and the speaking and organizing that goes along with it, and his appetite is whetted to join one of the mass organizations — the local party support group, the militia, house repair program, or for the sisters, the National Women's Organization. Each organization feeds strength, power, and confidence into the next, and all of them, including the trade unions, grow in real potency and democratic advancement.

Workers in a revolutionary country like ours, who are under a progressive and democratic leadership in their trade unions, do not see trade unionism solely in a narrow, economic sense. They do not see their responsibilities stopping only at their fundamental tasks of improving their members' wages and working conditions. They see themselves deeply involved in all aspects of the social and political life of their country, their region, and their world. Our unionized workers have consistently shown solidarity with all other struggling workers of the world. They see this as an internationalist duty to all trade unionists organizing for their rights and fighting for social and political justice, be they in Chile, El Salvador, southern Africa, the Middle East, or any part of the world where the producers of wealth are exploited and oppressed. They see their responsi-

bility, likewise, with other trade unionists of the Third World, in pressing for the new international economic order that will create more favorable terms of trade between rich and poor nations and transfer wealth and technology for the benefit of the masses in countries such as ours.

Comrades, it is clear that the growing economic crisis in world capitalism is having a dynamic effect in the Caribbean. Throughout our region we see the employing class united in its attack upon trade unionism. There have been newspaper advertisements in Barbados calling upon workers there to abandon their trade unions. There have been incidents of multinational companies in St. Vincent forcing workers to sign documents pledging that they will leave their trade union. Clearly, the employers are trying to de-unionize their work forces to make them more pliable and exploitable, so we, throughout the Caribbean, must go beyond all our political and ideological differences and forge the essential unity of our regional trade union movement to combat this reactionary offensive by the employers. This is why we have to work towards the total unionization of our workers and the maximum democratization of our unions, to ensure that they are vigilant and active in the struggles against the employers, and to guarantee that the negativism and passivity that arise

from undemocratic trade union structures are forever finished in our region.

Over the years our Caribbean trade union movement has constantly been the target of that most unscrupulous arm of imperialism: the Central Intelligence Agency. We have had rare instances of our trade union leaders consciously selling out to their silky bribes and offerings, but more usually the CIA, with its sophistication and enormous financial resources, has succeeded in manipulating and infecting unwitting trade unionists who may well have been continuing with their work with the best of intentions. In doing this, the CIA has sometimes directly infiltrated and controlled some sections of our movement, and thus forced the leadership of some of our unions to actually take antiworker positions. This has happened, we know, in Grenada, and more and more of our workers are becoming conscious of this danger to their hopes.

We saw how the CIA actually succeeded in turning back the progress of the organized workers' movement in Chile, by both open and covert activity, and we in the Caribbean must be particularly vigilant in recognizing their poison and subversion of the workers' cause, for imperialism will never rest in its resolution to crush the onward march of the progress and emancipation of our struggling people.



## Maurice Bishop Speaks

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

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

400 pp., \$6.95, published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for shipping.



# Mason: 'Fight for a government that will feed the world, not enslave it'



SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason told rally of 1,000 supporters that stepped-up international working-class solidarity against imperialist war is needed.

BY PAT GROGAN

OBERLIN, Ohio — Nearly 1,000 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential ticket of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president gathered here on August 9. The rally closed the national convention and educational conference of the Socialist Workers Party.

Clare Fraenzl, a member of the United Mineworkers of America, opened the rally by introducing striking British coal miners Steve Shukla and Mark Hunter and his wife, Julie Hunter. They were greeted by a standing ovation and chants of "N U M! N U M! N U M!" (National Union of Mineworkers).

Andrea González began her speech by reading, in Spanish and English, the statement of purpose of the SWP: "To educate and organize the working class in order to establish a workers and farmers government which will abolish capitalism in the United States and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism."

"Everything our party does reflects this internationalism," she said. "That's why Mel and I spent some time traveling around the world."

Mel Mason had just returned from a two-week tour of Nicaragua and had previously visited Britain and Ireland. González had just completed a tour of the Dominican Republic, Martinique, and Puerto Rico.

## Fight U.S. war

"After one week in Puerto Rico, seeing the militarization of the island," she said, "you know what every Puerto Rican knows: that the U.S. is preparing for a full scale intervention in Central America."

"How to fight against this war is the real question facing us today," she said.

"Reaganism," she continued, "is just another word for capitalism. And not capitalism gone wrong, but capitalism as it must be to survive — warring against the peoples of the world, attacking the unions, whipping up racism and sexism. Reagan is a right-winger, but his program is the capitalist program, voted on with two hands by the Democrats in Congress."

"The only way to defeat Reaganism," González added, "is by workers and farmers organizing, unifying, mobilizing and fighting to defend our class here and around the world against the capitalists."

## Jackson is no answer

González was followed by Ken Morgan, a leader of the Baltimore chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). Morgan told the rally, "It's like Malcolm X said, Black liberation cannot be negotiated through the Democratic or Republican parties."

"If Jesse Jackson was elected president," he continued, "it would not materially affect the conditions of Black people or working people. Jackson is calling for reform and not basic solutions to national oppression. Instead of urging Castro to re-

lease prisoners, he should have joined hands with him to defend the Cuban revolution. Instead of making some moral appeal for peace to the Sandinistas he should have been shouting from the top of his lungs, 'No Pasaran.'

"Electoral action," Morgan explained, "must be only a supplement to political action — mass-based political action. If it's going out on strike, if it's demonstrating — that's political action. If it's organizing welfare mothers, tenants' unions, economic boycotts, demonstrating against police brutality, supporting the Sandinistas — all these things put together equal Black politics by any means necessary."

"From slave rebellion to urban rebel-



SWP vice-presidential candidate Andrea González: "Join in the worldwide struggle for socialism."

BY YVONNE HAYES

The socialist campaign fund has launched a drive to raise \$100,000 by election day. Over \$64,000 has already been pledged to this effort by supporters of the campaign at a rally held August 9 in Oberlin, Ohio. Nearly \$5,000 was collected on the spot.

Contributions to the socialist campaign will help to cover the costs of the tours of Mel Mason and Andrea González, socialist candidates for president and vice-president, to over 40 cities in the next 10 weeks. Mason and González will launch the final leg of their campaign by participating in Labor Day activities in Toledo, the site of the important strike by auto workers at AP Parts, and New York City. They will then visit auto and coal centers in the U.S. where an important confrontation is unfolding between the employers and members of the United Auto Workers and United Mine Workers unions whose contracts expire in September.

The \$100,000 fund will make it possible for the socialist campaign to respond to these struggles by getting out new cam-

lion," he said, "from slave slowdown to strike shutdown, Blacks have fought for the gains we have made — we fought and died for them — we bled for them."

"We must be anticapitalist," he continued. "Malcolm taught us that the system in this country cannot produce freedom for an Afro-American. We must be internationalist in outlook and anti-imperialist."

## 'Youth face a new war'

Laura Garza, a member of the National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance and one of the youth coordinators of the Mason-González campaign, explained to the rally that "youth face a new war in Central America and the Caribbean. And we have chosen to fight against the U.S. intervention as part of a battle to change who rules this country."

Garza urged young people who want to fight effectively against war, racism, and sexism to join the YSA and support the socialist campaign. "If you would like to do without the Olympic spirit," she said, "and instead instill some internationalist spirit, then you belong in the YSA."

When presidential candidate Mel Mason was introduced, the crowd stood up, clapping and yelling, "Give 'em hell, Mel! Give 'em hell, Mel!"

"The Democrats and Republicans," he said, "always talk about 'we.' 'We' have to work harder to make 'our' company more profitable. 'We' are threatened by Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua. 'Our' economy is damaged by strikes like those of the copper miners in Arizona."

"What I point out is that the 'we' Andrea González and I are campaigning for are the workers on strike, are women, are the undocumented workers, are the Black and Latino youth who can't find a job and face death wearing the wrong uniform in Central America."

Commenting on the vice-presidential candidacy of Democrat Geraldine Ferraro, Mason said, "It's not the question of sex or color that counts. It's what class you serve."

"When Geraldine Ferraro locked up Blacks and Puerto Ricans as District Attorney, was she serving our class? When she opposed school desegregation, organized to keep Blacks and Puerto Ricans out of white neighborhoods, advocated deportation of undocumented workers, and denounced the freedom struggles of the oppressed of the world, was she serving our class?" he asked.

"Geraldine Ferraro is a capitalist politician who believes in this society the way it is," he said. "She is the enemy of working people and women."

"I agree with Andrea González when she said that the only places where women are advancing in the Americas are Cuba and Nicaragua," he said.

Mason, who had just returned from a two-week tour of Nicaragua, told the crowd of the tremendous advance he saw for women and all working people in that country.

"What can we do to defend these revolutions?" he asked. "Workers on strike and farmers fighting foreclosures must protest the war in Central America. Because union-busting and farm foreclosures here and war in Central America are carried out by the same enemy — the U.S. government."

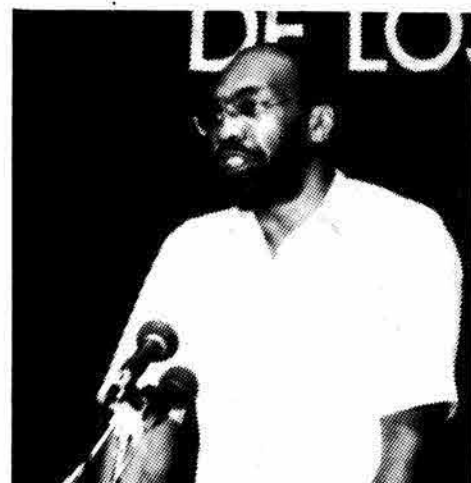
"We must lead a revolution in this country that will put workers and farmers in power — that will end war, that will feed the world, not enslave it," he said.

Mason said that the vanguard that would fight for this future was already being formed. "It can be found in the Black community in Miami, Florida, among the copper miners on strike in Clifton-Morenci, Ajo, and Douglas, Arizona. That vanguard can be found raising hell on the picket lines against AP Parts and Sun Oil in Toledo, and internationally among the British coal miners."

"Cuba and Nicaragua represent our future," he concluded, "and it is this vanguard that will lead the world to the future. So if you want to do a little time traveling, join the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party."

The rally sent a message to Michael Kelly, a leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party who had won his release from a Dublin prison. Mason had visited Kelly in prison in June.

In response to an appeal by Clare Fraenzl, rally participants pledged \$64,000 toward a goal of \$100,000 so Mason and González could continue "crisscrossing the country and the world with the message of international working-class solidarity."



NBIPP leader Ken Morgan: "Black liberation cannot be negotiated through the Democratic Party."

## \$100,000 socialist campaign fund

campaign materials, including a bilingual brochure and a videotape of Mason and González's speeches. Teams of campaigners armed with this literature and the campaign newspapers, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, will be part of the important discussions taking place among workers about how to fight back against the employers' offensive. Mason and González will be campaigning for socialist solutions to the capitalist crisis and for a government of the majority, a workers and farmers government, which can take decision-making power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

The fight against U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean will be a central focus of the socialist campaign this fall. Across the country, campaign supporters will be involved in activities opposing the U.S.-sponsored war in Nicaragua. The campaign will participate in activities demanding an end to the U.S. occupation of Grenada that are being organized to coincide with the anniversary of Washington's invasion last October.

Mason and González will explain the internationalist perspective of their campaign

as they discuss their tours of Britain and Ireland, the Dominican Republic, Martinique and Puerto Rico, and Nicaragua. Their campaign will build solidarity with Cuba and Nicaragua and with the revolutionary struggles taking place today in El Salvador and elsewhere.

The campaign fund is important to the ongoing fight to get the socialist campaign on the ballot in as many states as possible. The socialist presidential ticket is currently on the ballot in 11 states and campaign supporters are fighting to have petitions certified in a number of others. Petitioning efforts are under way in New York and North Dakota.

In order to meet its fall projections, the socialist campaign depends on the contributions of working people. It has no supporters among the superrich who rule this country. According to campaign coordinators, participation in this drive by every supporter is essential to its success. Contributions, or pledges which can be paid by November 6, can be sent to the Socialist Campaign Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.



# González, Mason urge solidarity in Canada

Continued from front page

Guatemala to Jamaica to Guyana.

"The Canadian ruling class," said Geddes, "also fears the example of these revolutionary struggles. Canada is a powder keg of the oppressed," she said, referring to the oppressed national minorities of Québécois, Acadians and Native people, and immigrants. The rulers fear these working people learning the truth about the victory of their Nicaraguan brothers and sisters.

"The offensive against Canadian workers and farmers at home," Geddes charged, "is aimed at smashing the tools we have to fight back with — our unions and the New Democratic Party. It is tied to the offensive against our coworkers around the world, like the striking British miners."

González described how the recent Olympic Games have been used to whip up U.S. chauvinism and patriotic sentiment in order to prepare U.S. working people for a further escalation of the war in Central America.

"It is not often that Wall Street — the heart of the capitalist system — celebrates with a ticker tape parade like the one held for the Olympic athletes. The last time was after the Iranian hostage crisis, when patriotism and flag-waving were at a fever pitch," González recalled. Anti-working-class policies, González explained, are promoted by both U.S. capitalist parties. "Reagan's policy — of war in Central America and union-busting and racist and sexist attacks in the U.S. — is the policy of the entire capitalist class. It will be the policy of a Mondale-Ferraro administration as well."

González explained that she and Mel Mason are campaigning against this offensive and to establish a workers and farmers government which can join in the worldwide fight for socialism.

Canada's rulers are represented in the upcoming elections by two capitalist parties as well, explained Larry Johnston. "The myth is perpetuated that Canadian working people really have democratic control because they have the opportunity to choose between these parties at election time," said Johnston, who is a steelworker at the giant Stelco mill in nearby Hamilton. He reminded the audience that martyred Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop had a name for this form of "democracy," — "Westminster hypocrisy."

"The capitalists control the economy," Johnston added. "They control the army, the police and the courts. None of that is up for grabs in the elections. The elections can be very 'democratic,' but they will never decide which class will rule." Canadian working people, he said, need to fight to

establish a government which would represent their interests against those of the capitalist class. "We need to transform our unions to unite and draw workers in their hundreds of thousands into action against the bosses and their government."

To do this, Johnston explained, "we will have to deal with the obstacle of the current conservative leaderships of our unions and the NDP. The founding of the NDP represented an important step forward for working people in English Canada because it is based on the unions and can be a tool to fight for governmental power against the bosses' parties."

"But the NDP leadership believes that capitalism can be reformed. What we need is not Band Aid solutions to the ills of capitalism but a fight against capitalism itself."

"The RWL/LOR is running in the elections," said Johnston, "to provide an example of the kind of uncompromising campaign against capitalist policies that needs to be waged by the Canadian working class and its party. Canadian workers need a party that campaigns every day of the year, a party involved in the daily struggles of workers, organizing solidarity and pointing the road forward."

"In the coming showdown with imperialism in Central America, we need a party that will be unwavering in its support to the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, that will build massive mobilizations against the U.S. war in Central America in which the Canadian government is complicit."

Sylvie Chardin, a railworker from Montreal, also addressed the rally and blasted attacks on the rights of the oppressed Quebec nation. She explained that



Militant/Yvonne Hayes  
Andrea González, SWP vice-presidential candidate, and Larry Johnston (right), socialist candidate for Canada's parliament, campaigning among striking municipal workers near Toronto.

workers in English Canada should defend the right of self determination and independence for Quebec. "This," she said, "is the only means of unifying the entire working class in Canada and waging a successful fight against the employers."

The NDP has failed to meet this challenge. In fact it has backed Canadian ruling

class attacks on the Québécois and is discredited in Quebec. Following her visit here, González is traveling to Quebec. There she will campaign with LOR candidates who call on the Quebec unions to launch their own labor party to fight for Quebec's national rights and ally with working people in English Canada.

## Mason tells workers at Canadian rally: 'We have same enemy — the rich'

BY DAN FEIN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada — "The only boundaries that mean anything," SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason told a socialist campaign rally attended by 70 people here August 18, "are the boundaries between the classes; between the rich, and the workers and farmers."

Mason was a featured speaker at the rally sponsored by the Revolutionary Workers League, sister party of the SWP, which is running five candidates for Canadian parliament in elections scheduled for September 4.

Mason reported on his recent trip to Nicaragua to join the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Sandinista revolution. "The Sandinistas are us and represent our future," he said as he urged solidarity with the revolution.

Mason and his running mate Andrea González have already traveled widely outside the United States, including to Britain, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Martinique, and the Dominican Republic. As in these other lands, in Canada the U. S. socialist candidates are campaigning for international solidarity among working people and the oppressed around the world.

Mason said he was in Canada to learn about Canadian politics as it affects workers and farmers and to lend his support to the RWL candidates. "U.S. and Canadian workers must support each other," observed Mason, "because we have the same enemy — the rich." In fact, many U.S. and Canadian workers are employed by the same giant corporations, such as General Motors and Chrysler, and many are members of the same international unions.

Mason also noted that the independence struggle of the Québécois people, who are an oppressed nation within Canada, "is central to Canadian politics just like the Black struggle is central to U. S. politics."

Katy LeRougetel, Montreal candidate of the Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire (the name of the RWL in French-speaking Quebec), also spoke here and attacked the leaders of the two nationwide capitalist parties, Liberal John Turner and Conservative Brian Mulroney. She said she agreed with New Democratic Party (NDP — the Canadian labor party) leader Ed Broadbent, who characterized Turner and Mulroney as "the Bobsey twins of Bay Street" (Canada's Wall Street). But, unlike Broadbent and the NDP leadership, LeRougetel said her party urges workers and farmers in Canada and Quebec to fight in an uncompromising way against the policies of the capitalist class Turner and Mulroney represent.

Bill Burgess, RWL candidate in Vancouver and a member of the International Woodworkers of America, noted in his talk that the RWL's idea of politics did not begin with elections, but with the day-to-day struggles of working people.

He pointed to "Operation Solidarity," the big struggle waged by British Columbia labor last fall against the anti-working-class attacks of the province's Social Credit government. Employer-government union busting remains a big problem in B.C. said Burgess. What labor needs, he said, is an "Operation Solidarity II" to defend the union movement from today's attacks.

The rally also sent a message of solidarity to Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain, who have been on strike for five months. Contributions to the socialist campaign totaling \$1,385 were collected and several people signed up to help the campaign.

## New York 1199 hospital union strike solid

Continued from front page

the hospitals insisted on conditions that would have cut the actual increase to only 3.9 percent. Subsequently the hospitals agreed to the original five percent plan, but insisted it be paid for, in part, by a 10 percent reduction in hospital payments to the union's benefit fund. Union negotiators said no.

A week later another tentative agreement was reached when the hospitals backed off the demand for cuts in the benefit fund payments. But at the last minute, literally as negotiators and government mediators headed toward a press conference to announce the tentative pact, hospital negotiators reneged on their guarantee of every other weekend off for all workers.

During the August 21 Garden meeting, government mediator Basil Patterson arrived with a written document guaranteeing the alternate weekend plan. But again the hospitals threw up a new roadblock to settling the strike. As Turner explained, "There was no guarantee that there was a job waiting for everyone who went on strike."

The strike has developed into a central confrontation that is being closely watched by New York's working people. Negotiations have already begun between the city government and unions representing hundreds of thousands of city workers whose contracts expire this fall.

As American Federation of State,

County, and Municipal Employees District 37 President Victor Gottbaum told an 1199 mass rally early in the strike, "Your fight is our fight. If you take a beating... then we'll take a beating."

Other area labor officials have also expressed support for 1199. New York Central Labor Council President Harry Van Arsdale joined one of four mass rallies organized by the union August 14 at four struck hospitals. The August 4 issue of the national *AFL-CIO News* carried an extensive report on the strike. It reported that 50 representatives of New York City unions held a breakfast meeting with 1199 leaders. Some \$500,000 in financial aid as well as picket line reinforcement was pledged.

The hospital workers will need that help and other solidarity too. A federal court judge has already held the union in contempt of court and levied a \$15,000-a-day fine that has been totalling up for days. This contempt ruling was issued after an earlier court order directed striking nurses at one Queens hospital to return to work. The union maintains it has done its best to urge the nurses to obey the court but was thwarted by the hospital's dismissal of eight nurses for strike activity. In other antiunion court action, a judge cut off medical benefits for all strikers.

However the strikers' determination has been bolstered by the knowledge that the walkout has had a big impact on hospital functioning. Originally hospital officials

tried to claim that the absence of 50,000 workers, who provide vital services, would not affect patient care.

This fiction was put to rest for good August 20 when the State Department of Health cited eight of the struck hospitals for medical and nursing deficiencies — including one that may have led to the death of a patient. The next day, officials said six more hospitals would be cited.

The union has repeatedly affirmed its desire to end the strike and has pointed to the hospitals' greed and union-busting goals as the real threat to patient care. The Madison Square Garden meeting made clear that the union stands united and intends to keep the strike solid in the face of hospital strike breaking threats.

### Hospital strike to be topic at Sept. 1 N.Y. forum

"What striking hospital workers are fighting for," will be the subject of the Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial on Saturday, September 1. A representative of District 1199, the striking hospital union, will be the featured speaker. The meeting will be held at 79 Leonard St. and will begin at 6:00 p.m. Translation to Spanish will be offered. For more information call (212) 226-8445.



# British women's march backs miners strike

BY ANTONIA GORTON

LONDON — In a stirring, magnificent display of working-class combativity, about 25,000 striking coal miners' wives from all over Britain, their children, and labor movement supporters sang, chanted, and roared their way through central London in a mass demonstration against pit (mine) closures August 11.

The theme of women's power, women's struggle, and women's will to win rang out throughout the entire day.

Since day one of the 22-week-old strike, women in virtually every mining community throughout Britain have come together to back the strike, raise money, provide food, and join the picket lines.

The women were only too eager to explain what the fight means for them. Several from Scotland explained that the Polmaise pit is the last village coal mine in Scotland, with 250 men working in it. Polmaise is on the hit list for closure, and if the pit goes, the village goes.

There are 300 women involved in the Polmaise strike support committee, and they are planning a big rally. They prepare 120 to 140 three-course meals a day. This is important because single men on strike, for example, have no income at all. One woman said that she and her husband and three preschool children get £14.40 (£1 = US\$1.32) per week to live on. "How can you say no to a bairn [child] wanting a packet of crisps [potato chips]?" she asked. "But you have to."

"We're fighting for the next generation, for a way of life and we need money desperately. We've cashed in our insurance policies, sold our furniture, our cars. Everything we have worked for all these years is gone. We're asking all women everywhere to support us. We depend on them."

Another woman said that they are worried about the winter, which is very severe in their area. "Of course, we won't get our usual concessionary coal, and we all have coal heating. It will be hard but we are prepared to stick it out."

Margaret, Jane, and Janet are striking miners' wives from the heart of the predominantly nonstriking area of Nottingham, from Retford, home of the Bevercotes Colliery. They described how scabs on the local executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers blocked funds that were intended to feed striking families.

They depend on money from outside the area because of the split in the local union. The hatred and bitterness toward the scabs shows through. Margaret explained: "I'm disgusted and I can't believe it. The scabs don't think of their fellow workers. They're not interested in the union, just in themselves. They won't look at you. I don't know what it will be like after the strike. I can't imagine us ever being able to get together again in the same union."

## Police assaults

The Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has sent vast battalions of police to protect the scabs' "right to work." Mining towns and villages have been virtually occupied by police bent on provoking incidents and intimidating strikers.

Margaret told of one picket line where police ran their horses at the pickets. "Ten police punched and kicked my son, who is a miner, and he spent a week in Lincoln prison."

It is clear that the ability of the strike to hold out in the face of such intimidation is going to depend to a high degree on these women.

Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the NUM, said, "It's an important development in an industrial dispute to see the involvement of our women partners. It increases our strength. It encourages us and has been a tremendous morale booster to have the women alongside. It increases our confidence that we will win."

Heathfield told *Intercontinental Press* that "it is obvious from the funds coming into the Sheffield office that working people from around the world are seeing the importance of this strike. Money has come from as far afield as Iceland, Australia, and Latin America. It is an indication of the concern by working people about what is at stake."

"The miners," Heathfield added, "are in the vanguard of the working class, and the

victory or defeat will have repercussions throughout the working-class movement. So I ask working people to step up their support, reminding them of their class commitment to our struggle."

## Boost to women's movement

Women have undergone a dramatic change, one that they recognize themselves. Time after time the women say that they will continue their organization after the strike is won.

In addition, their example is giving strength to other women in struggle. For the first time in the history of the construction workers union (UCATT), the union banner was carried by women members who have broken into the traditionally male industry in recent years. Valerie, a laborer working in North London, said, "I see this as part of my fight to get women into jobs that we have been barred from, and to have a voice in how things are done."

## Who is responsible for violence?

On the same day as the demonstration, the Thatcher government launched a new offensive in the propaganda campaign against the miners. Home Secretary Leon Brittan accused the NUM leaders of "fomenting violence, intimidation, and vandalism as a deliberate tactic." This theme was echoed in a similar speech by National Coal Board (NCB) head Ian MacGregor.

Anticipating this, National Union of Mineworkers Pres. Scargill told the cheering women's rally that he had been asked to condemn members of his union for so-called violence. "Mine is a principled stand



British women confront miner scabbing on strike. Miners' wives, other women have become active participants in battle between union and government.

— and a class one," he declared. "I am not prepared to condemn the magnificent young men and women who stand on our picket lines, comrades whose only crime is fighting for the right to work."

"During the past six months," Scargill continued, "there has been a carefully orchestrated campaign against miners and their communities by the government and

the NCB and their lap dogs in the media. "The media talk about violence. What about the 2,000 miners injured, the two who have been killed and the one who is fighting for his life right now?"

"Don't talk to me about violence," Scargill said. "Talk to this government and the police. They are responsible."

From *Intercontinental Press*

# British terror in Northern Ireland

## Continued from front page

right to be in Ireland, much less to exclude anyone from any part of Ireland. I intend to be in the north of Ireland in the near future and further intend to be there after the British terrorists are out of Ireland."

Galvin subsequently embarrassed British colonial authorities by appearing at a press conference in Derry and announcing that he would attend the Belfast demonstration.

## Brutal assault

The massive army and police presence at the Belfast demonstration showed the authorities' determination to enforce the ban against Galvin.

As the head of the march arrived at the Sinn Féin headquarters in Belfast's Andersonstown district, the RUC were already trigger-happy. When one youth watching the march threw a bottle that hit a policeman, breaking the discipline that Sinn Féin and march organizers had repeatedly called for, the RUC immediately fired plastic bullets into the crowd, hitting a child marching in a pipe band.

When the firing stopped, marchers — who had taken cover in the gardens of houses alongside the Sinn Féin headquarters — reassembled in the road to await the start of the rally. Many people sat down in the road to hear the speeches.

A speech by a striking British coal miner was greeted by cheers, as was a message from the Troops Out Movement delegation.

Sinn Féin Pres. Gerry Adams addressed a plea to the RUC and British soldiers to note the peaceful character of the demonstration and the presence of large numbers of women and children.

Adams then introduced Martin Galvin. Galvin's appearance on the platform was the signal for an RUC assault on the crowd in general and the Sinn Féin headquarters in particular.

The police acted with indiscriminate brutality as they moved against the crowd. People trying to flee or taking cover on the pavement were clubbed. Plastic bullets were fired at close range at specific targets, despite official rules against such use.

Galvin was not caught. But 22-year-old Sean Downes lay dead, and many others had serious injuries.

Gerry Adams later put the blame for the army and RUC assault squarely on the British government. "The Thatcher government gave them the authority to arrest Mar-

tin Galvin at all costs. It just shows that nothing in this country has changed since the civil rights marches in 1968, which police broke up with batons."

On the following day, the RUC claimed they had used force only in self-defense. John Hermon, chief constable of Northern Ireland, said that police first fired only into the air to warn the crowd to disperse and later fired at youths throwing stones.

Another senior police officer claimed that there was evidence that Sean Downes was killed by accident when a plastic bullet ricocheted off a wall.

But film of the shooting taken by an Irish film crew and later broadcast on British television showed that the plastic bullet that hit Sean Downes was fired at close range at chest height.

Plastic bullets are four inches long, one and a half inches thick, and weigh more than a quarter of a pound. They are fired from special guns at a speed of 160 miles per hour. Since they were introduced in 1973, more than 40,000 have been fired at Irish demonstrators.

Downes was the 15th person to die in Northern Ireland after being hit by plastic or rubber bullets. Hundreds more have been severely injured or blinded.

In an attempt to deflect growing criticism of the RUC, Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior stated that the decision to ban Galvin's entry into Northern Ireland was probably a mistake as it placed the RUC in the position of having to enforce the ban.

This has not pleased the pro-British Loyalist politicians. Frank Miller, general secretary of the Official Unionist Party, responded by saying that Prior should have resigned months ago.

The attack on the August 12 demonstration did not succeed in driving demonstrators off the streets. Gerry Adams stated at a press conference the day after the march: "Republican [Irish nationalist] people have a right to demonstrate. Republican people have a right to assembly. Republican people have the right to make public statements."

That night, 10,000 people marched through West Belfast carrying black flags in a largely silent protest of Sean Downes' murder by the RUC.

## Protests in Britain

With vicious police attacks on miners' picket lines in Britain becoming an almost daily occurrence, the events in Belfast are

awakening a new concern in the British labor movement over Britain's role in Ireland. Two months ago, an article entitled "From Belfast to Blidworth" appeared in the National Union of Mineworkers' newspaper *The Miner*, likening police tactics in Britain to those being used in Ireland. This comparison was repeated last week by left-wing Labor Party Member of Parliament Tony Benn.

In particular, many miners are now asking how long it will be before plastic bullets are used against their picket lines.

In London, the National Council for Civil Liberties has called for a full judicial inquiry into the use of plastic bullets at the Belfast demonstration, saying that the film evidence suggests that the RUC violated even its own rules on when and how plastic bullets may be used.

The presence of striking miners on the Troops Out Movement's three-day delegation to Ireland and on the Belfast demonstration will greatly strengthen the campaign for immediate British withdrawal. So too will the publication of a proposed bill for withdrawal of the troops by Benn. Benn said "the situation in Northern Ireland is now far worse than it was in 1969" when British troops went to Northern Ireland in large numbers. He added that "it is obvious that there can be no military solution. The root cause of the continuing crisis lies in partition [of Ireland] and, until this is brought to an end, there can be no real progress towards peace."

The bill has the backing of the left-wing "Campaign Group" of members of Parliament. Under the bill, a future date for British withdrawal would be set.

From *Intercontinental Press*

NEW YORK — Galvin returned here on August 21 and vowed to "go back again and again" to Northern Ireland. "I will not bow to British terrorism," he told reporters at Kennedy airport.

"The British have shown that the only way they can remain in Ireland is to use the terror of 30,000 occupiers," he said.

Galvin was greeted by about 30 supporters who chanted, "IRA all the way!"

He said his trip would help Noraid to continue raising money to help support dependents of IRA members. "The ones giving money to support terrorism in Northern Ireland are the British," he said and called on the U.S. government to stop selling weapons to Britain.



# Puerto Rico used for U.S. war games

## Touring socialist candidate hits war, solidarizes with independence fight

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — "The United States government's war on the revolutions in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Cuba involves the whole Central American and Caribbean area. It's a package deal. And Puerto Rico is definitely part of that package."

That's how Andrea González summed up "one of the most important things my visit to Puerto Rico has demonstrated to me." The Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president made a week-long tour of this island in late July, where she met with trade unionists, independence fighters, and leaders of political organizations. González herself is Puerto Rican.

During a visit with fishermen in Vieques, a small island east of the main Puerto Rican island, the socialist candidate saw first-hand how Washington uses its Caribbean colony as a springboard for imperialist war.

### Used for war games

Carlos Zenón, president of the Vieques Fishermen's Association, met González at the airport and took her around the island. He pointed out that the U.S. Navy occupies 75 percent of Vieques, which — along with the surrounding waters — it uses for gunnery practice and Caribbean "war games."

U.S. military encroachment has destroyed the island's agriculture and the constant bombings and naval maneuvers threaten fishing, the main form of livelihood there today. This has been met with resistance by the inhabitants, Zenón explained to González.

"Our parents began the fight in 1940, when the Navy forcibly expropriated their lands in the name of 'national defense,' giving them 24 hours to leave their homes," he said. "There was a lot of racism."

Big struggles against the Navy took place throughout the fifties and sixties, and peaked a few years ago. When NATO forces used Vieques to hold the Springboard 78 military maneuvers against Cuba, U.S. admiral Robert Fanagan told the islanders to stop fishing for three weeks until the maneuvers were over. Zenón informed him that they would protest. "Imagine me, a Puerto Rican fisherman, telling a U.S. Navy admiral that we're going to cause problems for them!" he said with pride.

"So I organized the Vieques fishermen, together with others from the main island, and on the first day of the maneuvers we stopped them from landing. We formed a chain with our fishing boats, and to break through it they would've had to kill a fisherman or two. In this way we blocked the maneuvers some 15 or 16 times."

"And in the Ocean Venture 84 maneuvers" last April, Zenón added, "we told them that Navy or no Navy, we were going to fish, even if they carried out target practice. So to deal with us they brought federal police and almost the entire U.S. Coast Guard service assigned to Puerto Rico."

"The fight has continued with its ups and downs," Zenón said. But "in the struggle itself we've learned some other things," he stressed.

"We have to admit that at first we only thought of Vieques. We want to develop our island and defend our waters. But we've also seen and been angry that Vieques is being used as a stepping-stone to intervene in other countries in Latin America."

### Practice invasion of Grenada

The fisherman explained that the U.S. used the island to practice the invasion against Grenada, which was carried out last October. "We found out about it and sent a message to [Grenadian Prime Minister] Maurice Bishop, who denounced this practice invasion before the United Nations."

"And Ocean Venture 84 was a practice invasion against Nicaragua. We also denounced it."

Zenón explained that in the course of this struggle they had found allies in the Grenadian and Nicaraguan revolutions. Vieques fishermen had visited Grenada to

meet with Bishop and to teach fishing techniques.

González found that everywhere she went in Puerto Rico there was a great deal of interest in the Grenadian revolution and discussion about the causes of its overthrow. For example, she visited the new rural community of Villa Sin Miedo (Fearless Town), which earned its name in a fierce homesteaders' struggle in 1981 by 800 families against violent government efforts to evict them. Among the activists González met at the Villa Sin Miedo community — now resettled on a church-donated piece of land — was a young woman named Tita. She had participated in a work brigade in revolutionary Grenada, helping to build a women's fruit-processing cooperative.

### Youth in Cuba

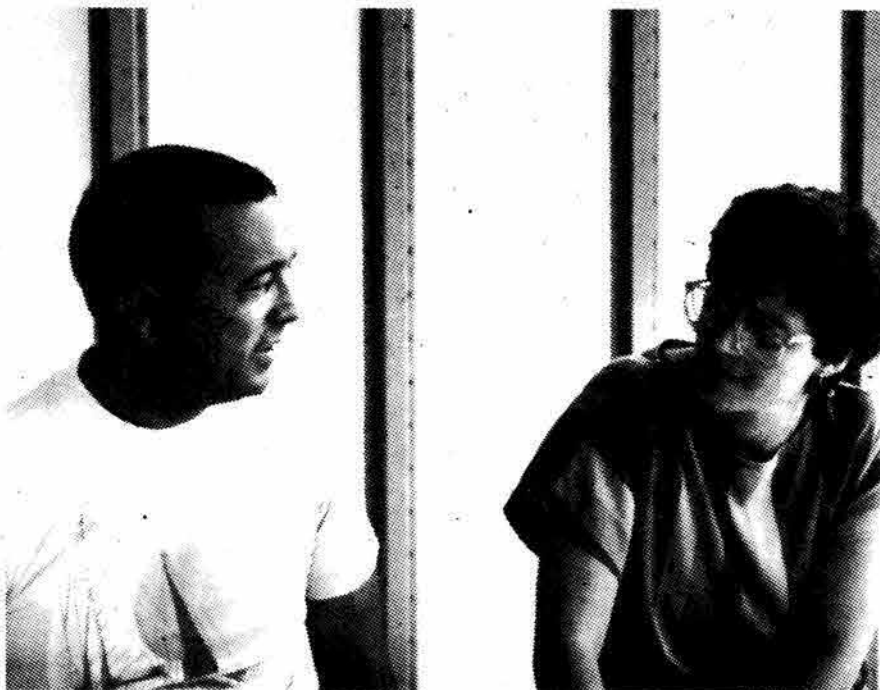
González was also invited to attend a July 26 celebration of the Cuban revolution in San Juan. It was chaired by a leader of the ecumenical organization PRISA, and heard a talk by Juan Mari Bras, former leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. A minister spoke on behalf of parents and relatives of Puerto Rican students in Cuba. He explained that currently some 25 Puerto Rican young people are studying in Cuba on scholarships offered by the revolutionary government.

Also speaking was nationalist hero Rafael Cancel Miranda, who described Cuba as a shining example of freedom and national sovereignty for the Puerto Rican people. Cancel Miranda explained that revolutionary Cuba has been the staunchest defender of Puerto Rico's right to self-determination and independence, arguing for that position at all international forums, including United Nations debates on decolonization.

The U.S. socialist candidate had a meeting with five trade union leaders in the capital, including the National Union of Health Workers, the Legal Aid Dependents' Union, and the General Labor Council. The unionists explained how U.S. imperialism has militarized Puerto Rico and the impact of this aspect of colonial domination on working people here.

### Growing opposition to war

A dozen U.S. military bases occupy some 13 percent of Puerto Rican territory. Washington has used the island as a launching pad for military interventions repeatedly, including the 1954 mercenary invasion of Guatemala that overthrew the Arbenz government, the 1962 naval blockade of Cuba, and the 1965 invasion of the Dominican Republic by the marines. Puerto Rico was also used for refueling British ships in the imperialist war against Argentina over the Malvinas islands in



Carlos Zenón, president of Vieques Fishermen's Association, tells Andrea González of struggle against U.S. Navy "war games" on the island of Vieques.

1982, and for the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

In 1917 Washington imposed U.S. citizenship on Puerto Ricans to facilitate their forcible induction into the army for World War I. Since then, more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have served in the U.S. Army. More than 2,000 Puerto Ricans died in Korea and Vietnam alone. In addition, hundreds of members of the Puerto Rican National Guard have been involved in U.S. military maneuvers in Central America.

This has led to wide opposition and resistance to registration and the draft among Puerto Rican youth. Student groups such as the University Students' Federation for Independence are campaigning to get the Reserve Officer Training Corps off the island's campuses.

One of the leaders of the National Union of Health Workers told González that in spite of the pro-imperialist propaganda of the big-business press here, "the Nicaraguan revolution is beginning to have a positive impact on some layers of the Puerto Rican people."

The Sandinista struggle against the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship stirred deep sympathy here. "Another factor," he added, "is that our famous baseball star and idol Roberto Clemente died in an airplane crash while delivering food and clothing to Nicaragua in 1972" following the devastating earthquake there. Hatred for Somoza grew after the dictator sold off much of the international aid for his personal profit. "This created a certain identification with the Nicaraguan people," he said.

"Also, there have been brigades of Puerto Ricans going to work in Nicaragua since 1982. Thirty people went in 1982, another 30 in 1983, and 50 this year. And an interesting development is that union members are beginning to go there. This makes it easier to carry out educational campaigns around Nicaragua. There are also several Nicaragua solidarity groups; I'm a member of one of them," he said.

### April 29 protest

One of the most important actions against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua was held last April 29. The Puerto Rican Independence Party called the march in response to Ocean Venture 84. About 50,000 people, predominantly supporters of independence for Puerto Rico, turned out. This was the largest demonstration in Puerto Rico in many years.

Later in the week, Rafael Cancel Miranda invited González to his home in Mayagüez to talk about the Puerto Rican independence struggle. This fight, he stressed, is part of a world-wide struggle against imperialism and as such has won legitimacy around the globe, especially in countries like revolutionary Nicaragua.

To illustrate his point, he pulled out his passport. As a protest against U.S. colonial rule over his country, Cancel Miranda refuses to carry a U.S. passport during his frequent travels as a spokesperson for the independentista cause.

The passport he showed González read: *Republic of Nicaragua*. "It was issued to me by Commander Tomás Borge," said the nationalist hero with a big grin.

## Antiracist revolt in Lawrence, Mass.

Continued from back page

the state. It has an unemployment rate of 7.4 percent and a "poverty" rate of 19.6 percent, which is double the state average.

Since January alone, three shoe companies and a textile factory have closed down, throwing 465 people out of work.

During the last few years the city's Latino population has been increasing. Most are new immigrants from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The 1980 census found that about 16 percent of the city's population was Latino, but today most city officials admit that Latinos make up close to 30 percent of the city, if not more.

Despite their growing numbers in the city, there are no elected Latino officials at any level in city government. Community residents charge that the cops are constantly harassing them, that city fire fighters often refuse to enter the housing projects, and that the public school system offers very little bilingual education.

The city's ruling class has attempted to divide white workers from Latino workers by blaming the Latino community for the attacks on the living conditions of working

people here. They have actively fostered the racist lie that Latinos are responsible for unemployment by "illegally" entering the country and "stealing American jobs." It is the Latino community, they say, that is responsible for the lousy schools, dilapidated housing, and lack of city services. One Dominican resident of the Lower Tower Hill neighborhood told the *Militant*, "Hispanics are the most oppressed group in the city. Everyone gets treated as if they were thieves and vandals. We face discrimination in jobs, education, and housing."

"If you work, you're taking the job away from somebody else," another resident said of the racist slanders. "If you don't work, you're on welfare. We work, we bring checks home, but they treat us like pigs."

Following the two nights of street fighting, the city fathers responded to the charges made by the oppressed community by denying that racism played any role in causing the rebellion.

The city's director of Public Safety, Alderman Raymond Johnson, announced on August 10 that "It [the rioting] was an isolated incident over nothing important. It

was not racial."

Mayor Buckley said he believed that "the violence was the result of a revenge mode between two groups after a car windshield was smashed."

The liberal Democratic Party governor of this state, Michael Dukakis, held a press conference and explained that, "The important thing now is to restore law and order and stability."

Harold Brooks, a leading businessman in this city and owner of the Lawrence Industrial Park Complex, blamed the Puerto Rican and Dominican community itself for the violence. "It's the populace, the lack of respect for life and law and order. What are the values of these people?"

Even the Catholic Church joined in. Boston Archbishop Bernard S. Law came to Lawrence on August 12 and spoke to a virtually all-white congregation. He explained that the real source of the violence that had rocked the Lower Tower Hill neighborhood was "drugs and alcohol." And he called on all Christians to have "respect for the property of every person" and to "reject the violence against public servants, police and fire fighters."



**Well, that's different** — "Richard Roth, an official of the National Labor Relations Board, said that the law forbade management from dismissing striking



**Harry Ring**

workers in a dispute over wages. But he said the law permitted management to hire permanent replacements [scabs] and that when the strike ended it was not obligated to take back any striker whose job had been filled." — News item on New York hospital

employers' threat to fire striking workers.

**One environmentalist to another** — Dr. Saul Cohen, a Boston cardiologist who's into hunting bears, boars, and elk, will present Reagan with a rug made from a 350-pound black bear he shot last year. The memento is "a token of my respect and admiration for his respect for the environment."

**Homespun** — George Ablah (from rags to real estate and oil), zips around in his \$9-million custom-designed jet, which features works by famed sculptors. Also, everything is finished in gold, from the seat belt buckles to the toilet flush button. Menus include, variously, lobster, shrimp, crab, etc. But one standard item is

the hors d'oeuvres — tortilla chips with peanut butter and jelly. "Just so as not to forget where I came from," Ablah explains, "I want so much not to be a rich snob."

**And lead-backed collars?** — In a government study, "The Impact of Radioactive Environment Upon Traditional Chaplain Ministry," the Army suggests that "in ministering to radioactive casualties," chaplains should "wear gloves wherever possible, preferably rubber."

**Depth or density?** — "A Question of Depth — Reagan Intellect Surprises Some" — *Wall Street Journal* headline.

**New crackdown** — Because it causes cancer, the EPA is proposing a ban on all uses of creosote

except as a wood preservative. Its use as a wood preservative would be exempted, the agency explained, because of the great economic benefit which accrues from such use. About 98 percent of all creosote is used as a wood preservative.

**American Way of Death** — Sen. Jesse Helms, from tobacco-growing North Carolina, is leaning on the coffin nail industry to use more American tobacco in its products and reduce its imports from Brazil and Africa.

**Think you've got problems?** — "There has rarely been a great deal of luxury in the Manhattan luxury apartment — most apartment dwellers make compromises that anyone seeing their rent or maintenance bills could hardly be-

lieve. Could there really be such a thing as a million-dollar cooperative apartment without a single window with direct sunlight, or a \$5,000-a-month rental apartment with no room to eat in the kitchen? The answer is yes, there are plenty of these and worse." — *New York Times*.

**You scratch my back . . .** — In fiscal 1983, 220 corporations employed a record 2,151 former Pentagon military and civilian officials. Each of these companies negotiated Pentagon contracts that year for \$10 million and up.

**And sometimes pays better too** — Trammell Crow, a Dallas real estate shark, is edging close to his first billion. "Work," he confides, "is so much more fun than fun."

## Treaty Council meeting takes up Indian struggle

BY JAY RESSLER

SISSETON, S.D. — Over 500 people attended the 10th annual International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) conference held June 28-July 3 on the tribal grounds of the Sisseton Reservation.

Participants in the conference came from many parts of the country, including the Pacific Northwest, the Southwest, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota, and New York state.

Representatives of Indian struggles in Guatemala and Canada attended as well. Two leaders of the Maori Peoples Liberation Movement came from New Zealand. Organizations such as the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and the North American Farm Alliance were also represented.

A delegation representing the Miskitu Indian people in Nicaragua was scheduled to participate. However, the U.S. government refused the delegates entry visas.

Well-known leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM) played prominent roles in the IITC, which is officially recognized as a nongovernmental organization by the United Nations. Ninety-nine indigenous nations are affiliated with the IITC. The organization plays a leadership role in the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, which meets several times a year in Geneva, Switzerland.

At the February-March 1984 session of the Working Group, the IITC presented resolutions on killings and torture in Chile, the continuing wars against Indians in Central America — especially in Guatemala and Nicaragua — and neocolonial oppression of Indians in North America. Hazel Lau, a Miskitu from Nicaragua, gave special testimony at the March meeting as part of the IITC delegation on the terror against her people carried out by MISURA, a counterrevolutionary organization with close links to the CIA.

At the Sisseton conference several commissions met to make proposals on the IITC's work around international law and the United Nations, land struggles, Indian self-government, religious freedom, and political prisoners.

Among the proposals coming out of these commissions was opposition to the racist anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli bill. This bill is seen as a danger for Indian people, especially those living on reservations straddling the U.S.-Mexican and U.S.-Canadian borders.

The Papago Reservation in Arizona and the Mexican state of Sonora is cut in two by the U.S.-Mexican border. Roberto Cruz from the reservation said Immigration and Naturalization Service cops are rarely seen there. But it is likely that if the Simpson-Mazzoli bill is adopted, it will be used to prevent freedom of movement on the reservation, especially for those born on the Mexican side of the border.

The highlight of the conference was International Solidarity Day, June 30. Francisca Alvarez from Guatemala explained the intense repression faced by Indian people in that country.

A representative of the Coalition of First Nations, a Canadian organization, spoke

about the attempt by the Canadian government to write Indian treaties out of the new constitution now being drafted.

Representatives of the Maori Peoples Liberation Movement of New Zealand described the treaty struggle of the Maori people. They also denounced a planned Maori art exhibition that includes the remains of Maori people stolen from graves.

Special presentations to the conference were made on the fight to free Leonard Peltier and on the struggle for land at the

White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. Ninety-four percent of the White Earth Reservation is fraudulently held by non-Indians.

There was also a presentation on the struggle of the Palestinian people given by Dominique Bejar of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Major addresses were made to the conference by Russell Means, a leader of the Yellow Thunder Camp in the Black Hills; Janet McCloud of the Northwest Indian

Women's Circle; and Clyde Bellecourt, founder of AIM.

Means explained that AIM survives as a militant organization, despite fierce repression, because of the fighting spirit of the Indian people.

Means pointed with optimism to the future decade. He reminded the conference of a Hopi prophecy that predicts Indian people will once again walk free when great fires burn in the South. These fires, he said, have begun in Central America.

## Philadelphia mtg. celebrates Bishop writings

BY DOUG COOPER

PHILADELPHIA — Fifty people turned out July 10 to celebrate the recently published Pathfinder Press book, *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, at the Church of the Advocate in the heart of North Philadelphia's Black community. Underlying the entire meeting was opposition to the continuing occupation of Grenada by U.S. troops.

Father Paul Washington, a major civil rights activist and pastor of the church, welcomed the meeting. He explained that although he wasn't familiar with the intimate details of the Grenada revolution he was very familiar with how it fit in with "struggles from Vietnam, to Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and parts of Africa."

"It is understandable to me that the systems which would be chosen by such people who are in the struggle would be a system other than capitalism," he said.

Washington described how he had gained deeper insight into the common bond that U.S. Blacks in particular share with people throughout the world who are fighting for self-determination and against U.S. imperialism. He pointed to his visit to Iran four years ago to attend a conference against U.S. intervention. There he learned firsthand of the "exploitation and destruction" U.S. domination had caused Iran.

Washington described the Grenada revolution as an inspiration to people here and

around the world and said it came as no surprise that the U.S. government wanted to crush it.

Ernesto, a Salvadoran refugee, pointed to the victory of the Grenada revolution in 1979 as a source of "hopeful light for our own struggle for liberation." The policies of anti-interventionism, anti-imperialism, and nonalignment that were followed by the workers and farmers government led by Maurice Bishop were an inspiration and important lesson, he said.

Ernesto explained three lessons of the overthrow of the revolution and the subsequent U.S. invasion.

"First, there is no justification for intervention by U.S. troops in Grenada." Second, the intervention proved again that "the forces of oppression in the world care nothing about eliminating the most precious forces of the peoples."

Finally, the most important lesson, Ernesto said, was the need for "unity in our struggles against oppression, misery, and imperialism. Because this is the only way to defeat our common enemy."

## CALENDAR

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**What Is Socialism?** Speaker: Representative of the Young Socialist Alliance and a 1984 SWP campaign supporter. Translation to Spanish. Sunday, Aug. 26, 7:00 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (301)235-0014.

**Solidarity With British Miners Strike.** Speakers: Clare Fraenzl, member Socialist Workers Party and United Mine Workers of America Local 1197, recently toured Britain in solidarity with striking miners. Translation to Spanish. Sunday, Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (301)235-0014.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Grenada Today: the Legacy of Maurice Bishop.** Speakers: Dessima Williams, national chairperson of the Grenada Foundation, former ambassador from Grenada to Organization of American States. Sat., Aug. 25, 7:00 p.m. Tower Auditorium, Roxbury Community College/Massachusetts College of Art, corner Huntington and Longwood. Donation \$2. For more information call (617) 442-0588 or 623-7086.

### MISSOURI

#### Kansas City

**An Evening in Solidarity with the People of**

**Grenada.** Speakers: Rev. Mac Jones, Rev. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson, Mickey Dean, Lloyd Daniels, Lisa Daniels, Wells Todd, Norma Hill. Sun., Aug. 26, 7:00 p.m. St. James Paseo Methodist Church, 56 St. and Paseo. Aup: Association of Black Social Workers; American Friends Service Committees; Black United Front, Central America Solidarity Committee; National Lawyers Guild; Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Kansas City, Kansas; Socialist Workers Party. For more information call: (816) 753-0404.

#### St. Louis

**Justice for Kiko Martinez!** Speakers: representative from Francisco E. Martinez Defense Committee, representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Aug. 26, 7 p.m. 3109 S. Grand, rm. #22. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

**Justice for Kiko Martinez picket line.** Wed., Aug. 29, 8 a.m. St. Louis Federal Court and Customs House. Aup: Francisco E. Martinez Defense Committee.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Six South African Artists Works on Paper.** Aug. 8-Sept. 16, Wednesday-Sunday, Noon-7:00 p.m. Onyx Art Gallery, 54 Irving Place. Aup: Art Against Apartheid. For more information call: (212) 505-9001.

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# Striking Dakota coal miners win victory

BY ERLING SANNES

BISMARCK, N. Dak. — A 133-day strike by North Dakota coal miners against Basin Cooperative Services ended in a decisive victory for the miners when they voted to accept a new contract on Aug. 2.

The new contract includes virtually all the demands of the miners and a rejection of such union-busting tactics as the two-tier wage system, in which new employees are hired under a reduced pay scale. The determined miners resisted the company's hard-line approach for other squeezing concessions and won pay raises of up to \$1.82 an hour over the life of the four-year contract, a reduction in forced overtime, and an agreement that disciplinary action would not be taken against the workers.

Since March 23, the 137 members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 9702 had been on strike for a new contract. Basin Cooperative Services, which owns Glenharold Mine, is a subsidiary of Basin Electric, a Bismarck, North Dakota based, multistate cooperative that wholesales electricity to utility co-ops. The mine is at Stanton, a town of less than 1,000 in western North Dakota. Surface mined lignite coal from the Glenharold mine is used to fire Basin's Leland Olds 650 megawatt generating station, located only a short distance from the mine.

Negotiations were brought to a head four months after the strike began when the company hired a non-union contractor to construct a sediment pond at the mine. The miners responded quickly by organizing a sit-down protest on July 26 at the four mine entrances, preventing the scabs from entering the mine.

The sit-down included over 200 friends of the striking miners from other unions, wives of the miners and numerous community supporters. When the first scab workers tried to drive through the picket lines they were met with cries of "Scabs! Go Home, you're taking our work."

The sit-down protest drew a convoy of state highway patrol officers, sheriff's deputies, and local police officers who — wearing helmets, carrying guns, and wielding big black billy clubs — charged into the peaceful protesters. Twenty-seven arrests — 15 women and 12 men — resulted when the protesters refused to move aside for the scab workers.

"They just pushed into the crowd hitting people and dragging them away," Pam Hummel, wife of the president of Local 9702 and one of those arrested, told the *Militant*.

Michael Haugen, member of Local 9702 and one of the protesters, told the *Militant*, "the cops began beating at random. It reminded me of something I saw on TV once, when seal hunters used clubs to kill defenseless seals," he explained. "There were many bruises on the head, arms, and legs of both men and women."

But, Haugen urged the demonstrators to continue the protest, saying, "who knows,

the next time you farmers decide to hold a demonstration like the one in Jamestown with tractors surrounding the banks, these highway patrolmen may move in with their weapons and do what they do best, hurt people." Haugen was referring to a March 13 demonstration in Jamestown, North Dakota, when protesting farmers staged a two-day blockade of banks.

When it was announced that other scab workers did not plan to cross the picket line, loud cheers went up from the crowd. Stanton business places expressed their solidarity with the demonstrators by announcing that all business places would remain closed until all of those arrested were

released from jail.

On July 28, hundreds of protesters again blocked the entrances to the mine, but no scab workers attempted to cross the picket lines.

Over 300 miners and supporters gathered on July 29 to hear Richard Trumka, UMWA International president, and other union officials urge the miners not to bend under Basin's demands to grant concessions.

"What we have is what we are going to keep," Trumka told the crowd. Addressing Basin, Trumka said, "You insisted on a fight, now I want to tell you, you've got a fight. We'll take no backward steps, and

there will be no takeaway contract," he told the cheering crowd.

Ron Hummel, president of Local 9702, told the meeting, "we want to walk down Main Street with our heads held high, and be able to say big business did not break us."

After final negotiations and the miners' acceptance of the contract, Ken Bergstad, local union negotiator, told the *Militant*, "from the very beginning the miners were determined to stick together." As the strike lengthened "we got stronger and even more determined not to give in to Basin," Bergstad added. "Our union is stronger now than it has ever been."

## SWP fights for Michigan ballot spot

Continued from front page

natures against voter registration lists.

This so-called "random sample" checked only 600 of the 30,000 signatures! This method of "random" sampling was only recently instituted by the state on May 3 and has never before been used on minority party petitions.

Andrew Pulley blasted the attempt by the state to cover-up this blatantly undemocratic move against the socialist candidates. Speaking at a news conference at the state capitol in Lansing, Pulley said, "This latest move by the state fits into a pattern of trying to block working-class parties from the ballot. It comes after a long fight the SWP successfully waged with support from the American Civil Liberties Union to overturn Public Act 94, which kept the SWP off the ballot from 1977 to 1982.

"While bipartisan votes hand over billions to Washington's war machine," Pulley added, "they must try to silence the socialist campaign that speaks out against the continued U.S. military occupation of Grenada, the CIA-backed invasion of Nicaragua, and the U.S.-funded terror regime in El Salvador."

Pulley told the Board of Canvassers that Mason and González supporters consider every one of the submitted signatures valid. They represent the desire of 30,000 Michigan working people to see the socialist candidates on the ballot. "We insist that every signature counts. If you want to rule us off, the burden is on you to prove that there are not 19,963 valid signatures on our petitions," Pulley said.

Mason/González supporters added that all the fancy statistical fakery of the "random sample" method is a cover up for the state's refusal even to check the 30,000 signatures.

Demonstrating that the undemocratic move by the state was politically motivated, socialist campaign supporters have found many inaccuracies even in the "random sample" method of validating signatures. There are dozens of signatures ruled invalid by the board that were shown to be registered voters.

At the same time the state ruled against

the Mason/González petitions, the Communist Party and Workers World Party candidates were ruled on the ballot. Both of these parties had collected about the same number of signatures as the SWP.

The initial reactions to the attack on the rights of the Socialist Workers Party indicate broad opposition to the state's action.

Andrew Pulley's protest was covered by six radio stations, Lansing TV stations, and the *Detroit Free Press*, the major daily in that city.

A number of union officials, leaders of Black and women's groups, and elected public officials plan to demand that the state reverse its decision and put the socialist candidates on the ballot. This includes John Conyers, Detroit's congressman from the First C.D., and Horace Sheffield, a leader of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

The national Mason/González campaign committee has launched an emergency national effort to demand that the state of Michigan put the SWP candidates on the ballot immediately.

Mason/González supporters across the country will pepper the Michigan state government with protest messages and

phone calls from supporters of democratic rights. A national effort can help force the Democrats and Republicans to back off from this attack on the rights of all working people.

As part of the national fight to put Mason and González on the Michigan ballot, Mel Mason will interrupt his schedule to travel to Lansing and appear at an August 24 meeting of the Board of Canvassers set to hear further testimony on the SWP ballot status.

To join in the fight to put the socialist candidates on the Michigan ballot write or call:

Board of State Canvassers  
Elections Division  
208 N. Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48918  
(517) 373-2540

Copies should be sent to the Michigan SWP headquarters listed on page 17.

Special emergency campaign rally featuring Mel Mason and Helen Meyers will be held in Detroit on Saturday, August 25, at 8 p.m. at 7146 W. McNichols. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

## Postal workers meet to plan strategy

Continued from back page

lines opposing government union busting at post offices in many cities. Workers at one such protest in Baltimore chanted, "Bolger [Postmaster General], Bolger, he's a jerk. No contract. No work."

Delegates at the APWU convention passed a resolution granting the union leadership authority to "take whatever steps they... consider best..." to achieve a new contract. The resolution, however, did not mention a strike. An APWU spokesman told the press this was because Biller "wanted total flexibility" to resolve the dispute.

The resolution adopted by the NALC convention explicitly stated the union should await the outcome of Federal arbi-

tration. However, NALC President Vincent Sombrotto stated after the vote that he had been authorized to call a strike if the Postal Service again tried to institute the two-tier pay scale before arbitration is completed.

Federal law prohibits postal workers from striking. Walkouts have occurred in the past, however, including the 1970 strike when President Nixon called in troops to move the mail.

In the current contract dispute "independent fact finding panels" are scheduled to issue non-binding reports on September 13. At that time both the Postal Service and the unions have the option to resume negotiations during a 45-day period that would precede arbitration.

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Rd. #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

**CALIFORNIA:** Bay Area District: 3808 E 14th St., Oakland. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 534-1242. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: SWP, YSA, 1184 Broadway. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

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

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Tallahassee: YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316.

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

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

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

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. New York: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 226-8445 or 925-1668.

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

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

**OREGON:** Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

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

**RHODE ISLAND:** Providence: YSA, P.O.

Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

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

**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.



# Chauvinism and the Olympics . . .

"U.S.A., U.S.A." and "Atta way U.S.A., Atta way U.S.A." — chanted at the August 15 New York City ticker tape parade for the U.S. Olympic medal winners.

"U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" and "Go home! We were here first!" — chanted by racists in Lawrence, Massachusetts, during a violent riot August 9 against Puerto Ricans and other Latino residents.

The similarity is not accidental. The U.S. government, the big business media, and all the other mouthpieces for the employing class have cynically seized on the Olympic games as the occasion to launch a flag waving orgy of reactionary U.S. chauvinism.

The admiration many U.S. working people hold for the accomplishments of the Olympic athletes is being manipulated and exploited to whip up support for the rulers' austerity and war policies and anticommunism. It is not surprising that racists violently assaulting Latinos adopted the "U.S.A." chant.

The unabashed jingoism surrounding media coverage of the Olympics continued in parades held in various cities to "honor" the athletes. New York Democratic mayor Ed Koch claimed the city's ticker tape event was the largest ever, drawing two million spectators. The last time the city administration held such a parade was in 1981 to welcome home the U.S. spies and other hostages released by Iran.

Such affairs are an ill-disguised effort to whip up "patriotism" — at the very same time that the U.S. government is escalating its war against the workers and farmers of Central America and the Caribbean.

As the U.S. media crowed about the number of medals won by U.S. athletes (unchallenged by their main international competitors from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Cuba, and the other workers states), Congress voted \$70 million more aid to the Duarte government in El Salvador.

## . . . and prowar 'entertainment'

The effort to whip up prowar patriotism did not end with the coverage of the Olympic games themselves. During the two weeks that ABC broadcast the games, it used a large number of commercial spots — worth \$260,000 per 30 seconds — to plug a new TV series titled "Call to Glory."

This "patriotic dramatic series" is nothing other than Hollywood's attempt to prettify U.S. imperialism and its acts of war. The first episode glorified the Kennedy administration's genuine threats to bring the world to the brink of nuclear war in 1962 during the "Cuban missile crisis."

Efforts to use the billion dollar "entertainment" business to bolster U.S. government war policies goes well beyond this latest entry in the wasteland of network television.

Coinciding conveniently with the Olympic outbreak of U.S. flag waving in Los Angeles was the release of the film "Red Dawn." This movie is even cruder than its millions-of-dollars advertising campaign — complete with giant ads showing Soviet paratroopers landing in this country and Russian lettering across the ad — would indicate.

In the film itself it is not only Soviet soldiers who invade. They are accompanied by Cubans and Nicaraguans as well. The invading force ruthlessly massacres U.S. civilians. A small band of patriotic U.S. teenagers takes to the mountains of Colorado to wage a guerrilla war for "freedom."

## Customs agents as political cops

*Sedition: Speaking, writing or acting against an established government or seeking to overthrow it by unlawful means.* — Webster's Third International Dictionary.

Clearly, a charge of bringing "possibly seditious" literature into the country is a serious one. Which makes it even more outrageous that a person's books and pamphlets can be seized on such grounds in total disregard for due process of law. And the violation of democratic rights becomes even greater when this is coupled with attempts at illegal questioning about homecoming travelers' political beliefs and activities.

Yet this is precisely what happened to Socialist Workers presidential nominee Mel Mason and Sam Manuel, one of his campaigners, on their return from Nicaragua. (See story page 3.)

The attempted political grilling of Mason and Manuel, and the confiscation of Nicaraguan books and pamphlets by U.S. Customs agents, was totally beyond the established function of that agency and completely illegal. The function of the Customs department is to supervise the flow of imports and exports and collect applicable duties from travelers. They have no authorization to pry into po-

The flag waving surrounding the Olympics — like that at the Democratic Party convention that preceded it and at this week's Republican convention — cannot be separated from U.S. imperialism's deepening wars in Central America and the Caribbean — and its warlike policy around the world.

It is not accidental that in the midst of this display of U.S. nationalism, President Reagan "slipped" and "joked" about launching a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union in the next "five minutes."

A week later Reagan declared the U.S. government maintains its perspective of ultimately reversing the 40-year-old abolition of capitalism in Eastern Europe.

A nuclear attack on the Soviet Union is not on today's agenda of U.S. war policy, nor is an armed assault on Eastern Europe. But Reagan's comments have a definite purpose. They are part of the same wave of reactionary propaganda intended to popularize the anticommunist ideology of U.S. imperialism.

Coverage of the Olympics was also aimed at boosting pro-U.S. government, anticommunist war fever. Even *Newsweek*, which praised ABC TV's coverage of the games (despite what the magazine called "a touch of jingoism") felt compelled to observe that "viewers might have concluded the Games were being brought to them by the Voice of America."

The U.S. government, its war policy, and especially its growing war in Central America and the Caribbean are not popular. Reagan's "joke" about nuclear war angered many U.S. working people (not to mention tens of millions of others around the world). The coverage of the Olympics was cynically manipulated to try and identify support for the individual and team accomplishments of athletes who happen to be from the United States, with support for the U.S. government's imperial arrogance towards the peoples of the world.

The film itself suggests the direct connection between anticommunism and racism. The invasion, it contends, has been prepared in advance by years of immigration of Mexicans without papers. These "illegal aliens" help prepare the "communist invasion."

One might be inclined to laugh off such a preposterous film. But it is part of the same pro-U.S. imperialist, anti-communist ideological offensive aimed at justifying U.S. wars abroad and racist anti-immigrant legislation at home.

Workers from Mexico and elsewhere in Central America come to the United States (as tens of millions of European immigrants did) in search of a job and a better standard of living for themselves and their children — not to prepare a Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan invasion.

Many of these working people, however, are fleeing the very real invasions and wars paid for and orchestrated by the U.S. government. It is Washington that invaded Grenada. It is Washington that has equipped and directed a mercenary army to invade Nicaragua. It is Washington that organizes death squads in El Salvador and Guatemala which target trade unionists, peasant leaders, and others opposed to U.S. domination of their countries.

It is these real wars, which are taking the lives of many working people abroad every day, that the current jingoist campaign is aimed at prettifying. U.S. working people should reject it. It advances the interests of no one other than our exploiters.

litical beliefs, much less confiscate political literature.

In 1982, the government had to concede that Customs had no right to seize literature. It acknowledged this by making an out-of-court settlement with journalist William Worthy and two associates. The three had filed suit when, on their return from Iran, Customs and FBI agents confiscated copies of CIA documents published by Iranian students. (The students had occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran and found the CIA material in embassy files.) Washington returned the confiscated material to the three and agreed to a cash settlement for damages and to destroy all material developed in connection with the case.

Such illegal activity by Customs officials is but one byproduct of the ongoing, escalating general attack on democratic rights by the employing class as it steps up its war drive in Central America and the Caribbean and its austerity policies in the United States.

The attempted witch-hunt of Mason and Manuel by Customs agents is an attack on the democratic rights of all working people, aimed at intimidating those who dare question or oppose U.S. government policies. Their victimizations should be sharply protested.

# James P. Cannon: internationalist, party builder

In the August 3 issue of the *Militant*, we reprinted excerpts of a speech by James P. Cannon, the central founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party, who died August 21, 1974, at age 84.

At the time of Cannon's death, Farrell Dobbs, who succeeded Cannon as national secretary of the SWP in 1953, pointed to one of Cannon's chief contributions, that of internationalism. The SWP, said Dobbs, "is a thoroughgoing internationalist party — internationalist in its outlook; internationalist in the sense that we realize the necessity to collaborate in the closest possible way with revolutionaries throughout the world; and internationalist in the sense that we also realize that one of the prime criteria of internationalism is to build a revolutionary combat party in your own country."

Below we reprint an excerpt from a speech on Cannon's contribution as a party builder given by Joseph Hansen, long-time leader of the SWP and the Fourth International, to an SWP national education conference that was in session at the time of Cannon's death.

Cannon was deeply committed to building the Fourth International along the lines laid down at its foundation. He considered the Socialist Workers Party to be only a section of the Fourth International — an important sec-

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tion in his opinion. He never changed in this, even though the passage of reactionary legislation in the United States compelled the Socialist Workers Party to disaffiliate from the Fourth International.

Comrade Cannon's most remarkable achievement, nonetheless, was on American soil. Sharing in this achievement were the other pioneer Trotskyists in the United States — among them Vincent R. Dunne, Carl Skoglund, Arne Swabeck, and above all Rose Karsner, Jim's companion who died in March 1968. These pioneer Trotskyists, however, would all give the main credit to Jim.

This achievement was to build a viable nucleus of a revolutionary party inside the United States, the main bastion of world capitalism. Not only did Jim build this nucleus, he maintained it and continued to build it for an unprecedented number of decades in face of enormous pressures. There has been nothing like it in the history of the revolutionary socialist movement.

Jim held this nucleus together against the lure of posts in the trade union bureaucracy, none of which are without considerable emoluments.

He held this nucleus together against the merciless blows and venomous slanders of American Stalinism, once a powerful force in the radical movement and in many trade unions in the United States.

He held this nucleus together in face of the hysteria of World War II, marching to prison at the head of the Trotskyists convicted as the first victims of the Smith Act for their political opposition to imperialist war.

He held this nucleus together during the infamous decade of McCarthyism in the United States, when the Trotskyists were hounded from their jobs by the American political police, the FBI, and when our movement was almost completely isolated politically and virtually paralyzed for lack of funds.

He held this nucleus together against the deadly combination of McCarthyite repression and economic prosperity that led to years of passivity in the labor movement.

There were casualties, of course. Valuable comrades grew discouraged and dropped out of activity. Cadres with years of experience could not endure the strain and developed political differences that gave them seeming justification for finding a road to the sidelines.

But new recruits replaced them. And some of these recruits proved to be of exceptional worth precisely because they swam against the stream in joining the movement in such a period.

Jim's stamina and stubbornness won out in the end. He succeeded in maintaining the continuity of leadership. This continuity went back directly to the founders of American socialism in the past century, and back in a direct line to the Bolsheviks, and through them to the founders of scientific socialism.

The nucleus of revolutionary socialists assembled, maintained, and renewed under the leadership of James P. Cannon is doing quite well today and we know of the satisfaction he found in this success.

His eyes were set, of course, on the American workers. In the long run, the upheavals elsewhere would have a cumulative effect in the political arena in the United States. Coupled with the ever-deepening economic and social contradictions of capitalism, the American workers, the mightiest power on earth, would be propelled into action and the American revolution would begin.



# Workers drawing lessons of union setback at Texaco

BY HALKET ALLEN

LOS ANGELES — In early July the Los Angeles refinery workers organized by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-128 voted to sign a contract with Texaco. The vote, coming after a 106-day strike, was 135 to 119 to accept a contract that allows the company unlimited rights to contract out work, lay off operators during shutdowns for repairs to their units, weaken the seniority system, eliminate the bidding system on jobs, and lengthen the work week to 42 hours.

Texaco also imposed sharp wage cuts for new hires, who will start at \$7.75 an hour (down several dollars an

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hour from current pay). Union officials fear that Texaco will move to keep workers under this contract at a permanent lower wage scale — a divisive two-tier wage set-up.

Another item that the union lost on is the expiration date of the contract, which will be two years from now — six months after the National Oil Bargaining Council contracts expire. The big majority of the oil industry is in the National Oil Bargaining Council and the union was stronger when contracts expired at the same time.

Mike McFarland, chairman of the negotiating committee of the LA refinery, said that when the contract expires two years from now it will put the union in a weak bargaining position. "We took a beating," he said.

While feeling deeply the blows at the hands of a rich and powerful Texaco, refinery workers' spirit here has not been broken. Many workers remain defiant and rebellious. The vote on the contract was close, and many workers didn't know that there was going to be a meeting or a vote on the contract. From discussions I've had on the job, I think if there had been a meeting that all 417 of the workers on strike had been able to attend, the vote might have gone against ratification. This in spite of our more than three months on the picket line.

When we went back to work on July 5 we saw that the refinery was in pretty poor shape and the foremen who had been operating it had not been able to do a good job. On my unit, the "cat cracker," it took foremen 28 days to start the unit up, where it takes us three. There had been some bad accidents while we had been out, and bosses that had been working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, were on their last legs. Despite company denials, we saw that our strike had an impact on production.

On my unit, all 34 operators are on a special daytime training schedule. Since we are usually divided up to cover all shifts, this is a rare opportunity for us to talk about things together. The discussions and postmortems on the strike are quite open and wide-ranging. Some workers blame "the union" for not winning the strike or even keeping the membership informed. Others blame the company.

Anti-company feeling has intensified because Texaco is still grinding away at us. The contract is settled, but their attacks continue. For example, the first day back at work, two machinists were suspended for going to the

parking lot during lunch time. Texaco policy is now that workers cannot leave the refinery for lunch. The parking lot is on company property, so this was clearly harassment. Texaco announced that we would only get half the vacations due us next year because of the strike. They also told us that our monthly medical costs would be \$94 or more depending on the number of dependents — an increase of \$30.

Texaco has also introduced the 12-hour day discussion now that operators have to work a 42-hour schedule. Each unit in the refinery votes on its own schedule, and at the "cat cracker" the discussion was heated and the vote close. All the operators are training and are on shift together for the first time. We had a meeting to discuss which schedule to take and voted to retain the eight-hour day. When the foreman came in to inquire where we stood, he was told that we had voted to go back on strike. This wasn't serious, but this uppity attitude reflects that there is still a fight-back spirit.

We went back in with our union intact, though weaker. Many believe that the company will try a decertification campaign soon. During negotiations, one company negotiator made Texaco's position clear: "We want another shot at the union in 1986."

As Texaco's takeaway campaign proceeds to whittle away at our standard of living, workers are continuing to discuss the strike and are bracing themselves for the upcoming fight.

Halket Allen is a member of OCAW Local 1-128 and was a participant in the Texaco strike.

## LETTERS

### Kathy Boudin coverage

I would like to thank you and your staff for the excellent coverage you gave to Kathy Boudin's trial.

Perhaps your readers would like to know that the Friends of Kathy Boudin plans to continue as an active support network for Kathy, engaging in political dialogue as well as providing moral and concrete support for as long as Kathy is in prison. We also plan to address issues of conditions affecting women in prison generally, as well as the continuing political repression against people designated "terrorists" by the government.

More information about Kathy's decision to end her trial as she did, as well as the complete text of her statement at sentencing, can be obtained by writing Suite 1370, 163 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, or calling (212) 624-5921.

Charlotte Phillips  
Friends of Kathy Boudin  
Brooklyn, New York

represent the majority of Americans with Jewish ancestry) have moved away from civil rights to the right, do not forget that many Jewish leaders (Jesse Jackson named a few in his convention speech) were actively involved in civil rights organizing and demonstrations during the '50s and '60s. So what if these "leaders" oppose "quotas" and affirmative action? Their business is to point out threats to Jewish status. I think the mass of American Jews can look around themselves and see that there is no shortage of Jewish intellectuals or professionals. They can also see that Blacks are sorely underrepresented.

I find your paper very useful. The emphasis on class struggle and socialist advances gives one hope. I also appreciate the alternative platform and heritage Socialist Workers Party candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González so ably represent.  
D.D.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Attica prisoner shot

A prisoner was recently shot here at Attica. It was unjustifiable. He was shot, as the "news" says, because he was attempting to hit an officer with a bat. Not true.

Two prisoners had a fight. One was stabbed and in turn hit the one that stabbed him with a baseball bat. Such fights are "normal" when you consider the type of abnormal environment a prison is. They are usually controlled by a group of officers escorting the various parties out.

The date of the shooting was July 20, 1984. I ask you to do what you can to have the facts brought out.

"Rumor" has it that the officer who did the shooting is psychologically unbalanced. "Rumor" also has it that the officers were angry because a prisoner did not receive the death penalty following his frame and conviction for the death of an officer killed at Green Haven Correctional Facility.  
A prisoner  
Attica, New York

### 'Freeze' Dems like nukes

For those *Militant* readers who still harbor illusions that the Democrats will put an end to nuclear war I offer the following information that appeared in the August 16

issue of *Rolling Stone*.

In an article titled "How a Dove Becomes a Hawk" author William Greider documents how various Democratic "doves" sell out the antinuclear movement by lobbying for weapons contracts.

A major case in point is Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, a so-called leader of the nuclear freeze campaign. Kennedy is a major supporter of the patriot missile, ostensibly because it is built by his constituents outside Boston. No doubt he also supports it to protect his ruling-class interests.

Greider also points out that Kennedy lobbied hard to make Boston the home port of the *Iowa* battleship group. But, he writes, "there was only one problem: some of the active peace groups... thought it bizarre that the leading advocate of a nuclear weapons freeze would be pushing to locate ships armed with nukes in Boston harbor. Kennedy limply answered that as long as there had to be a navy, it might as well do business in Boston." Speak about hypocrisy! Speak about leading people down the wrong path!

Greider goes on to cite other "thoughtful liberals" like Sen. Alan Cranston, Rep. Thomas Downey, Rep. Nicholas Mavroules, and Sen. Carl Levin, who say they lobby for these contracts because it creates jobs. When you look at the statistics you can see through this charade of theirs and realize they do it to maintain capitalist interests and preserve their privileged class, and their constituents be damned.

Greider points out that "as a crude rule of thumb, \$1 billion in defense spending will produce about 21,000 jobs... [but] if the government spent \$1 billion on peaceful enterprises like roads or schools, the money would actually produce more jobs. According to the calculations by Data Resources, nondefense spending will generate 25,000 new jobs per \$1 billion — 4,000 more jobs than if the money were to move through the military-industrial complex. Considering that defense procurement will top \$150 billion next year, that could mean a loss in employment for the country."

The conclusion is pretty clear. This reliance on the Democratic Party to put an end to the nuclear arms race is a dead end. The Viet-



nam War' was ended through the pressure that was brought by an independent political mass movement. If you look at all the movements for social change — from social security, the eight-hour day, the building of labor unions, to civil rights, women's rights, and the slowing down of nuclear power plant construction — you will see that they came about through these same independent mass movements, not by relying on Democrats.

This is the perspective that the Socialist Workers Party holds and it is the program and strategy they help build. That is why I support their campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president. They don't tell us to rely on the electoral process to end the threat of a nuclear holocaust, but on the building of a massive, independent, working-class movement. I urge people to seriously consider the alternative to this reliance on the Democratic Party that the SWP puts forth.  
Sam Chetta  
Catskill, New York

### Worker crushed to death

I got home from work this afternoon, had a shower and a beer, and sat down to finish the August 10 *Militant*.

Buried in the middle of the article on the stakes for labor in the auto contract fight I read the following on the report of a woman worker at a Chrysler plant in Ohio:

"She told how management had kept the line going for five hours before removing the body of a worker crushed to death in one of the presses."

This is incredible! Have I somehow missed the *Militant* article on this example of the free-enterprise system in action?

Since I operate a punch press myself, I am particularly curious about the details. Didn't anybody protest at having to continue work under these ghastly circumstances? What did people have to say afterwards? What about the relatives of the victim?

It seems to me that an incident like this, straight out of Dante's *Inferno*, deserves a bit more prominence in the *Militant*. Not because of its sensational character, but because this really is what the ruling class would like to reduce us to.

Dave Frankel  
Detroit, Michigan

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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



## Antiracist revolt in Lawrence, Mass. Puerto Ricans, Dominicans battle discrimination

BY MIKE GALATI  
AND RUSSELL DAVIS

LAWRENCE, Mass. — On August 8, Puerto Ricans and Dominicans from the Lower Tower Hill section of this city rebelled against the racism and oppression that has come to characterize their day-to-day lives here.

The incidents that touched off the rebellion began earlier that day when two Latino women were subjected to racist taunts from a group of whites as they walked past Pettoruto's Liquor Store. The store bordered on the Latino neighborhood and was a well-known hangout for white racists.

Later that evening, a small group of whites who lived above this same liquor store came down the block, entered the Latino neighborhood, and smashed the windshield of a car parked on the street. A young Latino mother, who saw the incident from her apartment, came out to the street to confront the racists and to demand an explanation. Their response was to begin throwing rocks at her.

Shortly thereafter, the mainly Puerto Rican and Dominican community took control of the four-block Lower Tower Hill area, building barricades in the streets to protect themselves from further racist attacks. City cops tried to enter the neighborhood at around 9:30 p.m. but were beaten off and forced to retreat until state police reinforcements arrived over three hours later.

Finally about 150 cops — dressed in full riot gear and using tear gas, attack dogs, and clubs — forced neighborhood residents back into their homes and took control of the streets. But not before Pettoruto's Liquor Store was burned to the ground and another well-known racist hangout, a bar across the street from Pettoruto's, was trashed.

The following night, August 9, religious services were held on the street by the burned-out liquor store. The purpose of this service was to "forestall violence" in the community between whites and Latinos.

As the service ended around 9:00 p.m., cops dressed in riot gear tried to enter the Latino neighborhood, forcing people off the streets, while at the same time protecting a group of racist thugs who stood behind the police lines and began shouting "USA! USA!" and hurling rocks and bottles at the Puerto Rican and Dominican residents.

In response to this cop provocation, community residents attempted to erect street barricades in order to protect themselves. A battle ensued for the next few hours between over 180 cops and the small neighborhood.

José Martínez, a 19-year-old who lives in the neighborhood, told the press what happened after the religious service ended that evening. "The police were on one corner protecting all the white people," he said. "They only came down to our corner to beat us up."

Police once again used tear gas, dogs and clubs to clear the streets. But this time the cops were also bent on terrorizing the neighborhood. They invaded the Merrimack Court housing project, a center of the community resistance. One tenant, Elsie Rodríguez, reported that a cop clubbed her as she was going into her apartment. She later told reporters, "I feel like I was abused even though I wasn't involved."

Another project tenant, Joseph Miner, told reporters that police "marched in here like the Gestapo, throwing tear gas for nothing."

The next day, August 10, Democratic Mayor John J. Buckley and the City Council declared that an 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew would be imposed on the Lower

Tower Hill neighborhood and the surrounding area for the next three nights.

City Council President Anthony Silva explained to the press why the Council had decided to impose the curfew. "The curfew is absolutely the only way we can go. Many in the crowd have been kids 10-16 years old who should never have been out that late in the first place. They were cheering when rocks were thrown, cheering when bombs exploded."

But one young Latino, when told of the curfew order, responded: "The curfew won't work. Nobody can tell us what to do. This is supposed to be a free country. But what kind of freedom is that?"

Lawrence itself is an old textile mill town 30 miles north of Boston, with a population of some 63,000. During the early part of the century it was the center of the U.S. textile industry. But over the last 30 years almost all the mills have left the city seeking a cheaper, non-union workforce. Now, Lawrence is the poorest city in

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Lawrence cops in full riot gear enforce curfew against Puerto Ricans and Dominicans.

## Racist killings by Dallas cops on rise

BY LEE OLESON

DALLAS — The site of the Republican Party national convention is also becoming nationally prominent for racist police killings and other racist attacks.

By the end of July, Dallas police had shot 16 people since the beginning of the year. Nine of these were killed. Eight of the 16 victims were Latino, seven Black, and one white.

The 1984 rate of police shootings has kept pace with the 1983 rate. Last year Dallas police shot 29, killing 16. The big majority last year were Black and Latino also.

The most recent killing occurred July 28 when Dallas cop Mark Tarver fired four shotgun blasts into a car driven by Guadalupe Martínez. Martínez was driving through a police roadblock.

The victim, who was accompanied by his pregnant wife and 10-month-old child, died of what Dallas police described as "multiple gunshot wounds to the face."

His wife, Juanita, later asked why Dallas police fired at her husband through the windshield rather than shooting out the car's tires.

Police said they suspected Martínez of drunk driving. "Technically, I suppose you could disable the car," said a police spokesperson, "but that's not the most effective way."

On July 30 the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the Martínez killing. The request was made by LULAC Executive Director Arnoldo Torres in a letter to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith.

On June 28 police killed a mentally disturbed Black man in South Dallas. The 22-year-old victim, Darryl Armstrong, had been arrested three days earlier for running naked through the Dallas Zoo shouting that the Ku Klux Klan was after him.

At the time of his killing, Armstrong had been walking naked down Kiest Boulevard at 3 o'clock in the morning. He was shot down by Dallas cop John McCaghren after a chase. The cop grabbed Armstrong and in a scuffle shot the Black man in the chest. McCaghren claimed Armstrong grabbed his 18-inch flashlight and threatened to hit him!

Although the two Black city council members have criticized the police killings, the reaction of other city council members and Mayor Starke Taylor has been quite different. In mid-July Deputy Mayor Pro

Tem Jim Hart made this statement to the city council: "As you well know, if you don't hang somebody on the courthouse steps and leave him there where they can see him for two or three days, you are not going to get the attention of these types of people."

Hart's racist statement brought the condemnation of S.M. Wright, a Black minister who is the head of the 250-member Ministerial Alliance. "We cannot condone this kind of outburst," Wright told the press. "It relates to a part of the history that touches us. That's what we're shocked about."

Mayor Taylor, a businessman who spent \$900,000 to win election last year, has declined to condemn Hart's statement.

In another side to Dallas' open racism, on July 30 a city board upheld the firing of Billye Myrick, a Black woman who has been victimized for her work as an ambulance dispatcher.

On March 16 Myrick was fired because of her involvement in the case of Lillian Boff who died after Myrick delayed sending an ambulance to her residence. However, Myrick's action was approved at the time by her supervisor, who is white and was not fired. She was carrying out a long-standing policy of delaying the sending of ambulances to Black and Latino areas of the city. This is a widely known policy of

the city ambulance service, a racist policy that Billye Myrick had nothing to do with establishing and was compelled to carry out.

Dallas' reputation as a center for racism has also been strengthened by the case of Joyce Ann Brown.

She is a Black woman who was convicted of the May 6, 1980, armed robbery of a North Dallas fur store, Fine Furs By Rubin. This despite the fact that five of her coworkers stated she was working at the time in another store distant from the scene of the robbery.

Rene Michelle Taylor, who has confessed to participating in the robbery, has testified that Joyce Brown was not involved in the incident. Taylor has also passed a lie-detector test regarding her testimony.

On July 8 the Free Joyce Brown Committee sponsored a Free Joyce Brown Worship Service at Kirkwood CME Church in Dallas. Several prominent Black ministers addressed the meeting, which was attended by 50-60 people.

The committee has been endorsed by the Concerned Black Clergy of Dallas and the Police/Paramedic Complaint Committee.

July 22 there was a hearing before District Court Judge Ron Chapman in which Joyce Brown's attorneys asked that her conviction be overturned. So far no ruling has been made on the request.

## Postal workers meet to plan strategy

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Meeting in separate conventions in Las Vegas August 20, the two largest unions of postal workers voted to keep the option of a strike open in the continuing contract dispute with the U.S. Postal Service.

Contracts covering more than 600,000 postal employees expired July 21 with no new agreement reached. Within days the Postal Service announced that it would unilaterally impose the two-tier wage scale it has demanded, by hiring new workers at wages 20 percent or more below that of current employees.

This was immediately denounced by American Postal Workers Union (APWU) President Moe Biller as "provocative union busting." Other labor officials also criticized the government's move. The national AFL-CIO News, weekly newspaper of the labor federation, featured the attacks on the postal unions on its front page in two successive August issues.

In an August 4 editorial titled "No longer a game," the AFL-CIO News noted that the Postal Service had hired a notorious union-busting law firm to advise it in its confrontation with the unions. A front-page article the following week called attention to the 8.1 percent raise the Postal Service plans to give its managers — while it aims to slash wages for new workers and insists on a pay freeze for those already on the job.

The growing anger and dissatisfaction with the Postal Service's blatant antiunion stance led Congress to vote August 10 to temporarily block government plans to implement the two-tier pay scale. But this limitation only remains in effect until October 1.

Ten days later the APWU and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) opened conventions in Las Vegas. During the preceding week the unions organized a series of informational picket

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