

Protests needed as U.S. war in Central America escalates

Nicaraguan, Cuban leaders hit U.S. war

There is an urgent need for working people and other opponents of U.S. military intervention in Central America to raise their voices in protest right now against a new escalation of the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua.

The U.S. trade unions — the most powerful mass organizations that working people have — should be in the forefront of

EDITORIAL

organizing news conferences, adopting resolutions, and mobilizing their members and others to condemn this latest threat.

The revolutionary governments of Nicaragua and Cuba are on an international campaign to alert opponents of the U.S. war in this hemisphere to the fact that a new military offensive by Washington and the U.S.-organized Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries is in the offing.

In their major addresses to the United Nations General Assembly on October 2 and 3, both Nicaraguan Government Coordinator Daniel Ortega and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli warned that all the pieces are in place for a major new offensive by Washington.

As Ortega explained, one purpose of this offensive is to sabotage Nicaragua's November 4 presidential elections.

Cuba's foreign minister pointed out to the UN delegates that, in El Salvador as well, Washington is stepping up its military involvement on behalf of the government of José Napoleón Duarte. He warned, "The scene seems to have been set for a new interventionist adventure. From a military point of view, all the conditions have been prepared, including the necessary infrastructure and logistical support, and the military command simply awaits the politi-

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June 9, 1984, march against U.S. war in Central America and Caribbean in New York City. At UN, Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca alerted world to U.S. plans to escalate its war in Central America.

The socialist program for working farmers

BY DOUG JENNESS

Working farmers are suffering the worst crisis they have faced since the 1930s. Their purchasing power is decreasing and their debts are skyrocketing. Tens of thousands are being ruined and forced off their farms and ranches. Farm machinery is being repossessed as farmers are unable to make their payments.

The Democrats and Republicans in Washington, rather than offering relief, have further tightened the screws on farmers. Bipartisan legislation has made it more difficult for farmers and ranchers who the government doesn't consider good credit risks to obtain federal loans. At the same time, price supports on some farm com-

modities are being lowered. Black farmers, concentrated primarily in the southern states, have been hit the hardest and are losing their farms at an even faster rate than their white counterparts.

Both President Reagan and former Vice-president Walter Mondale, the Republican and Democratic standardbearers in this year's presidential race, offer no solution for exploited farmers. They propose continuing credit and price support policies that favor the banks, food monopolies, railroads, and capitalist farmers at the expense of working farmers, who rely only on the labor of their families.

They not only accept capitalism's ruination of working farmers; it is their policies that help accelerate it. In spite of election-time promises, their policies are grounded in the view — let the fittest survive.

Mel Mason and Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, present a polar opposite perspective.

Their starting point is not the profit interests of banking vultures and grain merchants, nor even "farmers" in general. Rather they begin with the interests of exploited farmers, those who do not profit off the labor of others.

Mason and González explain that exploited farmers, who are the big majority of farmers, have a common interest with exploited wage workers to fight their common enemy — the small handful of capitalists who presently rule this country.

One of the central conflicts between working people and the ruling families is over the question of war. Just as Reagan and Mondale support big business profiteers at home, they pledge to continue defending profits around the world. They call for the use of U.S. arms and troops, if necessary, to crush the struggles of workers and peasants that threaten U.S. business interests.

Mason and González, however, say that working people in this country have a common fight with their fellow workers and

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All out for N.Y. Oct. 27 antiwar march

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — "Clearly, both the Cuban and Nicaraguan people have a responsibility to prepare for a U.S. invasion," Adeyemi Bandle of the National Black United Front told the *Militant*. Bandle is a leading member of the coalition building the October 27 action in Brooklyn that will mark the first anniversary of the overthrow of the workers and farmers government of Grenada and the subsequent U.S. invasion of that Caribbean island. He was commenting on recent statements by leaders of the Nicaraguan and Cuban governments alerting the world to an imminent escalation of direct U.S. military aggression against their respective countries.

"The reality of a U.S. military invasion is there," said Bandle. "This makes the demonstration on October 27 more significant, because it raises the reality of the Reagan Administration's willingness to use U.S. soldiers in an all-out war against these small nations . . . and highlights that, while some people laughed at revolutionary Grenada's earlier preparations against a U.S. invasion, history shows that they were correct."

The October 27 demonstration is demanding the removal of all U.S. and other foreign troops from Grenada now, and an end to the U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador, as well as the rest of the Caribbean and Central America.

Elombe Brath, whose organization, the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, is playing a major role in organizing Black community participation from Manhattan in the October 27 demonstration, said, "We definitely believe the U.S. will try to invade Nicaragua." He pointed out what he sees as the similarities in the U.S. propaganda campaign against Grenada prior to the invasion last October 25 and the campaign the imperialists and their media are waging against the Sandinista government today.

"A massive turnout has to be seen [on October 27] to show that we haven't forgotten Grenada. We have to remind the American people how wrong that invasion was . . . we have to point out that the U.S. continues to occupy Grenada and should get out and let the Grenadian people make their own decisions," he continued. "We also have to safeguard Nicaragua's interests. Commander Ortega's charges should not be discounted. He is not a man to cry 'wolf!'"

The day's activities on October 27 will begin with three feeder marches to the rally site at Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza. One assembles at Fulton Street and Nostrand Avenue at 10 a.m. and will march through the heart of the large Caribbean community located in that area.

Another feeder march will originate in South Brooklyn and will assemble at 10:30 a.m. at Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue. The third march plans to go through the huge Black community of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Coalition organizers are encouraging all those who will be participating in the demonstration from the New York area to join one of the Brooklyn feeder marches. A permit for the rally is in hand, and permits for the feeder marches are being secured.

The rally program, which is scheduled to begin at 12 noon, will feature Dessima

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United Farm Workers protest growers' union-busting moves

BY LYNDIA JOYCE

SALINAS, California — Under a sea of red and black United Farm Workers (UFW) flags, thousands of farm workers from the Salinas, San Joaquin, and Napa valleys marched defiantly through Salinas October 7. They marched to protest the growing, deep-going onslaught of attacks against the union by the agricultural employers.

Supporters lined the streets, and cars drove by with flags emblazoned with the United Farm Worker Aztec eagle, as the 6,500 unionists — in their overwhelming majority Mexican workers — marched six miles through the heart of the *barrios*.

This action took place as the growers are on a fierce offensive against the UFW. The stakes are high. Salinas is located in Monterey County, the fifth-ranking agricultural producing county in the nation. A large percentage of the lettuce, artichokes, strawberries, and cauliflower that is consumed in the United States is harvested by farm labor here.

Recently 14 United Farm Workers contracts have expired, and the growers have organized a frontal assault to break the union. Those growers who will even negotiate with the UFW are demanding wage reductions, big cuts in medical benefits, the end of the union hiring hall and company-paid, full-time union representatives, cuts in vacation time, changes in seniority rights, and an end to payments for the time workers must wait to be transported to and between fields.

In the face of these attacks, the UFW formed the Salinas Valley Solidarity Committee, consisting of representatives of 12,000 workers employed at 99 companies from Watsonville to King City.

The committee organized the protest in little over a week's time. They purposely concentrated on mobilizing farm workers themselves, to show and gauge the strength of the union. The next time, however, UFW Pres. César Chávez said they will reach out to the whole labor movement.

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BY JIM WHITE

Supporters of the *Militant* in the Piedmont area of North Carolina report that they have begun to join in the political discussions at three important textile mills organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), based on solid, consistent efforts to sell at the plant gates there over a period of time.

Over the last few months, they have concentrated on getting regular teams of *Militant* salespeople to the Fieldcrest, Cone White Oak, and Cone Haw River mills. Their success in this has made it possible to make progress in getting through an initial period of simply getting known at these mills, and to begin to have the workers expect them regularly.

Now they have begun to build on this base and take the socialist election campaigns of Mel Mason and Andrea González for president and vice-president, and Kate Daher for U.S. Senate, directly to the mills.

During the week leading up to the tour of Andrea González through the area, the sales teams used a leaflet produced by the

North Carolina Socialist Workers campaign to reach out to a large number of workers in these mills. On one side is the announcement of a public meeting, featuring González. On the other side is a statement called "A Message to Textile Workers."

This statement explains the socialist analysis of the profit drive by the mill owners that has cost 156,000 jobs in the southeastern U.S., accompanied by speedup and deteriorating working conditions for those still working. It explains that this is part of the drive by the whole U.S. capitalist class to raise their profits at the expense of working people throughout the world, and that this is completely tied to the wars they are carrying out, especially against the workers and peasants of Central America.

The statement outlines what socialists stand for in some of the key political fights facing workers and their allies, including the fight against war and for jobs, the need to stop union-busting, and the struggles against racist and sexist attacks.

Kate Daher was on a team that went to the Cone White Oak mill. She said the leaflet was well received as the workers drove in through the gate. One team member ran out of leaflets, and some cars went well out of their way to get a leaflet from Daher.

"We've been selling regularly there for months," she said. "So it isn't that people didn't know who we were. They wanted to see what we had to say. We also sold about six copies of the paper there last week."

When they first started taking the *Militant* to Cone White Oak, which employs about 2,500 workers, Daher said the response was cool. The union had been under severe attack, and the socialist workers at the plant gate were viewed with mistrust. "But consistency over a period of four months has made us familiar faces there. Now we sell about four papers on each sale. When we started, one or two was very good," she said.

A different kind of problem was overcome at the Cone Haw River mill. Although it is a 45 minute drive from Greensboro, teams

have gone out regularly, and have always been well received. Six papers is an average sale there, at a plant that employs about 800 workers.

Several weeks ago company security guards and the Haw River police told the sales team that they were on private property, and they would have to leave. An inquiry with the City Clerk revealed that the team had been standing on public property. The *Militant* sales team then went back. Six papers, all the team had, were sold, and there was no further harassment. Three weeks were lost because of the hassle, but the mill is a regular sales place again.

The bedrock of these sales has been the high participation by members of the Socialist Workers Party from the Greensboro branch. Over the last several months 90-100 percent of the branch members have regularly participated in a weekly plant gate sale. The consistent effort at selected plants has increased the *Militant's* readership and impact among an important layer of workers in this key industry in North Carolina.



Militant/Osborne Hart
SWP candidate Kate Daher has been campaigning among North Carolina textile workers.

N.Y. Black party rips cop terror, gov't coverup

BY JAMES WINFIELD

NEW YORK — The Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) held a forum September 24 at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building in Harlem. The topic was: "How to end police brutality."

Speakers included Michael Warren, an attorney for the family of Michael Stewart. Stewart was a young Black graffiti artist who died while in police detention in September 1983. His family charges he was killed by the cops.

While the Stewart family is fighting to get the truth out about the case, Bellevue Hospital officials, the cops, the district attorney, and New York Mayor Edward Koch are involved in a conspiracy to cover up the facts, said Warren.

The police and government coverup continued October 5 when State Supreme Court Justice George Roberts threw out the manslaughter indictment brought against three transit cops for Stewart's death. Roberts ruled that a member of the grand jury that indicted the cops had conducted himself "improperly." The juror, Ronald Fields, carried out his own investigation of the killing, since, he charges, the district attorney was obstructing the grand jury's efforts.

In addition to Warren, Earl X from the NBIPP also spoke. He quoted the section of the NBIPP's charter on police brutality:

"... We believe that the police and federal intelligence agencies such as the FBI and CIA exist to carry out widespread acts

of lawlessness and terror against Black and oppressed people in order to stop our struggle for freedom. We believe that racist and anti-Black groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis often work hand in hand with the police and intelligence agencies, or objectively serve their interests through their own acts of repression and racist terror. We believe that the various components of the racist judicial and criminal justice system in the United States serve to repress Black people's basic rights and are designed to deny our dignity and human freedom."

NBIPP demands include:

That all acts of harassment and brutality by the police be stopped and that those who commit police crimes be brought to justice, prosecuted, and punished.

That the FBI and CIA be abolished, as they are incapable of being reformed to act justly."

An excellent discussion followed the presentations. Thirty-five people attended, including students from the City College of New York and members of the National Black United Front. The Michael Stewart case, how to stop police brutality, and which way forward for Blacks to win their liberation were all discussed.

Differences were aired on the impact of the Jesse Jackson campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

One person thought that if only Blacks could elect a Jackson, our problems would be solved. A member of the Mobilizing Coalition Against Police Brutality said that elections demobilize the masses and take our eyes off what we should be fighting for. Another participant described how Jackson tried to stop people from protesting police brutality during the Liberty City rebellions in Miami. Almost everyone in the audience participated in this rich, and, at times, heated discussion.

Panel hits Postal Service two-tier wage plan

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

When the contracts of 600,000 postal workers expired July 21, negotiations were deadlocked over Postal Service demands. It tried to force the unions to accept a wage freeze for current employees and a "two tier" wage system that would pay new hires 20 percent less than those already on the job, for the same work.

Members of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), Mail Handlers Union, and a fourth union representing rural letter carriers, have continued working since the contract expiration.

On September 19 a panel of outside "fact finders" which had been called in to examine the postal impasse rejected the

government's contentions, calling both the wage freeze and the two-tier pay setup neither "necessary or desirable."

The finding applied only to workers represented by the Mail Handlers and is not a binding ruling. However Mail Handlers Pres. Lonnie Johnson asserted, "It definitely has to set a pattern for the other unions."

At the same time, the panel rejected union demands for a modest 4 percent a year wage increase. It recommended that the Mail Handlers receive a \$2,000 raise over the life of a new three-year contract — an increase of only 2.8 percent a year.

Meanwhile negotiations between the APWU and the NALC (the two largest unions) and the Postal Service remain at a

standstill. Postmaster General William Bolger has refused to participate personally in negotiations. Bolger says he will meet informally with the presidents of the two unions but insists that actual bargaining be conducted with the professional negotiators he has hired.

The presidents of the APWU and the NALC responded that they will not discuss economic issues at the bargaining table unless Bolger, who holds the real power for the government in these talks, agrees to participate. APWU Pres. Moe Biller charged that Bolger had "subverted" the effort to resume negotiations.

Unless an agreement is reached by October 19, federal law dictates that the dispute will be sent to binding arbitration.

Follow the socialist presidential campaign —

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While Reagan and Mondale defend the ruling rich's policy of war and union-busting at \$1,000-a-plate dinners and "media events," the socialist candidates for president and vice-president, Mel Mason and Andrea González, are on a different kind of campaign trail.

Mason and González know it is in struggles, not elections, that gains are won for working people. And that's where you'll find them — on union picket lines, at demonstrations against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean, and at protests against farm foreclosures, racist cop brutality, and attacks on women's rights.

Their defense of workers' rights doesn't stop at the U.S. border. They've been to Ireland, Britain, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico to express solidarity and learn about workers and farmers' struggles internationally.

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Auto workers cast vote on GM contract

BY PAT GROGAN

United Auto Workers (UAW) members have begun voting on the proposed concession contract with General Motors. Although official counts will not be released until Sunday, October 14, when voting is completed, unofficial tallies show that it is a close vote.

As of Monday evening, October 8, the vote was 19,575 in favor and 18,658 against, with several thousand votes undisclosed. In all, 21 locals voted to ratify the contract and 10 voted to reject it. This represents less than 15 percent of the UAW's membership at General Motors, which must approve the contract by a majority.

Before the October 6 weekend, voting was going against the contract. In response to the rejection by four large UAW locals in Lansing, Saginaw, and Kalamazoo, Michigan, and one in Lakewood, Georgia, UAW president Owen Bieber said that if the contract was voted down, "it would be useless" to return to the bargaining table.

In a threat he didn't even bother to veil, Bieber warned against what "the consequences are of rejection. If the GM membership should vote the contract down, there will be a nationwide strike at GM and everybody should know that." Bieber expressed his opinion that the proposed contract contains "everything that they [the members] said they wanted."

The large number of votes against the contract (and only a summary was made available to the membership), despite the misleadership and threats of the UAW top officialdom, shows the deep anger of UAW members with the new concession pact.

One of the most frequent reasons given for voting against the contract was the tiered wage increases. Under the proposal, wage increases would go from 1 percent for the least skilled to 3.5 percent for the most skilled.

Few workers have expressed confidence in the phony job security program that is in fact a green light for GM to step up layoffs and impose worse working conditions. Al Alli, shop chairman of the UAW local at Lordstown, Ohio — which rejected the contract by a vote of 3,332 to 1,075 — summed up the feeling of most UAW members when he said, "They just don't like the agreement. With the concessions

and the profits, they just think they should get more."

Auto workers are angry that they did not even regain the concessions they gave up in the 1982 contract. This anger is fueled by the record-breaking profits of General Motors. Nevertheless, many workers will vote for the contract because they see no chance of putting up a winning fight under the current leadership. The policies of the present leadership begin with the false idea that what's good for GM is good for the workers. They have disarmed and misled the ranks of the union.

At the same time, there is no alternative leadership with a fighting program that could lead the dissatisfied ranks of the UAW. There is not even a small crack in the top officialdom reflecting pressures from the rank and file. That's why many workers who oppose the pact will grudgingly vote for the contract.

Meanwhile, in Canada, UAW officials rejected a GM contract that was similar to the one proposed to U.S. auto workers. There was no proposal on "job security" because the union had put wage, pension, and benefit improvements, as well as shorter work time, at the center of its demands.

The decision to have separate contract negotiations for Canadian and U.S. workers reflects a shift in past UAW practice. It does not signify, however, a disagreement in policy. The Canadian officials say openly that a "made in Canada" contract is best won by Canadians instead of a united struggle by Canadian and U.S. workers against their common employer.

Rank and file Canadian auto workers are angry, too. That's why Robert White, head of the Canadian UAW, which represents some 36,000 GM workers, said that unless there was a "fundamental change in direction [in GM's bargaining stance] it will be almost impossible to avoid a strike at General Motors on October 17."

Negotiations with Ford Motor Company are now in progress in Detroit. The talks with Ford were put on hold when the UAW chose GM as the target for a pattern agreement. October 12 has been set as an "informal" target date for an agreement on a contract with Ford, which covers some 114,000 workers.

Ford has said that it will not necessarily "walk in lockstep" with the General Motors agreement.



Voting by UAW members on proposed contract with GM will continue until October 14. Auto workers are angry at new concessions, but see no alternative leadership.

'Militant' in the coalfields

BY LEE MARTINDALE
AND MATT HERRESHOFF

WASHINGTON, Pa. — "That's the *Militant* paper they sell in the mines!" exclaimed a laid-off Black coal miner as he fished out 75 cents. A team of socialist campaigners canvassing the southwestern Pennsylvania coalfields found that many residents of this small coal and steel town recognized the paper and wanted to discuss socialist ideas.

The team is on the road for two weeks to get out the word about the Socialist Workers Party campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González for president and vice-president, and local candidates like Clare Fraenzl in the 22nd Congressional District here.

Fraenzl is one of the 4,000 United Mine Workers' coal miners laid off two weeks ago following the ratification of the new contract between the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the coal operators. These layoffs have decimated coal employment in the area.

The team is meeting fighters, like a past president of the NAACP and former American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees local union official who had worked with socialist miners to protest the Atlanta child murders several years ago. They also found many workers thinking hard about how to fight back.

The wife of a steelworker commenting on the Democratic and Republican parties' conventions said, "I'm patriotic, but I don't understand what all the flag-waving is about. I don't like it."

A minister in the Black community who had participated in Black Panther meetings in the sixties asked, after hearing about Fraenzl's campaign, "But is she serious? I'm not interested unless this is something more than something to get votes."

"Sure she's serious," responded a campaigner. "She's a woman coal miner defending her union and the rights of other women miners every day on the job."

This man and several others asked if they could bring friends with them to the socialist campaign rally in Pittsburgh October 13, where Mel Mason will speak.

"I sat out the movements of the sixties and seventies," an unemployed steamfitter told Fraenzl. They were discussing the idea

that massive working-class struggles, independent of the capitalists and their parties, would be necessary to fight back against the attacks on Blacks, women, and the unions. "[Jesse] Jackson backed off," he said. "We need leaders who aren't afraid to stand up and fight. Maybe this campaign has the answers I've been looking for."

In addition to door-to-door campaigning, the team is also hitting plant gates, shopping centers, and unemployment lines. After several more days in southwestern Pennsylvania, the team heads for West Virginia, where they will be joined by Socialist Workers Party senatorial candidate and UMWA miner Joan Radin for campaigning in the West Virginia coalfields.

Disneyland strikers: 'We want contract'

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Six union business agents were arrested October 8 for violating a court order limiting pickets at the Disneyland amusement park in Anaheim, California.

Five unions — the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Teamsters, Service Employees, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, and Bakery and Confectionary Workers — struck September 25 in response to employer demands for a two-year wage freeze, a dangerous subcontracting provision, and a loss or reduction of health insurance benefits.

A court order had barred the 1,800 striking workers from picketing in an area near the park's ticket booths. The arrests followed a larger protest in that area of the park. The strikers, who include janitors, ticket sellers, ride operators, and restaurant workers, chanted, "We want a contract!" and littered the ground with copies of the undemocratic court order.

When police arrived, most of the crowd dispersed. The six union officials remained and were jailed.

On September 29 Bob Gable, secretary-treasurer for UFCW Local 324, addressed a letter to others in the labor movement on behalf of the five striking unions. The unions, said Gable, "have asked for the support of the entire 'House of Labor.' It is essential, in the face of attacks such as Disneyland's, that organized labor display a determination to stand together."

He urged union leaders to "inform your members not to patronize Disneyland until management returns to the bargaining table and submits a fair and equitable contract offer." Gable also called for letters to Disneyland informing management "of your commitment to aiding the members of these five unions."

San Diego abortion clinic firebombed

BY MARY JO VOGEL

SAN DIEGO — "Hell no! We Won't Go!" spans the entrance to the gutted-out Birth Control Institute (BCI). It was firebombed on September 13.

Although no one was injured, the clinic, which provides abortions and other health services, sustained over \$80,000 in damages.

The threat of violence against abortion clinics has existed for several months. A few reactionary fundamentalist churches have regularly set up pickets outside three clinics to harass women as they enter.

The most outspoken against the right of abortion is Bible Missionary Fellowship's Rev. Dorman Owens. He and his followers carry grotesque pictures of aborted fetuses on the picket lines. They try to photograph clients entering the clinic and copy their license plates. They quote loudly from the Bible and threaten those who defend or enter the clinics. They chase clients down the street.

Since the firebombing, several anonymous threats have been made. An unsigned

letter warned Dr. Carol Roberts, the BCI director, that her life was in danger. A telephone threat saying "you're next" was made against Womancare, a feminist health center that performs abortions, and against the Metropolitan Community Church, a gay and lesbian church.

Also, the mayor of nearby Poway, Dr. Bruce Tarszy, has had his medical office picketed because he performs abortions.

An investigation has so far brought no charges or arrests.

The lack of results in the investigation has not slowed down the defense effort that's being organized. Womancare scored a victory on September 28, when a superior court judge issued an injunction that essentially prohibits the members of Owens' church from yelling, screaming, and taking photos closer than 50 feet from the clinics, and restricts their picketing to the opposite side of the street. The injunction does not apply to other opponents of abortion.

Womancare and BCI have organized an average of 25 supporters each Saturday to defend the clinics and provide "escorts" for clients who must brave the gauntlet of harassment as they enter.

Plans are also being made to tap the strong support that exists in the community for the right of the clinics to function. On October 16, representatives of NOW, BCI, Womancare, and the mayor of San Diego will address a benefit for the clinic defense fund.

A community speak-out against the attacks and to promote a woman's right to choose an abortion is planned for January 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

Mary Jo Vogel is the Socialist Workers candidate for congress in the 41st C.D. and a member of the United Auto Workers union.

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BY PETER THIERJUNG

Ellen Haywood, a national youth coordinator for the Mason/González 1984 socialist campaign, kicked off her national tour in Miami, Florida, at the end of September.

Haywood is also a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), a revolutionary youth organization actively supporting the socialist campaign.

Haywood spoke in Liberty City, Miami's Black community, at the Militant Labor Forum. Over the last few years, Liberty City has been a center of Black rebellions against police killings of Black youth.

In her talk, titled "The 1984 Socialist Campaign vs. the Reagan/Mondale War Drive," Haywood blasted the U.S. government's growing war in Central America and the Caribbean and tied it to the attacks against working people here at home.

"The Democrats and Republicans are trying to convince young workers and farmers that we should be patriotic and go to war in Central America," said Haywood.

"But the fact that Álvarez, an infamous killer of Black youth, is allowed back on the street, armed, and in police uniform," continued Haywood, "shows that young Blacks and all working people have no stake in going to war in Central America or defending the capitalist system."

Luis Álvarez is the Miami cop who was acquitted last year for shooting and killing a Black youth.

Haywood concluded her talk by pointing to the example of Nicaragua. "The Nicaraguan people are right," said Haywood, "the U.S. government is the enemy of humanity, and we must unify workers and farmers here at home to

struggle against the U.S. government's war against working people here at home and abroad."

During her tour Haywood was able to campaign in Little Haiti among Caribbean and Haitian workers, winning support not only for the national ticket of Mason/González, but also for Harvey McArthur, the socialist candidate for U.S. Congress in the 19th Congressional District in Miami.

Haywood also joined an early morning campaign team at an Eastern Airlines plant gate. Workers there are organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

These workers are facing increased harassment, speedup and other union-busting attacks. Many of the workers took socialist campaign literature and gave a hearing to YSA members who explained the ideas of the socialist campaign. Four copies of the *Militant*,

the socialist campaign news-weekly, and a copy of the *Young Socialist*, the YSA's bimonthly publication, were sold.

During her tour Haywood was able to attend a dinner for YSA members and supporters of the socialist campaign. A young Cuban worker who recently joined the YSA attended the dinner and explained to Haywood how he came to join the YSA.

He learned about the YSA through *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish language sister publication of the *Militant*. He later wrote to the national campaign office in New York for campaign literature and books on socialism to study, discuss with others, and distribute.

Jackie Floyd, another youth coordinator for the Mason/González 1984 socialist campaign, will also be touring in October.

Both Haywood and Floyd will cover 12 major cities through their tours, speaking on why young

people who are angry with what capitalism offers youth should join in supporting the socialist campaign and become part of an organization like the YSA.

If you would like more information about these youth tours, consult the schedule below and call the YSA chapter nearest you listed in the directory on page 12.

Ellen Haywood

Louisville	Oct. 11-13
Cincinnati	Oct. 14-17

Jackie Floyd

Detroit	Oct. 11-13
Toledo	Oct. 14-16
Cleveland	Oct. 18-20
Tidewater	Oct. 21-23
Philadelphia	Oct. 25-26
New York	Oct. 27-29

Peter Thierjung is National Secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Houston socialists campaign among oil workers

BY JOHN CANNON

HOUSTON — Some big opportunities for the socialist movement in the Gulf Coast area resulted from the mid-September three-day tour of Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason.

In building a socialist campaign rally here for Mason, several supporters trekked down to the huge oil refineries of Texaco in Port Arthur and Amaco in Texas City to distribute a statement addressed to oil workers. Socialist campaigners received a friendly response from the workers in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union when the campaigners identified themselves as "socialist workers and supporters of Mel Mason for president."

At Texaco the team was able to talk with several of the refinery workers, including the chairman of the Workman's Committee, about Texaco's recent announcement of 1,400 more layoffs over the next two months.

The unionists were angry and felt there was no justification for the company's action. They pointed out that members with 18 and 20 years' seniority would lose their jobs. A discussion was begun around socialist proposals such as opening Texaco's books and nationalizing the oil industry. Several *Militants* were sold.

On the way back to Houston the team stopped for more campaigning at the College of the Mainland, a small community college with a large number of Black and Chicano students. After passing out more election material and selling 10 *Militants* and *Young Socialists*, several students and a professor invited the socialists to return for more discussion and urged them to hold a public meeting around the socialist program.

Back in Houston other campaign teams were able to hit all of the plant gates where *Militants* had previously been sold. Twenty-one more were purchased.

And finally, to publicize the Mason rally a sound truck was rented and campaigners went door-to-door through a number of Black neighborhoods near the campaign headquarters.

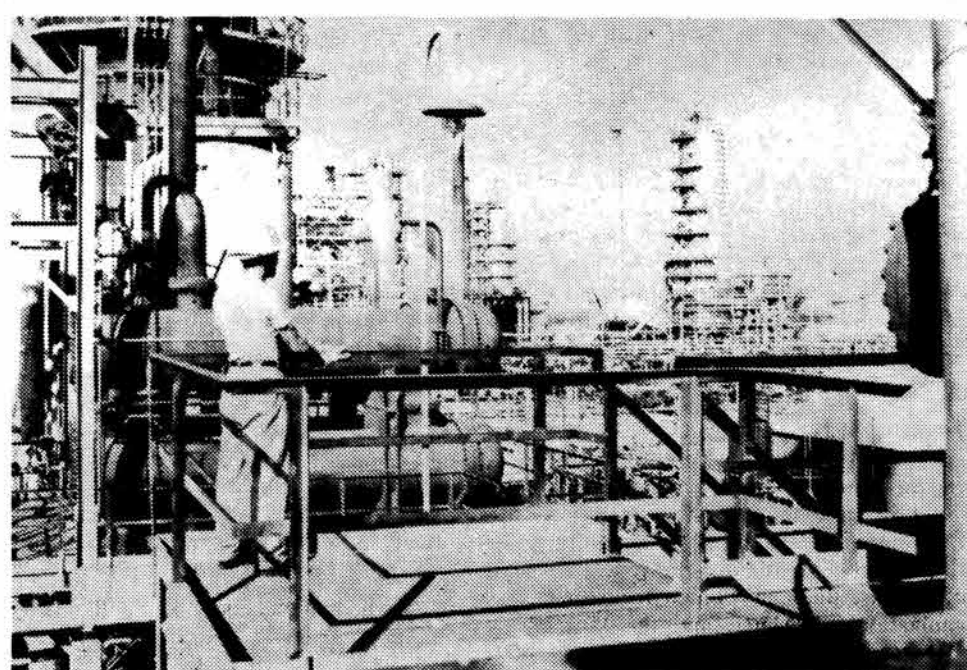
The rally itself was a big success with over 50 enthusiastic supporters in attendance. Thousands of others heard the rally on the Pacifica Radio affiliate KPFT.

As he has throughout his election campaign, Mason focused in on the inseparable connection between the devastating assault by the U.S. government on the rights and living standards of working people and its ever-widening war against the popular revolutions in Central America. "Everything the capitalists do is centered around going to war in Central America to stop the workers and peasants there. The capitalists have no choice but to send U.S. troops in an attempt to crush these revolutions and the gains already made in Cuba and Nicaragua."

The fiery socialist leader explained many of the gains already won in Cuba, Nicaragua, and in the Grenada revolution before its overthrow. He pointed to the advances in education, health care, and employment.

Mason had recently returned from Nicaragua where he saw firsthand the gains made by the workers and farmers government there, as well as the cost in lives and property of the U.S. war. He gave a moving tribute to Ray Hooker, whom he met in Nicaragua, and to Patricia Delgado — two of the most prominent Sandinista leaders of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast peoples. Both of these outstanding revolutionists had just been kidnapped by the U.S.-backed *contra* forces while campaigning for the national election to be held in Nicaragua in November.

Mason has sent a telegram to the State Department holding the U.S. government responsible for their lives and demanding



Texas oil workers have been hit hard by recent layoffs

their immediate release.

Also speaking at the rally were unionist José Alvarado, SWP candidate for Congress in the 18th C.D., and Beverly Andara, a striking UAW member from Dallas who is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas.

Hitaji Aziz, a radio personality and defender of the Grenada revolution who is also co-chair of the Committee for Prison Reform and Defense of Human Rights, spoke as well. She stated, "We came in the spirit of solidarity with Mel Mason because he seems to be the most representative of the people. He's Black but he serves not just for Blacks. He's a defender of the British miners and of all the poor and oppressed."

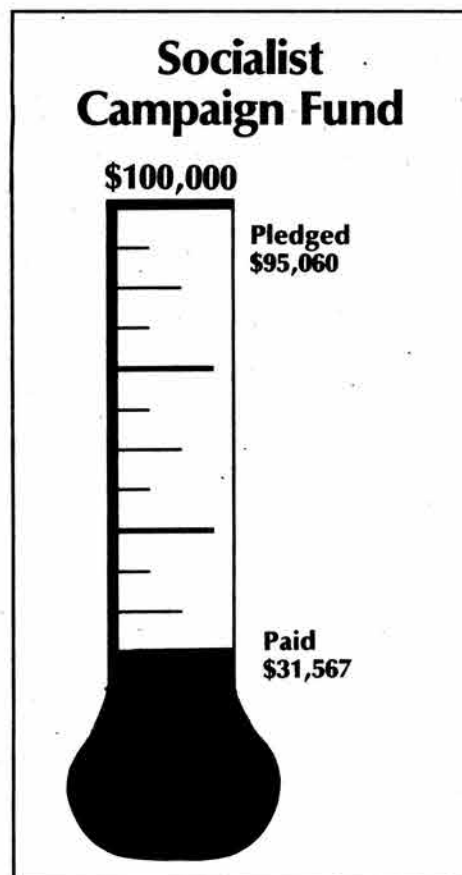
The rally was chaired by Dick McBride, a member of the Bakery, Confectionery,

and Tobacco Workers Union. As part of the campaign fund pitch, McBride delivered some stirring remarks about why socialists run in elections and the kind of government working people in this country need. Rally participants pledged over \$1,400.

Later that evening Mason gave an interview to KPFT radio, after which many calls came pouring into the station wanting more information.

The Houston Socialist Workers campaign has already begun mapping out an aggressive strategy to build on these important new openings.

John Cannon is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers and is Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Texas' 25th C.D.



To cover the costs of the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, a \$100,000 fund is under way. A big push is needed to collect the remaining \$68,433 by November 6, election day. Contributions can be sent to Socialist Campaign Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of _____ to the socialist campaign.
☐ I would like to help out on the socialist campaign.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Organization/Union _____

Paid for by the Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee.

Cincinnati SWP protests cop action

CINCINNATI — Kathleen Denny, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 1st C.D. in Ohio, made public a September 17 letter to the Cincinnati city council that demands the body reprimand University of Cincinnati Police Chief Bridgman. Denny charged that Bridgman's cops harassed two of her campaign supporters, preventing them from distributing socialist campaign literature on a public sidewalk outside of the university's Emery Auditorium.

UC cops Hanson and Drescher told Joe Lombardo and Peggy Maw, the two socialist campaigners, that no literature could be distributed in front of the building. "Recently," writes Denny in her letter, "we have seen some pretty serious violations of democratic rights in this city." She cited, as an example, the White House ban against protest signs at a Reagan rally held in downtown Cincinnati.

"Last week," notes Denny, "the commu-

nity was outraged by the spectacle of a woman arrested and strip searched for registering voters in a public building. These incidents create an atmosphere in which police officers and private security guards believe that they may interfere with the rights of citizens whenever they see fit and for whatever reason."

Writing to Charles Luken of the city council's Law Committee Denny said, "I am asking the [committee] to investigate the incident at Emery Auditorium, to reprimand Chief Bridgman for giving officers Hanson and Drescher an illegal order, and to set a point on the agenda of your next meeting for a discussion of the matter."

"Mr. Lombardo, Ms. Maw, and I would very much like to participate in such a discussion," noted Denny. "It would be useful if such a discussion were to result in a public statement by the city council clarifying the city's commitment to First Amendment rights," she added.

Nicaraguan women celebrate their revolution

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Tens of thousands of women and men rallied in Managua's Plaza of the Revolution September 28 to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the Association of Nicaraguan Women — Luisa Amanda Espinosa (AMNLAE). This mass organization fights for women's liberation by advancing the Nicaraguan revolution and by promoting the full participation of women in society.

Women marched to the plaza in various contingents shouting slogans such as "For these mothers, our mothers, we swear to defend the victory" — a reference to the recent massacre of five women by CIA mercenaries in the province of Jinotega (see accompanying article) — and "We go forward with the Front," emphasizing the support of the women organized in AMNLAE to the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Many women had prepared homemade banners and placards in their workplaces, neighborhoods, or homes. Many were homemade replicas — made of Nicaragua's main agricultural products, such as dried beans, corn, cotton, coffee beans, and rice — of the AMNLAE emblem. The emblem shows the face of a woman against the background of a red and black (the FSLN's colors) gear adorned with a rifle and a coffee branch, symbolizing women's involvement in industry, agriculture, and defense.

The backdrop for the rally was a huge, painted mural of women holding an FSLN banner and leading a mass of people that included workers, peasants, soldiers, and mothers with their children.

First to speak was Glenda Monterrey, general secretary of AMNLAE. She thanked the invited guests for coming. These included representatives from the Sandinista People's Army, unions, peasant organizations, neighborhood groups, and the FSLN. There was also a delegation from the Federation of Cuban Women. Especially warm applause went to a group of North American women from two organizations: MADRE and the Women's Coalition Against Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Monterrey sent special greetings to the women in besieged areas, such as the border zones and the Atlantic Coast. She saluted the mothers of the fighters, the mothers of heroes and martyrs, and, in general, the mothers of the Sandinista people. She also commemorated the five mothers killed earlier that week.

"Today, more than ever," she said, "we are proud to be Nicaraguans, proud to be revolutionary women, proud to be Sandinista women." She enumerated the tasks facing Nicaraguan women today, highlighting the need for women to get involved in the Student Production Brigades being organized on a voluntary basis to gather the coffee and cotton crops. Monterrey exhorted those present to build "a single army of men, women, children, and old people prepared to survive and defeat Reagan's war."

Next the three women guerrilla commanders — Dora María Téllez, Leticia Herrera, and Mónica Baltodano — were introduced. These three women leaders of



Militant/Ellen Kratka

Women at seventh anniversary rally for AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's organization. Worker and peasant women were important force in overthrowing Somoza dictatorship. They have now made significant progress under revolutionary government in their fight for equality.

the war against the Somoza dictatorship awarded medals to the families of fallen heroes.

Then Government Coordinator Daniel Ortega, who is also the FSLN's candidate for president, spoke. Amid chants of "Even though the right wing can't stand it, Daniel will be president!" He asked first the women and then the men at the rally to raise their hands, pointing out that the women had the majority and this was good, but it was also good that so many men had accompanied them to show their support for AMNLAE.

He spoke of the mothers of heroes and martyrs he had met and talked with, "peasants in their great majority, very poor, working women, simple women." And, he said, "if sometime we weaken, if sometime we vacillate, let us look to these heroic women, mothers of heroes and martyrs. They will fill us with new energy." They are, he affirmed, "the banners of the Sandinista Front, the banners of Nicaragua. They are, we would say, the best champions of AMNLAE."

Ortega explained that it is the worker and peasant women who "for having been the most exploited, the most forgotten, the most oppressed, are those who most value, want, love, and defend this revolution." He referred to the "women who work and produce with a rifle at their side," and spoke of one woman in particular who had left her children to take care of the house and gone to fight with her husband. She had told Ortega, "Now that I am coming to this rally with all of you, I said to my husband, 'stay here guarding this position well, I will return soon.'"

Ortega also took note of the women who are taking their husbands' places at work, in some cases driving tractors "for the first time in the history of Nicaragua. . . . And

this, logically, is only possible with a revolution."

Ortega then turned his attention to the main theme of his talk, the war. Nicaragua is passing through "a true test of fire," he said. And he added, "We must be ready." The entire people must fight "with machetes, with knives, with rocks, or with clubs, but we cannot permit the Yankee imperialists to take our cities."

He pointed out that the Reagan administration has plans to increase the aggression in October. In addition, the U.S. rulers would like the Nicaraguan election to be postponed so that Reagan, upon being reelected, can intervene in Nicaragua to try to overthrow a supposedly illegal, because unelected, Sandinista government.

Ortega explained that the U.S. imperialists have several instruments they use to attack Nicaragua, one of which is the so-called Democratic Coordinating Committee. While painting themselves as a peaceful, legal opposition, they are in fact, he said, "the coordinating committee of intervention, the coordinating committee of Somozaism, the coordinating committee of death, the coordinating committee of imperialism." The three parties of this grouping are boycotting the elections, demand-

ing a "national dialogue" with the U.S. mercenary forces, calling them legitimate "opponents of the Sandinista regime."

Ortega answered them, "We all know who they are, the 'opponents of the Sandinista regime.' They are the Somoza guards who fled with the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship, and who the people wisely classify as genocidal dogs." To this the crowd responded, "They will not pass!"

These capitalist opposition parties also claim that Nicaragua is in the midst of a civil war. Ortega told these groups to "look around. Here there is no civil war. Here there is a war between the people of Nicaragua and foreign aggressors." He said that this "little game" of theirs, playing with the idea of a civil war, is dangerous. "Because if we were to agree there is a civil war, then there would be a civil war, a class struggle." To wild applause and shouts of "People's Power!" he continued, "and certain classes would be finished! Certain classes would disappear! The people would do away with them! The people do not lack the desire to do away with certain classes."

Ortega warned the legal opposition, "the day they want a civil war, they will have a civil war! And then they will know the fury of the people, the justice of the people!"

Woman's emancipation: a discussion in Nicaragua's revolutionary press

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Thousands of women took the anniversary of AMNLAE as an opportunity to recommit themselves to defending and consolidating the revolution, and to review their role in it.

In the weeks leading up to the big rally, many articles appeared in the revolutionary press about how women's emancipation will be achieved.

In a three-part series in *Barricada*, newspaper of the FSLN, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nuñez explains that imperialism had so brutally and thoroughly oppressed both men and women in Nicaragua that even with the triumph of the revolution changes in consciousness come slowly, even more slowly than economic and social change. "It will take work, abnegation, sacrifice, patience, and revolutionary integrity," he wrote, "to get society to recognize the problem of women as a reality directly linked to the development of the revolutionary process."

Women, organized in AMNLAE, are participating in all aspects of the revolution, including — and most importantly right now — the defense. They are in this way succeeding in gradually changing their own consciousness of themselves and winning the respect of Nicaraguan men.

"The principal contribution of the Nicaraguan women's organization, before and

after the triumph, to the world women's movement," Nuñez said, "is to have been a direct protagonist in the birth of the revolution, blazing as its standard in the first place the aspirations of its people and, at the same time, energetically defending its own aspirations."

Milú Vargas, a member of AMNLAE's National Council, wrote about the "new woman" being forged in struggle in Nicaragua.

"Thus, women joined to revolutionary practice — expressed in their participation in the Sandinista People's Militias, in the Reserve Battalions, in revolutionary Vigilance, in the Health Campaign, etc. — begin to feel themselves social beings, subjects of history," she wrote in *Barricada*. "They recover their voices as a mechanism of expression of the collective, and realize that their problems are not just their own, converting 'I' into 'we.' This is the first step of women developing consciousness."

In the week leading up to the day of the anniversary, articles appeared recounting the concrete experiences of women with work and combat. Meetings were held in many parts of the country and with various classes of women — from industrial workers to market vendors — discussing how to beat back the imperialist aggression, the need for women to support their sons who are drafted to fight, and AMNLAE's role in the defense.

Criminal murder of Nicaraguan mothers

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The week of AMNLAE's anniversary, on September 23, a counterrevolutionary band ambushed a group of mothers riding in a truck who were going to visit their sons serving their Patriotic Military Service. Five mothers and other family members were murdered, and 19 were wounded. Three Sandinista soldiers were also killed in the terrorist attack, which took place 30 kilometers outside the regional capital of Jinotega.

An observer of the incident reported that three military trucks had passed by the same spot where the ambush took place only 20 minutes before. It had thus been a conscious decision by the *contras* to massacre an unarmed group of women, instead of engaging Sandinista troops in combat.

At one of the many rallies held to repudiate the attack, Carlos Carrión, General Coordinator of the July 19 Sandinista

Youth, said, "They have assassinated mothers because they have been unable to defeat their sons, who continue to defend the homeland."

The day before the ambush, Commander of the Revolution and Government Coordinator Daniel Ortega met with 300 mothers of young people who have fallen in defense of the revolution. He told these women that in the town of Yalí — with only 4,000 inhabitants — some 170 people have been killed in the fight against the U.S. war. This is the equivalent of 300,000 people being killed in New York City. "A veritable genocide is being committed against the people of Nicaragua," Ortega said.

"At the rate at which the aggression is going, in a short time there will not be single family in Nicaragua that has not had a victim of the U.S. policy of aggression," he said.

— E.K.

Ortega visits N.Y. ghetto tenement

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK — "The people of the United States want construction, not destruction," said Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega on a visit to an abandoned tenement on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

The revolutionary leader visited the site, which is being renovated by a religious organization called Habitat for Humanity, on October 3 after learning that the group plans to build about 100 homes for peasants in the northwestern Nicaraguan village of Hermán Pomares.

The day before, Ortega had addressed the United Nations General Assembly on the escalating U.S. war against Nicaragua.

Around 100 supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution, local residents, and reporters gathered in this poverty-stricken Latino and Black neighborhood, awaiting the arrival of the Sandinista leader. Ortega was greeted with cheers and shouts of "Viva Nicaragua libre!" (Long live free Nicaragua!)

After touring the building, Ortega was publicly welcomed by directors of the project. Dr. David Rowe, president of Habitat, said the Nicaraguan leader had told him that "he looks forward to the day when we will be able to exchange work camps, when volunteers from the United States will be able to help build houses for the poor in Nicaragua, and volunteers from Nicaragua will be able to come to the Lower East Side" to help build housing for the poor here.

Accompanied by a delegation that included Nicaraguan foreign minister Miguel D'Escoto, Ortega spoke briefly to the crowd.

"I think the people of the United States are a peace-loving and fraternal people," he said. "And this project is an example of the true sentiments of the U.S. people."

"The people of the U.S. want to build here in the United States and also in Nicaragua. But there are some who want to destroy both in the United States and in Nicaragua," said the Sandinista leader as he stood surrounded by decrepit tenement houses and rubble-filled empty lots.

In his U.N. speech, Ortega reported that U.S.-trained mercenaries have killed 7,000 people and inflicted \$237 million in economic damages in Nicaragua. Although hampered by this war, the Sandinista government has built homes, hospitals, schools, and child-care centers for working people there.

Asked about Washington's plans to launch a new military drive against Nicaragua on October 15, which he had mentioned in his address to the U.N., Ortega explained: "It's the beginning of a new offensive by the forces of destruction, who are being financed here by the U.S. administration. And as this plan unfolds, the invasion by U.S. troops may take place."

"We must fight against this," said Ortega, stressing that despite U.S. attacks on the Nicaraguan revolution, "the forces of construction will prevail."



Militant/Duane Stilwell

Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega outside abandoned building in New York City

Ortega stayed for a while longer to talk to people in the crowd. As he and the Nicaraguan delegation left, chants of "Viva Nicaragua!" filled the air. Knots of supporters and onlookers lingered, exchanging impressions of the Sandinista leader's visit.

Some must have been reminded of a similar event that happened 24 years ago:

Fidel Castro's famous 1960 visit to Harlem.

It is not a coincidence that leaders of both the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions have come to the U.S. to reach out to the communities of the oppressed here. Both represent governments of workers and farmers, the most outstanding "forces of construction" in our hemisphere.

Cuba warns: U.S. to escalate war

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The Cuban government has joined the government of Nicaragua in sounding the alarm on the dangerous escalation of the U.S. war in Central America.

Cuba's foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, told the United Nations General Assembly on October 3, "Cuba attaches particular importance to the situation in Central America, where the danger of a generalization of the conflict is increasing." After pointing to the scope of the U.S. military buildup and intervention in the region, the Cuban leader warned, "From a military point of view, all the conditions have been prepared, including the necessary infrastructure and logistical support, and the military command simply awaits the political decision to launch the aggression."

Malmierca Peoli addressed the UN delegates the day after Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega had warned that the U.S. rulers are preparing a new military offensive by mercenary forces against Nicaragua, aimed at preventing that country's November 4 elections.

"The history of the imperialist blockade and the constant acts of aggression against Nicaragua is well known," said Malmierca Peoli. "Swept up in the feelings of triumph triggered by the shameful invasion of little Grenada," he continued, "the United States Government is now planning new blows against the free peoples of America and their national liberation movements."

Malmierca Peoli expressed Cuba's solidarity with the Sandinista people of Nicaragua as well as with the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador. The Salvadoran people's "combative stature has grown in the struggle against the combined forces of imperialism and El Salvador's puppet army," he said. He also reiterated Cuba's demand that "the invading troops in Grenada, led by the United States, cease their occupation of that country."

While reaffirming that Cuba "longs for peace in the region and in the world at large," the foreign minister declared, "Anyone who decides to send United States troops to invade Central America must be ready to face their being militarily bogged down in the region, progressively weakened in an unbridled and massive

war, until final victory is won by the peoples of the region." Equally, he said, "Anyone who would send troops against Cuba must be ready to face an all-out war. . . ."

After discussing Central America, Malmierca Peoli devoted an important section of his speech to condemning the U.S.-backed aggression in southern Africa.

"The use of force and the threats and pressures exerted by United States imperialism in southern Africa maintain a climate of tension in that region, where the racist Pretoria regime, its strategic ally, continues to carry out a policy of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and other independent states and persists in its illegal occupation of Namibia," he said.

The Cuban leader also expressed his government's support for the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, "the legitimate representative and symbol of the South African people's struggle" against the apartheid regime.

Brigades to aid Nicaragua harvest

The Nicaragua Exchange, a project of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, announced at the end of September that it will be sending brigades of U.S. citizens to Nicaragua to help in the harvest of coffee and cotton.

In the fall of 1983, more than 600 U.S. volunteers joined *brigadistas* from Western Europe and Latin America as part of an international response to the emergency situation facing Nicaragua brought on by the U.S. war.

Volunteers in the brigades included teachers, students, farmers, trade unionists, and medical workers.

This year the Nicaragua Exchange is planning six brigades. They are scheduled to begin at the end of November and continue through the end of January. The brigades will vary in length from two and three-week periods to one month.

Brigade volunteers are expected to pay

their own way. The approximate cost for the one-month brigade program is \$700 from Miami. Limited scholarship funds may be available.

This year's U.S. brigadistas will join an estimated 1,000 French, Italian, and West German volunteers picking coffee and cotton in the north and central areas of Nicaragua.

Across the country local Nicaragua and Central America solidarity committees and former brigadistas will be helping to publicize the brigades, raise funds, and recruit applicants. Brigade organizers see this effort as a means to broaden support for the Nicaraguan revolution in the United States.

For more information on the brigades, promotional brochures, and information on how to apply to become a brigadista call or write the Nicaragua Exchange, 239 Centre Street, New York, N.Y. 10013, (212) 219-8620.

Text of Daniel Ortega's UN speech in 'IP'

In his speech during the opening days of the 39th General Assembly of the United Nations, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega alerted the world to Washington's plans for a new military offensive by mercenary forces aimed at preventing that country's November 4 elections. The offensive, Ortega warned, could lead to a direct U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

The upcoming October 29 issue of *Intercontinental Press* will be running the full text of Ortega's speech.

In it, Ortega explains the context for U.S. imperialism's aggression against Nicaragua. Washington, Ortega points out, does not like Nicaragua's anti-imperialist positions, its support for liberation movements throughout the world — from East Timor to southern Africa — or its condemnations of imperialist aggression wherever it may be.

The current October 15 issue of

IP features, among other things, an article on the debate within the Australian labor movement on the activities and views of a right-wing Croatian émigré group that favors the dismemberment and overturn of the workers state in Yugoslavia.

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SARA JEAN JOHNSTON

ATLANTA — Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega placed a wreath at the grave of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., here on October 9, showing that country's support to the civil rights struggle in the United States and drawing the connection between the fight for Black equality in this country and the struggle against the U.S. war in Central America.

Ortega was invited to Atlanta by Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In addition to the wreath-laying ceremony, Ortega also spoke at a news conference and luncheon along with Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, Coretta Scott King, Lowery, Jesse Jackson, and others.

Lowery said, "As Martin Luther King taught us during the Vietnam war, there's an inextricable link between the struggle for civil rights around the world as well as at home. We must continue that mission." Lowery, who recently visited Nicaragua, said he was impressed by his trip.

"Here was a nation inspired and committed to carry out their dream," said Lowery. "I was inspired by the youthfulness of that nation. I met with many Black youth in Bluefields. A Black sister there told me to 'tell the brothers of America that we saw some brothers shooting down our brothers in Grenada.'"

"She said she fears the day when she'll be looking down the barrel of an M-16 at a U.S. Black. She said to 'tell the North American brothers that I'll have tears in my eyes, but I will pull the trigger.'"

Lowery added that "I am prepared to back up Black and Brown youth in the United States who refuse to go and fight their kind in Nicaragua and anywhere else in Central America."

Ortega said, "We are concluding our tour of the United States in Atlanta. Of all the cities we wanted to go to we knew we had to come to Atlanta. We are proud to be able to conclude our tour here because Atlanta has been a symbol of the struggle of



Militant/Lynda Joyce
Women militia in Bluefields, Nicaragua. Civil rights leader Joseph Lowery backs Blacks who refuse to fight Washington's war.

the North American people.

"Truth is your struggle," explained Ortega. "And it was a struggle for justice. And a struggle for justice knows no na-

tional boundaries. We identify with your leader Martin Luther King. He knew how to struggle, how to live, and he gave his life so the North American people might live better. We know that his brothers will continue that struggle."

... calls for end to Washington's war

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO — Speaking to the news media and guests of the Commonwealth Club here October 5, Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega appealed to North Americans to join the Nicaraguan people in the search for peace in Central America.

"These are critical times for the future of the United States and the future of Central America," warned Ortega. "We must try to prevent the U.S. government from making the mistake of continuing to promote bloodshed in Central America and becoming involved in an eventual direct intervention in Nicaragua. This would be a repetition of past history — a history of invasions of Nicaragua by U.S. forces since the beginning of the century."

"U.S. intervention has been the rule, not the exception," said Ortega. "What did they create in Nicaragua? They created the brutal Somoza dictatorship. And what did they create in the rest of the Central American countries? Injustice, terror, human rights violations, lack of freedom of the press. That is to say, true totalitarianism. That is why we say the North American government is today only reaping the harvest of their past policies in Central America."

"The people of the United States are not the enemy of the Nicaraguan people," Ortega went on. "But the U.S. rulers have made themselves enemies of the Nicaraguan people. They have declared war against the Nicaraguan people in the name of 'liberty.'"

"We say this policy must be changed," he insisted. "This will only be possible insofar as the American people demand such a change — regardless of the party that is governing, and regardless of the individuals in power."

Protests against U.S. policy are particularly needed, Ortega stressed, because of current U.S. plans to launch a new offensive against Nicaragua by October 15. As in his speech last week to the United Nations General Assembly, Ortega explained to the San Francisco audience that this offensive would consist of several stages: an attempt by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries to take and hold territory, the escalation of tension with Costa Rica, the intervention of other Central American governments, and finally a direct invasion by U.S. troops.

"These plans are still in effect," Ortega insisted at a news conference. He was asked by reporters for evidence that a U.S. invasion was planned October 15.

"When we talk about the October 15 date," Ortega said, "we are talking about a new offensive by the administration, through the CIA and the Pentagon, to try to overthrow and destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. This doesn't mean that on October 15 U.S. planes are going to begin to bomb Nicaraguan territory. It means that on Oc-

tober 15 they are going to initiate a new offensive."

Nicaraguans want peace, Ortega explained repeatedly. "The right to life, the right to work, the right to reconstruct our country in peace. That is all Nicaragua is asking for."

Ortega continued, "A hope for peace has arisen — the Contadora peace proposal. Nicaragua has decided to support this proposal unconditionally."

The U.S. government, however, after making statements in favor of Contadora for two years, now refuses to accept the agreement, denouncing Nicaragua's agree-

ment as a trick. Washington's refusal to accept Contadora, Ortega said, underscores the determined drive by the U.S. rulers toward deepening war in Central America.

As the Nicaraguan revolutionary government is consolidated, explained Ortega, "it shows that a democratic revolution is possible in Latin America, a nationalist revolution, a pluralist revolution is possible. And this is what concerns the North American rulers. Because they don't want changes in Central America or Latin America. They're more comfortable with dictatorships, like that in Paraguay, or that of Pinochet in Chile."

Cheers, applause greet him at Harvard mtg.

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — As Daniel Ortega appeared on the stage, the sustained chanting that had begun 15 minutes earlier broke into thunderous applause, as nearly 1,000 people greeted the Sandinista commander with a five-minute standing ovation.

The October 8 event, cosponsored by the Harvard Law School Forum and the university's Latin American Society, filled the Sanders Theater to capacity. Hundreds more listened to Ortega's speech in a nearby hall over an audio hookup.

The rhythmic chanting of "No pasaran [they shall not pass]," the slogan of embattled Nicaragua against foreign invaders, welcomed Ortega, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan United Nations diplomatic mission member Alejandro Vendana, and Rosario Murillo, who is the director of the Association of Sandinista Cultural Workers and is also married to Ortega.

Even though the event had the flavor of a militant, spirited antiwar rally, not all in attendance were partial to the Nicaraguan revolution.

As Ortega spoke, outside the hall 20 people, some of them Cuban self-exiles, chanted "Nyet Ortega" (Russian for "No to Ortega") and "Ortega is more bloodthirsty than Somoza," the hated dictator overthrown by the triumphant revolution of 1979.

And inside, Ortega was asked several hostile questions among the many put to him by the crowd.

Yet, some of those in attendance, who came not necessarily as supporters of the Sandinistas, left visibly impressed by Ortega's presentation, his answers to questions, his repeated plea for peace, and his open and relaxed manner.

Ortega called the meeting a discussion between "the Nicaraguan people and their representatives and the best representatives of the North American people, their real representatives."

To a hostile questioner of Cuban origin, who chimed in with accusations of "totalitarianism" in his former country and in

Nicaragua, Ortega urged the youth to "come to Nicaragua, to talk freely and openly to those who support and those who are against the revolution, to meet them, to ask them anything, to hear what they say, for and against the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front] and the political process. We invite you. Even in our poverty and misery, we believe we have a little more democracy and freedom than in the United States."

Introduced by noted Mexican author Carlos Fuentes, who sounded an urgent antiwar message, Ortega's speech soberly raised the question of Washington's war and its escalation in Central America. "These are the decisive hours for the future of our two countries," he said.

Nicaragua, favoring negotiations, the Contadora initiative, compromises, and all measures that can diminish tension, "needs peace," said Ortega.

But weren't there provisions in Contadora that could be used against Nicaragua? Ortega was asked from the floor. "Yes," he said firmly, "there are risks in Contadora, but Nicaragua is ready to take risks for peace."

If "the United States invades Nicaragua, there will be one Central American revolution, one rebellion," said Ortega.

North American youth, he predicted, would rebel against fighting in Nicaragua. "I know there are thousands of your youth who would prefer to fight with us, not against us," he said to a roar of cheering and applause.

The sharpest polarization in the audience broke out when Ortega charged the U.S. rulers with betraying the American revolution of 1776. "Your revolution was not made to make Washington the policeman of the world," he said. "And if we had made our revolution in 1958 or '59 and looked to the United States as a model for guidance, we would have had signs that said, 'this place for Blacks, that place for whites,' a reference to the legalized segregation of the South that existed then."

"How can the U.S. government accuse anyone of betraying democracy," asked

Ortega. As he gave his detailed answer to this question, some in the audience, stunned by his direct attack on U.S.-style apartheid, began to boo and hiss. In response, most of the crowd cheered and applauded, drowning the hecklers out.

Ortega's stated aim in his tour and speech was "to tell the truth to the North American people." But it served another purpose in the charged atmosphere of Sanders Theater: to directly inspire defenders of the Nicaraguan revolution to redouble their efforts to do the same thing in mobilizing opposition to Washington's war.

Nicaragua supporters mobilize in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Ortega was invited here October 6 and 7 by the Committee of Concern for Central America, an organization of actors and others in the entertainment industry. He appeared at a number of private dinners and meetings here, but no public gatherings were held.

Supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution did get a chance to welcome Ortega at a demonstration organized on October 7 outside of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, where Ortega spoke to a meeting sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

The demonstration was called after word leaked out that opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution were planning to picket against Ortega. With only 24 hours' notice, Central American solidarity activists were able to organize a demonstration of more than 250, which turned out to be five times as large as the one sponsored by the counterrevolutionaries.

The prorevolution demonstrators carried signs and chanted slogans supporting Ortega and the Sandinista National Liberation Front and opposing U.S. attacks on Nicaragua. When Ortega's motorcade drove up to the hotel, he received a rousing cheer from the enthusiastic crowd.

Socialist program for working farmers



Militant/John Staggs

Socialist candidates support protests like this one in Hill City, Kansas.

Continued from front page

farmers in other countries against U.S. big business. Unlike Reagan and Mondale, they call for a total withdrawal of U.S. military intervention in Central America. They oppose another Vietnam, where U.S. working-class and farm youth will serve as cannon fodder for the exploiters.

Moratorium on foreclosures

To alleviate the plight of working farmers, Mason and González demand that the government provide immediate relief by imposing a nationwide moratorium on all foreclosures, forced liquidations, or repossessions of farms.

They also call for providing government-financed crop insurance and extending Social Security to all working farmers.

The reason working farmers are behind in their loan repayments is not because they aren't good managers, but because their costs are higher than the prices they receive in a market over which they have no control. A farm program truly in the interests of working farmers must tackle this cost-price squeeze.

One way is to fight for measures that can help reduce costs. In order to curb the robbery by the banks, trusts, and big merchants, Mason and González propose that farmers establish committees that, jointly with worker organizations, will press to see all the financial and other records of the banks and big industrial and food processing corporations. The energy trusts and grain merchants should also be forced to reveal the truth about their profits, their stockpiles, and their monopoly-pricing practices.

Through their independent action, working people can police these capitalist enterprises, curbing monopoly price-fixing, hoarding, graft, and tax evasion.

At the same time, such committees can expose the big capitalists' attempt to turn workers against farmers by falsely attributing high food costs to farmers' demands for a fair price for their produce.

Here farmers' committees, along with organizations of workers, can demand that the supermarket chains, processors, and grain merchants open their books. They can show that it is the Cargills, Campbells, Land-o-Lakes, Hormels, etc., that are profiting from high food costs, not the independent producers who till the soil and raise livestock.

The struggle of farmers and workers to establish control over the working conditions, pricing policies, and credit policies of the big banks and trusts will lead to a struggle to demand that those enterprises be nationalized.

Cheap credit

Mason and González propose that instead of feeding the loan sharks with exorbitant interest payments, farmers should be guaranteed cheap credit by the government. They contend that loans should be made on the basis of need, not on whether a farmer is a "good business risk." Priority should be given to Black farmers, who have suffered years of discrimination by lending agencies, including those of the federal government.

The amount of land a farmer has should not dictate the size of the loan received. In

fact, the socialist candidates say, farmers should be guaranteed loans without having to put their land up as collateral at all. Under the present mortgage system, control over the land is transferred from the producers to parasitic money grubbers.

One of the biggest robberies of working farmers by the capitalists is the payments they must make in order to use the land they farm. The huge sum they pay to landlords and banks for rent and interest on mortgages is money that is not able to be used to help defray production costs.

Mason and González say that to end the burdens heaped on exploited farmers as a result of parasitic rents and mortgages, their land should not be subjected to leasing agreements, sharecropping arrangements, and mortgages. The producers who work the land should be guaranteed the use of it for as long as they and their heirs want to use it, without having to pay tribute for that use.

In order to end the evils of real estate speculation and stop the growing concentration of land ownership in private hands, the only land transfers permitted should be through inheritance to an heir who plans to continue farming, or sales to the state.

The effect of these measures would end

the threat of foreclosure that presently hangs over exploited farmers.

The other side of the cost-price squeeze is the low prices farmers receive.

Many protesting farmers demand 100 percent of parity. This proposal expresses the idea that the government should guarantee prices at the same ratio in relation to production costs as in years when farmers could make a living income.

Mason and González support this general approach. They call on the government to guarantee prices for working farmers so that they can meet their costs and have a decent living. They see this as an elementary right. Working farmers produce, with their own labor, socially necessary products. And they should not be deprived of their livelihood because they can't "compete" in a marketplace that is totally stacked against them.

This approach is totally different than the price support programs engineered by the Democrats and Republicans. Their programs are tilted toward subsidizing capitalist farming operations, whereas the socialist candidates say: "No subsidies to capitalist exploiters. Aid the working farmers instead."

Furthermore, the socialists oppose any subsidies for the curtailment of production, which has often been linked to Democratic and Republican price-support programs. Farmers, Mason and González contend, should be able to produce as much as they can, within the bounds of sound conservation practice, without fear of not getting an adequate price for their products.

The world has far from enough food to feed the millions of hungry and malnourished, and farmers should be encouraged to do what they do best — produce food and fibers.

Mason and González have pointed out on numerous occasions during their campaign that one only has to look to nearby Cuba to see how a government price support program can work in the interests of working farmers. The government there guarantees independent producers a market for their products at a price that will insure a living income. If in one year more of a product is produced than expected, the farmers are not victimized by falling prices. Rather they get a guaranteed price.

At the same time this "surplus," rather than being stored in government warehouses until it spoils, is put on the market, thus making more of the product available, often leading to lower prices for consumers. Both consumers and producers benefit as a result of this kind of price support program.

Union rights for farm workers

In addition to working farmers, there are several million farm workers who are exploited by capitalist farm operations. They are among the worst-off wage workers in the United States.

Mason and González demand that collective bargaining rights, presently denied most farm workers, be recognized. They call for granting all farm workers unemployment benefits when they are out of work, full medical and disability benefits, and protection against pesticides and other on-the-job hazards.

As the united struggle of farmers and workers against their exploiters develops, it will necessarily lead to the formation of a mass political party that can advance their struggles on a day-to-day basis in every arena.

Mason and González point out that the trade unions offer an organized base for constructing a labor party that can fight for the interests of all the oppressed and exploited. A labor party with class-struggle policies will win exploited farmers, many of whom will appear as candidates for the new party.

The objective of a labor party will be to lead the struggle for a workers and farmers government. Establishing their own government will give working people their strongest weapon to deal with the capitalist oppressors. A workers and farmers government will launch a struggle to expropriate the capitalist class, including confiscating all the capitalist farms and turning them into state farms.

It will chart a totally different foreign policy from that of the present capitalist government by halting wars against the oppressed around the world and using America's vast productive capacities to help combat poverty, hunger, disease, and underdevelopment.

N.Y. Black party publishes newsletter

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

"Malcolm X had a word for Black people's oppression in America," notes Ken Morgan in the first issue of the *NBIPP Newsletter*, published by the Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party.

"He called it 'Americanism,'" continued Morgan, co-chair of the Baltimore NBIPP. "It preys on Black and working people, only Black people get a double dose — racism and economic exploitation. . . . It means dying for the right to vote in the two-party system and finding out that the Democrats and Republicans are the same, just pretending to be different."

Against the perspective of reliance on capitalist politics, explains Morgan, the NBIPP argues for taking independent Black political action. Such action, says Morgan, "has been the way we have historically won gains. That means political action independent of the oppressor parties. From slave rebellion to urban rebellion, from slave slowdown to strike shutdown, Blacks have fought for the gains we have made — we didn't vote for them, we fought and died for them."

Morgan explains later that "Our challenge is to build an independent Black political movement — led by a Black party that will fight for Black interests, not those of the capitalist system responsible for our oppression. Our fight is for a new society. This is the goal of the NBIPP. It's a goal outlined in detail in our political program — the NBIPP charter."

A short excerpt from the NBIPP charter is reprinted in the *NBIPP Newsletter*. In addition, the Manhattan NBIPP has reprinted the entire charter in an attractive pamphlet.

The other article in the newsletter is by

Elombe Brath, chair of the New York Patrice Lumumba Coalition. Brath's article, "U.S. Out of Grenada Now," explains the gains and achievements of the Grenada revolution and why the U.S. government feared this revolution so much.

"October 25," notes Brath, "is the first anniversary of the United States invasion of Grenada. We should all come out and protest to demand that the U.S. occupation of Grenada must cease."

"We should be demanding the ouster of the American troops and all the puppet troops sent by other Caribbean governments. I say puppets because they are puppets of U.S. imperialism."

The Manhattan NBIPP and other groups and individuals, such as the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, are building an October 27 antiwar action in New York City. The protest demands the withdrawal of

U.S. troops from Grenada and an end to the U.S. war in Central America.

The week following the October 27 demonstration, the Manhattan NBIPP and other chapters are building a national conference of NBIPP activists and others. The gathering, which will take place November 3 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, will discuss perspectives in the fight for Black liberation today.

For more information on the conference, jointly sponsored by the Baltimore NBIPP and the Morgan State Student Government Association, call (301) 444-3454 or write NBIPP, P.O. Box 244, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

Copies of the *NBIPP Newsletter* and the party's charter can be ordered from the Manhattan NBIPP, c/o Yvette Montero, 108 West 143rd Street, Apt. 6E, New York, N.Y. 10030. The cost of the newsletter is \$.25 and the charter \$1.

N.B.I.P.P.

NEWSLETTER

National Black Independent Political Party

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NOW IS THE TIME

FOR A NATIONAL BLACK INDEPENDENT

POLITICAL PARTY!

By Ken Morgan, Co-Chair Baltimore Chapter, NBIPP
Malcolm X correctly summed up the result of the victory of "peace candidate" LBJ over the "hawk" Gold in 1964 when he said: "The only way to end the war is to end the system that makes it possible."

Manhattan NBIPP newsletter offers fighting perspective for Blacks and promotes national conference to be held in Baltimore November 3.

Support the Socialist Workers '84 Campaign!

Mel Mason for president Andrea González for vice-president



Mel Mason



Andrea González

BY LAURA GARZA

Mel Mason and Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, have been traveling around the country — and the world — telling the truth about the source of the problems facing working people today and the solutions the socialist campaign puts forward for working people to consider.

Mason and González are leading a slate of 53 local socialist candidates in 26 states, all of whom are explaining that the November elections will not put an end to the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean or solve the other problems facing unionists, family farmers, Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, women, and all working people.

The socialist candidates champion independent political struggles by the oppressed and exploited — from strikes by Arizona copper miners, Toledo auto workers, and West Virginia coal miners, to the struggles by Blacks in Miami and elsewhere against cop brutality.

War at home and abroad

How do the socialist candidates view what's going on in the world?

They say that the U.S. government is today waging a war against working people on two fronts: at home and abroad.

The government is waging this war on behalf of one class — a tiny handful of bankers and big businessmen — in order to defend the employers and increase their profits.

The center of the employers' war against working people abroad is in Central America. Washington is preparing for a major war there as it continues the fight to keep the pro-imperialist landowners and generals in power in El Salvador, and to overthrow a popular government in Nicaragua.

More U.S. military bases are being built in Honduras, which borders both El Salvador and Nicaragua. Thousands of U.S. troops are on permanent military "maneuvers" in the region. U.S. forces have been directly involved in combat on the side of the Salvadoran

army and the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

The inescapable conclusion that must be drawn from these facts is that U.S. workers and farmers will eventually be forced to kill and be killed in this escalating conflict.

Washington is also on the offensive against liberation struggles in the rest of the world — from its continued military aggression in the Mideast, to backing the racist South African regime's attacks on the oppressed Black majority there, to supporting reactionary regimes in South Korea and the Philippines.

On the domestic front, the employers, backed by their government, are using every weapon at hand to weaken — and where possible, break — our unions.

Racist attacks are also increasing. Blows to affirmative action, racist cop brutality and killings, and stepped-up harassment of undocumented workers are all carried out or condoned by the government.

Women's rights are on the chopping block as well. The right to a safe, legal abortion, already denied to impoverished women, is the focus of daily public condemnation by government spokespeople and the Catholic Church hierarchy.

Congressional Democrats and Republicans have joined together to continually cut back social programs of every kind, while they try to convince us that medical care, education, social security, decent housing, and child care are privileges rather than basic human rights.

In order to hamper the ability of working people to resist this two-front war, the government is taking steps to undermine our constitutional rights. More strikes are decreed "illegal." Cops are used to attack union picket lines. Our right to travel to and from countries like Cuba and Nicaragua is being restricted, while "anti-terrorism" laws are used to victimize critics of Washington's foreign policy.

Takeback decade

Whether it was under Carter/Mondale or Reagan/Bush, working people have suffered from a decade of takebacks and attacks by the employers and government. That's because the employers' system — the capitalist

system — is in a crisis.

Governmental power is the most important weapon that the employers have to try to make us pay for the problems their profit drive has caused. The government, which is run by both Democrats and Republicans, acts in the interests of those who control it — the capitalists.

Mel Mason and Andrea González are participating in the 1984 elections with a program and a strategy that take defense of the interests of working people as the starting point.

They have a perspective of fighting to build a new society. This perspective is an important part of our battle today. Mason and González say that working people need to replace this government with one that would represent those of us who produce society's wealth — workers and farmers. A government of workers and farmers will reorganize society to make human needs — not private profit — the national priority.

We can gain the power to accomplish this big task by organizing ourselves to fight together with all those who would benefit from replacing this system — workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, women.

By taking political power out of the hands of the ruling rich, we can replace their capitalist system with a socialist one. We can build a society where the resources and technology of this country will be put at the service of humanity around the world. It will be a society where workers and farmers will decide to make the elimination of war, hunger, and poverty all over the globe a priority — and a reality.

Two Americas

Both the Democrats and Republicans try to disguise the fact that they defend the employers' interests in this two-front war by saying they represent "all Americans." They tell us we shouldn't decide things based on our interests as workers, but rather as "Americans."

To this end, both parties held flag-waving conventions whose theme was "our" country's problems can be solved by helping "our" industry and "our" interests abroad. To do this, the message went, means upping the billion

Continued on Page 10

Support the socialist campaign!

Continued from Page 9

dollar war budget to defend "our" national security while continuing to cut away at our unions, our living standards, and our democratic rights.

Mason and González have been using their campaign to cut through this phony rhetoric about there being any common interests between U.S. workers and our bosses. They say there are two distinct Americas. One is the America of the Rockefellers, DuPonts, and Mellons, which exploits the workers of the entire hemisphere, and oppresses all of Latin America.

"Then there's our America," says Mason. "It includes the workers and farmers of both continents, and the revolutionary governments of Cuba and Nicaragua. It includes the rebels in El Salvador, and it included the revolutionary government of Grenada led by Maurice Bishop, whose overthrow was followed by the criminal U.S. invasion and occupation of that island."

International working-class solidarity

Mason and González have used their campaign to promote international working-class solidarity against the employers and their political representatives.

Mason went to Ireland in May to join protests there against Reagan's visit and to express his opposition to the British military occupation of Ireland's six northern counties.

In Britain, Mason spoke with striking coal miners and participated in protests against the deployment in Britain of U.S. nuclear missiles.

González visited the Dominican Republic in June and

spoke out against the austerity measures imposed on the Dominican workers and peasants by the Wall Street-dominated International Monetary Fund.

In Puerto Rico, Washington's colony in the Caribbean, González expressed her strong support for independence for the island. Puerto Rico provides cheap labor and a strategic military foothold for U.S. employers.

González, whose family is from Puerto Rico, has protested the U.S. grand jury witch-hunt and jailing of activists who support Puerto Rico's right to be free and independent.

Mason and González visited Canada, and the oppressed, French-speaking nation of Quebec, to learn firsthand about the problems facing working people there and to bring solidarity from U.S. workers.

Nicaragua

Both Mason and González have been to Nicaragua, a country which freed itself from a brutal tyranny and U.S. domination through a popular revolution that put in power a workers and farmers government.

Since the Sandinista government came to power five years ago in July, 1979, it has lowered unemployment, distributed land to the peasants, drastically reduced illiteracy, and taken steps to upgrade the status of women, Indians, and Blacks. All this has been done in an impoverished country under tremendous U.S. military, economic, and political pressure.

Mason and González encourage everyone to visit Nicaragua to see for themselves what's happening there.

In Cuba, the workers and farmers have held economic and political power for more than 25 years. The internationally-recognized gains since then in health care, education, the uprooting of racism, and the quality of life have made Cuba a beacon of hope for oppressed peoples everywhere.

It's these examples of what working people ourselves can do when we take over the reins of government — and not some fake Soviet military threat — that make Washington so hostile toward these two countries.

Rulers prepare for new blows

The Reagan Administration tells us that the current economic upturn proves that the austerity measures forced on us by the government and employers have worked.

Mason and González say this is a lie. The employment gains that have been made — which still leave millions in the streets — are the results of an upturn in the capitalist business cycle. No matter who had been in the White House for the last four years, there would have been such an upturn. And no matter who is elected, there will be another downturn.

During the upturn itself, however, the employers have utilized the government — which is run by both Democrats and Republicans — to accelerate their efforts to weaken our unions, to push back Blacks, Latinos, and women, to restrict our democratic rights, and to escalate the war in Central America and the Caribbean.

This cyclical upturn does not mark the beginning of the end of the problems facing working people. That's because, as far as the employers are concerned, the takeback decade was just the beginning.

The scope of U.S. military intervention in Central America today — while broad — is just the opening shot in what is shaping up to be a nationwide war. So too, the number of concessions that have been forced on the unions so far, the extent of social services that have been cut back, the amount of ground that has been lost on Black and women's equality are also only the beginning of the war here at home.

In order for the ruling class to reverse the international crisis of its system, it must cut much deeper — and it intends to. The only way it can accomplish that is by directly attacking the unions and the hard-won gains that Blacks, Latinos, and women did make in the last three decades. But our side won't give up these things without putting up a massive fight.

This means big battles are shaping up. And the ruling class is preparing for them. Central to their preparations is pushing their reactionary ideas on us, especially through the Democratic and Republican presidential election campaigns.

Reactionary ideas

Reagan/Bush and Mondale/Ferraro alike are trying to outdo each other in pushing flag-waving patriotism, chauvinism against workers from other countries who come here seeking jobs, opposition to women's right to abortion with the false cry of "murder," racist opposition to bilingual education and school desegregation through busing, and to affirmative action, and support for more "Grenada-style" invasions.

The purpose of this ideological campaign is to reverse antiwar sentiments and progressive attitudes about women and Blacks that have grown up among working people through the struggles of these oppressed groups for their rights. Every bit of progress made in reversing these attitudes makes it that much easier for the employers to divide working people, weaken us in the face of the employer offensive, and drag us into war.

Our class must prepare

How can our class best defend itself and its allies today, while preparing for what's coming down the road?

The officials of the trade unions, the leaders of organizations like the National Organization for Women, the NAACP, and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) all say that getting Reagan out of the White House and voting for Mondale and Ferraro is the most important thing we can do today.

Mason and González disagree.

It's true that Reagan is an open reactionary who is committed to using the government to drive down the rights, living standards, and expectations of U.S. workers and to give the employing class free rein to exploit the country's — and the world's — natural and human resources.

But the buck doesn't stop there. Many of these policies were begun under the Democratic Carter/Mondale administration. And it's a bipartisan Congress that has been central to helping move ahead the employers' war in Central America and at home. Mason and González say it makes no sense to depend on people like this to improve the situation of working people — even a little bit.

Continued on next page

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Background on candidates

Mel Mason

As a socialist on the city council in Seaside, California, from 1980-83, Mel Mason used his office to champion the struggles of working people, especially Blacks. He fought to gain affirmative action programs; supported unionists on strike; protested police brutality; fought for tenants' rights and against racial discrimination in housing; helped senior citizens fight rent increases; and worked for youth employment programs.

Mason, who visited Grenada in 1981 to see the gains of the revolution led by Maurice Bishop, is an outspoken opponent of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada.

Mason's 20 year history in civil rights battles includes helping to organize a caucus of Black workers in 1967 at Western Electric in Sunnyvale, California, which fought for greater hiring and promotion of Blacks, and an end to harassment of Black workers.

Mason went to Ireland and England this year and joined in protests against the stationing of cruise missiles in Europe, in support of striking coal miners, and against Britain's occupation of Northern Ireland.

Mason, 41, was born in the coal mining town of Providence, Kentucky. In 1956, his family moved from the legally-segregated South to Seaside, California, where Mason currently resides.

Andrea González

Andrea González is national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance.

González, a leader in the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, has actively opposed registration and the draft. She has participated in conferences in Nicaragua, Mexico, and in the United States, building organizations in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

González has been an active unionist in the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, and the Amalgamated Transit Union.

A Puerto Rican who advocates independence for that island, González recently visited Puerto Rico and is using her campaign to protest harassment and jailings of independence activists by the U.S. government.

This June, in Santo Domingo, González solidarized with the protests against austerity programs imposed on Dominican workers by Washington and the International Monetary Fund.

González, a 1972 graduate of Brooklyn College, participated in the battles for open admissions for Black and Latino students.

She has been active in the fight for women's rights and is a member of the National Organization for Women.

González, 33, was born and raised in New York City.

MASON FOR PRESIDENT • GONZALEZ FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

The socialist campaign platform:

No support to Washington's wars. Stop the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. End all aid to the bloody regime in El Salvador. Halt the U.S. war against Nicaragua. U.S. occupation forces out of Grenada. Dismantle the Pentagon's war machine in Honduras and Puerto Rico. Lift the blockade against Cuba.

No draft registration and no draft. Unilateral U.S. nuclear disarmament. Dismantle all U.S. military bases abroad.

Jobs for all. Shorten the workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around. With money now spent on war, launch a public works program to build hospitals, public housing, schools, roads and bridges, and child care centers. Provide jobs at union wages.

Stop union-busting. Repeal right-to-work-for-less laws and other antiunion legislation. No government interference in union affairs. Stop cop and court attacks on striking workers. For working-class solidarity against employer attacks on our unions.

For protection from inflation. Cost-of-living clauses in all union contracts. All pensions, social security benefits, unemployment and disability compensation, welfare and veterans' benefits raised to union scale and protected with cost-of-living clauses.

For free medical and dental care; for free education as basic human rights.

Stop racist attacks. For affirmative action, including quotas, in employment and education. Stop cop brutality. Desegregate the schools, including through busing. For bilingual, bicultural education. Defend voting rights. End the raids and deportations of undocumented workers.

Defend women's rights. For the right to safe, legal abortion. No forced sterilization. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Equal pay for equal work. For affirmative action. Stop sexist violence.

Halt farm foreclosures. For a moratorium on all debts. Extend low-interest credit for machinery, seed, fertilizer, and other farming necessities. Guarantee family farmers an income adequate to meet the costs of production and to sustain a decent living.

Defend democratic rights. Stop the attacks on constitutional liberties. FBI and CIA hands off union, antiwar, Black, and Puerto Rican rights activists. End the ban on travel to Cuba and harassment of visitors returning from Nicaragua. No discrimination in housing and employment against lesbians and gay men. Abolish the death penalty.

For international working-class solidarity. Support the struggles of workers and farmers abroad for a decent living, democratic rights, and national self-determination. Solidarity with the embattled workers and farmers of Nicaragua and El Salvador, who are under attack from Washington. Independence for Puerto Rico. Support striking British coal miners. Defend Irish freedom fighters. For Black majority rule in South Africa. Material aid to Vietnam and Kampuchea to help rebuild those war-torn countries.

No to protectionist schemes which falsely label fellow workers and farmers in other countries as our enemy, instead of the U.S. employing class, bankers, and Washington.

For independent working-class political action. For a labor party based upon a fighting, democratic trade-union movement to lead the political struggle 365 days a year to

defend and advance the interests of working people, family farmers, Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, immigrant workers, and women.

For a Black party that will fight for a social and economic program in the interests of the Black nationality. A Black party will be on the side of all working people.

No reliance on the Democrats and Republicans — twin parties of exploitation, war, racism, and sexism — to solve our problems for us.

Look to the power of our own class and our allies among the exploited and oppressed to further our interests through united struggle and advance toward the establishment of a workers and farmers government.

For a workers and farmers government. For a government of, by, and for working people to replace the current government which rules in the interests of those who exploit and oppress us — the capitalist class.

A workers and farmers government will promote our interests, placing human needs before profits. It will use the vast resources and technology of this country to aid in eliminating hunger, poverty, and disease all over the globe. A workers and farmers government will abolish capitalism in the United States and join the worldwide struggle for socialism.

For socialism. For a new society — a socialist society — in which all members will enjoy fully the benefits of industry and science; where exploitation, wars, racism, sexism, and all other forms of human degradation will no longer exist; where democracy, culture, human achievement, and solidarity will flourish.

The Socialist Workers Party is campaigning for this goal, which we believe to be a realistic and necessary one.

Join us in this struggle.

Support Socialist Workers campaign!

Continued from preceding page

The socialist candidates say that politics doesn't equal voting in elections. In fact, relying on elections to bring change is an obstacle to fighting the employers' attacks.

Who is elected, in fact, doesn't decide anything. What Washington will do in Central America is not governed by whether Reagan or Mondale is elected. It's determined by the need to protect the enormous economic and political interests that wealthy U.S. families have in that region; the struggles waged by the people of Latin America and other countries against those interests; and the response of U.S. working people to the escalation of U.S. intervention.

Whether Blacks move forward or are pushed backward is not determined by whether a Democrat or a Republican is in the White House. It's determined by how hard the employers' cops, courts, and legislatures push, and how Blacks and their allies respond.

And electing Mondale will do nothing to prevent the owners of General Motors from going ahead with their plans to lay off tens of thousands of auto workers.

Relying on voting is not simply ineffective. It actually hurts us. Instead of banding together and fighting for what we need, we vote for and rely on our class enemy.

That is why Mason and González disagree with Jesse Jackson and other liberals that our problems can be solved by actively supporting these parties and working within them; by simply reforming a few things but keeping the basic system intact.

No matter who joins these parties, or votes for them, or runs for office on their ticket, the Democrats and Republicans represent the bosses.

The candidacy of Geraldine Ferraro is a good illustration of this. The fact that the Democrats chose her to run for vice-president reflects the fact that women have fought for and won some important gains. But Ferraro is running to represent and administer the very system that oppresses women. She is running on the ticket of a party which supports the U.S. war in Central America, that helps bust unions, and that votes to deny government funding for abortions. That is why Mason and González say that her candidacy does not advance the fight for women's rights.

Break from capitalist politics

The socialist campaign is about making a break from capitalist politics, from the fakery of there being common interests of all "Americans" regardless of class, and from the two ruling parties.

Mason and González say working people need to march, rally, and actively protest the prowar, anti-labor, racist, and sexist policies of the employers and their government. We need to turn our unions into fighting instruments that defend our working conditions and living standards and that champion the demands of Blacks, Latinos, women, and all working people.

It is possible now, through unity, solidarity, and deter-

mined struggle, to win more than might seem possible at first glance.

To help lead these day-to-day struggles, and to chart a working-class political course, we need our own mass political party to represent us. The socialist candidates urge the formation of a labor party, based on a fighting trade union movement.

A labor party will be a party of our class that can help lead labor battles, that will champion the interests of Blacks, Latinos, and women. It will be a mass party of workers and their allies that will help lead the fight that must be waged against the new Vietnam-style war in Central America.

A mass independent Black political party will also be a tool in the fight for the interests of all working people. A party that fights to defend Blacks on the job, against police brutality, and against Washington's racist foreign policy will advance the struggles of all workers and inspire and hasten the formation of a labor party.

Mason and González are using the socialist campaign to participate in politics in a realistic way.

To oppose the U.S. war in Central America, they explain the facts about U.S. intervention and participate in actions to protest the war.

To defend our unions, they urge active solidarity with embattled workers. They oppose all anti-labor laws and legislation, including the racist Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, Roybal Bill, and all other anti-immigrant legislation.

They support abortion rights, child care, and affirmative action. They back farmers fighting against foreclosures.

They speak with fellow workers in the mines, mills, unemployment lines, factories, and at union meetings about how we can organize ourselves as part of the same class facing similar attacks as workers elsewhere.

Join the SWP! Join the YSA!

The most effective way to do this today is to join the Socialist Workers Party or the Young Socialist Alliance.

The SWP and YSA participate in struggles as they arise, always with the aim of spreading an important conviction among people: the need to chart a course toward workers and farmers taking control of this country so we can begin to deal with our problems and transform the world.

The SWP and YSA are part of the great battle going on in the world today between those who want to go forward and make changes — like in Cuba and Nicaragua — and those who want to hold off progress and maintain the status quo of hunger, oppression, exploitation, and inequality.

This battle will not be won overnight. But it has already begun and you can decide to be a part of it now.

Laura Garza is a national youth coordinator of the 1984 Socialist Workers Campaign and a National Committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Wanted

Young fighters to change the world

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) is a nationwide organization of young fighters with a political program and the determination to change the world.

We believe that the fight for justice and freedom is a worldwide struggle by working people to end war, racism, sexism, unemployment, exploitation, and the society that causes them: capitalism.

We are convinced that young people today have no future, unless we fight for a new society to meet human needs, not big business profits: socialism.

Participation in politics for us means joining in this struggle here in the U.S. where the worldwide battle for justice and freedom will ultimately be won.

We are young people — Blacks, Latinos, women, men, workers, students, and unemployed — all joined together in 45 chapters across the U.S. fighting for this common goal.

We invite you to join us in fighting for a worthwhile future. Join the YSA!

- ☐ Send me more information.
- ☐ I would like to join the YSA. Contact me.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$3.00 for six issues of the *Young Socialist*, the bimonthly YSA publication.
- ☐ Please send me a catalogue of socialist literature.
- ☐ Please send me a bundle of _____ *Young Socialists* to distribute. (45¢ each for 10 or more.)
- ☐ Enclosed is \$1.50 for the *Organizing the YSA* handbook.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

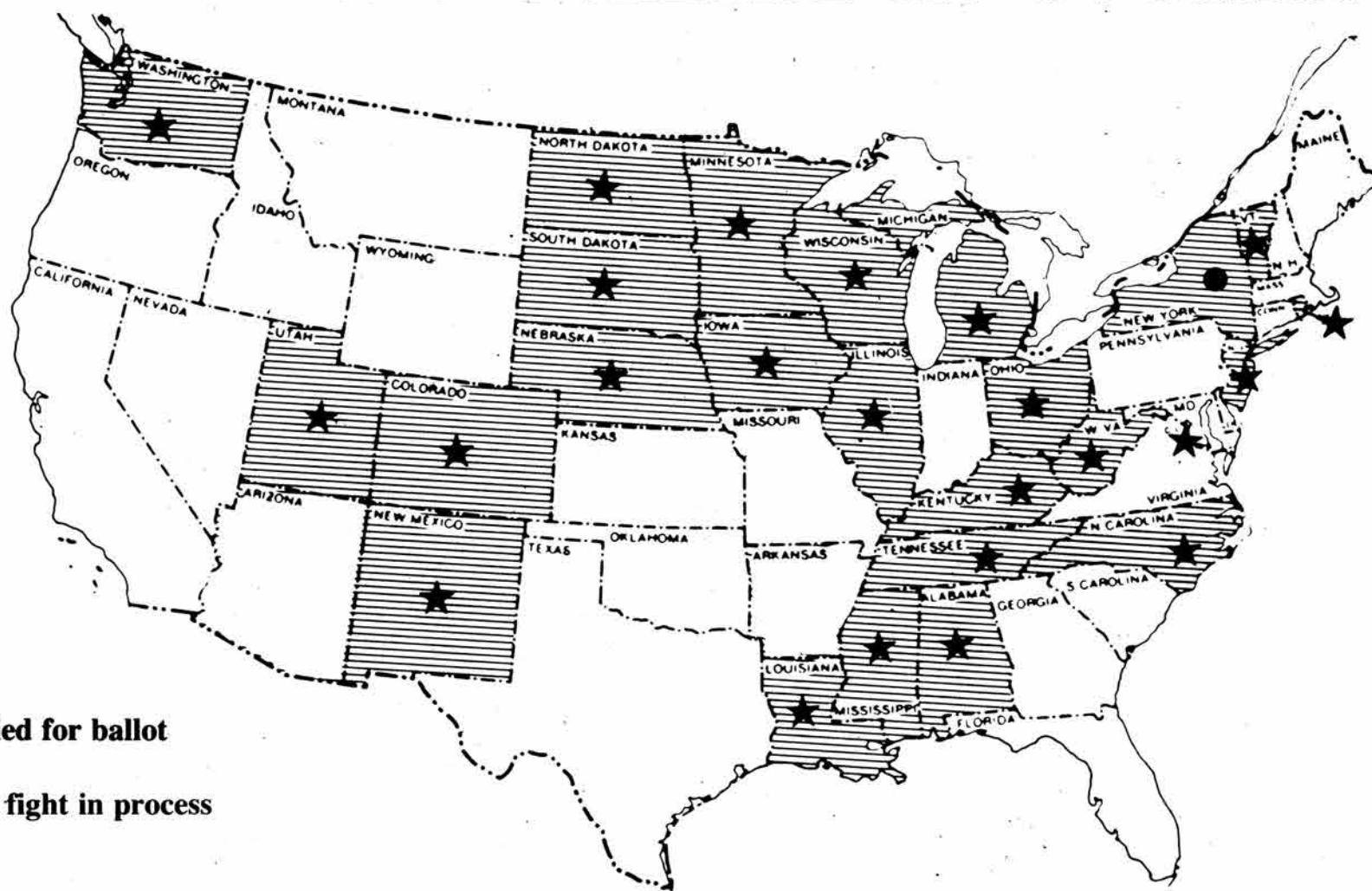
State _____ Zip _____

Union/School/Organization _____

Phone _____

Mail to: YSA, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.

Mason and González on '84 ballot



- ★ -certified for ballot
● -ballot fight in process

Supporters of Mason and González gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures to put the socialist ticket on the November election ballot in 24 states and the District of Columbia. In several states, the socialists had to wage political fights with state officials, who tried undemocratically to exclude the working-class candidates from the ballot. The broad support gathered from the labor movement; Black, Latino, and women's rights organizations; and other supporters of civil liberties forced the authorities to back down.

Socialist candidates in local races

Listed below are the candidates in the November 6 elections who are running on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, which is headed by Mel Mason and Andrea González, the presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

ALABAMA

Mark Curtis — U.S. Congress, 6th District (Birmingham)

CALIFORNIA

Ken Collins — Seaside City Council
John Harris — U.S. Congress, 10th District (San Jose)
Marilee Taylor — State Assembly, 16th District (San Francisco)
Mary Jo Vogel — U.S. Congress, 41st District (San Diego)
Mari Hawkes — U.S. Congress, 44th District (San Diego)
Miguel Zárate — U.S. Congress, 8th District (Oakland)
Silvia Zapata — U.S. Congress, 25th District (Los Angeles)
Naomi Bracey — U.S. Congress, 28th District (Los Angeles)

COLORADO

David Martin — U.S. Senate
Cathy Emminizer — U.S. Congress, 1st District (Denver)

FLORIDA

Harvey McArthur — U.S. Congress, 19th District (Miami)

GEORGIA

Sara Jean Johnston — U.S. Senate

ILLINOIS

Nelson González — U.S. Senate
Ed Warren — U.S. Congress, 1st District (Chicago)
Holly Harkness — University of Illinois, Board of Trustees (Chicago)
Rita Lee — University of Illinois, Board of Trustees (Chicago)

INDIANA

Dave Ellis — U.S. Congress, 10th District (Indianapolis)

KENTUCKY

Dave Welters — U.S. Senate
Peggy Kreiner — U.S. Congress, 3rd District (Louisville)

LOUISIANA

Derrick Morrison — U.S. Congress, 2nd District (New Orleans)

MARYLAND

Joey Rothenberg — U.S. Congress, 7th District (Baltimore)
Ted Leonard — U.S. Congress, 2nd District (Baltimore)

MASSACHUSETTS

Christine Gauvreau — U.S. Senate

MICHIGAN

Helen Meyers — U.S. Senate
Andrew Pulley — U.S. Congress, 1st District (Detroit)

MINNESOTA

Ellie Garcia — U.S. Senate
Pete Brandli — U.S. Congress, 4th District (St. Paul)

MISSOURI

Diane Shur — U.S. Congress, 5th District

NEW JERSEY

Priscilla Schenk — U.S. Senate

NEW YORK

Richard Ariza — U.S. Congress, 23rd District (Albany)
Nan Bailey — U.S. Congress, 16th District (Harlem)

NORTH CAROLINA

Kate Daher — U.S. Senate
Meryl Lynn Farber — U.S. Congress, 6th District (Piedmont)

OHIO

Kathleen Denny — U.S. Congress, 1st District (Cincinnati)
Elizabeth Lariscy — U.S. Congress, 9th District (Toledo)
Mark Friedman — State House, 45th District (Toledo)
Susan Berman — State House, 16th District (Cleveland)
Omari Musa — U.S. Congress, 21st District (Cleveland)

OREGON

Deborah Higdon — U.S. Senate

PENNSYLVANIA

Katy Karlin — U.S. Congress, 2nd District (Philadelphia)
Al Duncan — U.S. Congress, 14th District (Pittsburgh)
Clare Fraenzl — U.S. Congress, 22nd District (Pittsburgh)

TEXAS

Beverly Andolara — U.S. Senate
Steve Iverson — U.S. Congress, 24th District (Dallas)
José Alvarado — U.S. Congress, 18th District (Houston)
John Cannon — U.S. Congress, 25th District (Houston)

UTAH

Cecelia Moriarity — Governor

VIRGINIA

Eli Green — U.S. Congress, 1st District (Newport News)

WASHINGTON

Cheryll Hidalgo — Governor
Mark Manning — U.S. Congress, 7th District (Seattle)

WEST VIRGINIA

Joan Radin — U.S. Senate
Dave Ferguson — Governor

WISCONSIN

Bill Breihan — U.S. Congress, 5th District (Milwaukee)

VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE!

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\$15 for one color VHS tape which includes Mason (in English) and González (in English and Spanish).

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MASON FOR PRESIDENT • GONZALEZ FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

UFW protests growers' union-busting moves

Continued from front page

Chanting in Spanish, "Down with the growers! Up with *campesinos*!" and "Up with organized workers!" farm workers — men and women alike, many with children — expressed the power and excitement of united action.

Fight has begun

Green Valley lettuce worker José Jiménez explained, "The growers want to lower our wages. We spent a long time fighting to obtain higher salaries and better benefits. We are united. The fight has begun today with this march, and it's a fight to the finish. It's the continual fight between the workers and the bosses."

This captured the sentiment of the marchers, who showed they were prepared to fight to keep the gains won under the union contract.

Eighteen-year-old Julio Ramírez of the Colinas Grape Vineyards told the *Militant*, "They want to go back to the time when there was no union. They want to deal with contractors — who pay us low wages and no benefits, and don't treat us with respect. They fire us when they want, and we face discrimination. I feel at home in the union — like someone's there to protect me."

Women march

The women in the march — farm workers themselves — were also very militant. Mann Packing Co. broccoli and cauliflower pickers Rosario Lopez and Josefina Quesada came with five children, ranging in age from seven months to six years. "The union is a movement that has helped us a lot," they said. "With Delores Huerta

[UFW vice-president] we've gone forward."

Speaking in Spanish, they were quick to point out why they marched six miles with their children: "We teach them from an early age to join in the workers' struggles."

Teacher Mike Romero of Gonzales, California, marched with the farm workers. The Gonzales teachers have just ended a bitter two-week strike. "We're here because the same people who the farm workers have to struggle against — the growers — are the same people we teachers have to struggle against. They are people who are antiunion and who don't know how to treat people with dignity."

The United Farm Workers supported the Gonzales strikers with food and pickets. César Chávez spoke at a September 25 support rally for the teachers.

British miner joins march

Steve Shukla, a member of the British National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) who has been traveling in this country speaking about the NUM's seven-month-long strike against mine closures, made a special trip to Salinas to join the demonstration. He got a warm reception from farm workers as he made the six-mile march and again when he was introduced at the rally.

He told the *Militant* that this was the biggest demonstration he had been at in the United States. The British miners, Shukla said, are fighting the same battle in Britain as the United Farm Workers. That's why, he explained, he was there in solidarity with them.

Under a huge red and black banner that read "Viva La Causa!" César Chávez led a



United Farm Workers union is fighting for decent life, working conditions for farm workers.

spirited rally held entirely in Spanish at the end of the march.

Chávez called for unity against the growers and no concessions in UFW contracts. He explained the sacrifices and hard work it took to win the gains previous UFW contracts have provided. "We have the strike and the boycott — two arms of the same struggle — and we'll use them to go forward. We are united in brotherhood, *La Raza*, men and women together working in the fields."

Chávez called for a one-day work stoppage for October 8, the Monday following the march. He said the union should follow the lead of teachers and firefighters in using the tactic of "day of general sickness."

"The intent of the 'sickout' is to demonstrate to growers that we have support and we mean business. Workers are ready to go as far as necessary to win this fight." He hinted at a general strike of Salinas Valley farm workers. A popular chant at the march was the simple word, "*Huelga!* [Strike!]."

Teamster threat

Chávez also announced opposition to the recent attempts by the Teamsters union to organize the fields. This year, Teamster officials refused to renew a seven-year pact with the UFW in which they had pledged not to try to organize field workers the UFW is trying to organize.

In the last few weeks, the Teamsters and the UFW have filed for papers to allow them to talk to workers at several local firms. Two crucial elections between United Farm Workers, Teamsters, and "no union" at Samsel and Merrill Farms are scheduled this week. This is the first such direct face-off since 1976.

"The Teamsters are not a threat by themselves," Chávez explained, "but allied with the growers, they can be a real problem."

There is a lot of animosity toward the Teamster bureaucracy among the United Farm Workers because of the history of "sweetheart" contracts between the Teamsters and the growers to keep out the UFW. "The growers don't like us," said Chávez, "because we're Mexican. They are racists and want to treat us like agricultural implements."

Victory at McDonald's

The growers are still smarting from a UFW victory two weeks ago when the union convinced McDonald's Hamburgers to stop buying scab Red Coach lettuce. This came after a one-day picket of the fast food chain in three California cities, including a big show of force in Salinas.

The UFW has been boycotting Red Coach-label lettuce as part of a five-year-long battle with Bruce Church, the nation's second-largest lettuce producer. The Lucky Stores chain has dropped Church's Red Coach brand and now McDonald's has stopped buying shredded lettuce from a Church subsidiary.

Reports from organizers say that one factor in McDonald's quick capitulation is that the San Ysidro, California, massacre (in which 21 people, mostly Mexican and Chicano, were killed by a racist gunman) is still fresh in their memory. McDonald's feared the possible damage of a national

UFW boycott — especially in Latino communities.

Church has retaliated by going on a public media campaign to chastize McDonald's for giving in to the UFW demands. They have issued a bumper sticker that reads, "Chávez waves red flags. McDonald's waves white flags."

'Sí, se puede!'

It is clear from recent events that the ranks of the UFW are willing to mobilize to defend their union. Bigger battles lie ahead, but using the battle cry of their struggle of the late 1960s and early '70s, "*sí, se puede!* [we can do it!]," the United Farm Workers members are showing their willingness to fight this next wave of farm worker struggles.

* * *

Reports from the Salinas Valley testify that the UFW's October 8 "sickout" in the fields was another show of strength by the union. A UFW spokesman told the *Militant* that at the 14 farms where UFW contracts have just expired, the work stoppage was 100 percent successful. Some 1,500 other farm workers who are not under union contract also went out in solidarity.

In some cases UFW activists visited the fields carrying the union's black and red flags to encourage workers to join the walkout. Other workers report UFW flags and picket lines on major highways in the valley. Lawyers for the growers confirmed that many crews did not report for work October 8.

Socialist candidate Ken Collins supports United Farm Workers

SALINAS, Calif. — Ken Collins, a young Black rights fighter and candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for Seaside, California, City Council, marched with supporters October 7 under a banner expressing solidarity with the United Farm Workers.

Collins has a history of fighting in union struggles, first as a picket captain and union builder in the Monterey Peninsula Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union and now as a member of the Millwrights and Machine Erectors Local 102. This local is also fighting wage and benefit cuts and speedup.

At a campaign barbecue the evening before the UFW march, farm workers from Salinas and Watsonville, as well as Seaside residents, had a lively, bilingual discussion with Collins. They talked about the importance of this farm workers struggle in the fields and its link to struggles of Blacks and other workers around the world.

He and supporters from San Francisco, San Jose, and Seaside participated in the march and rally, passing out a campaign statement from Collins and SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González. The socialist candidates saluted the farm workers march and offered their unequivocal support for *La Causa*.

Socialist campaigners sold 75 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language campaign paper.

U.S. bars apartheid foes

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

South African cops arrested three anti-apartheid activists October 6 just after they left the British consulate in Durban. The three were among the six leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) who sought sanctuary September 13 in the British government office after South African officials tried to detain them without charge or trial.

The October 6 arrests came two days after the U.S. government refused to give the six activists refuge in the United States. Since the British government demanded that the UDF leaders leave its consulate, the activists appealed to the U.S., French, West German, and Dutch consulates for "sanctuary and every possible assistance."

In a letter to the lawyers for the UDF leaders, U.S. ambassador to South Africa Herman Nickel said the U.S. government granted temporary refuge "in the exceptional cases of imminent bodily harm to the visitor."



U.S. backs racist, repressive South African regime.

"This is not, in our judgment, the position in which your clients find themselves," said Nickel.

The UDF leaders called the U.S. response "a disgrace to the American people" and said the U.S. government "was incapable of responding to a genuinely humanitarian need for sanctuary. As far as we are concerned, the policies of the U.S. government are reprehensible and are in keeping with its extensive support for tyrannical regimes throughout the world."

The UDF activists said that the three anti-apartheid fighters remaining in the British consulate would stay there to expose the British government's "dismal failure to act against the South African government."

On October 8 the British government told the three UDF leaders to leave its Durban consulate. "We have explained to the men," said a spokesman for the British Foreign Office in London, "that the British government believes that all that could be reasonably done has been done, and we cannot countenance an indefinite stay, which is already disrupting the work of the consulate."

This show of support for the South African apartheid regime came after the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg dismissed appeals against the detention without trial of the six UDF activists. South African cops arrested the six and many other anti-apartheid fighters in August, during parliamentary elections that excluded the country's 24 million Africans and gave only token representation to Indians and Coloureds (those of mixed heritage), who all make up South Africa's Black population.

The UDF, a coalition of trade unions, women's groups, church organizations, and student and community activists, urged a boycott of the sham elections. The overwhelming majority of Indians and Coloureds refused to cast votes, helping to expose the electoral farce. South African government officials hoped that the repressive moves against the UDF and other activists would break the boycott drive.

But the UDF and the election boycott are simply expressions of a much deeper rejection of apartheid by South African Blacks. No amount of repression can ever stop the Black majority from continuing its fight for national liberation.

USWA convention offers no solution to the crisis facing steelworkers

BY RICH STUART

CLEVELAND — More than 3,000 United Steelworkers of America (USWA) delegates met here September 24-29 in the union's 22nd Constitutional Convention. It took place as steelworkers continue to face a relentless assault on their jobs and living standards by the steel bosses and government.

In the last four years, the USWA's working membership has declined by more than 400,000, to 740,000. It peaked at 1.4 million in the 1970s.

Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost as widespread plant closings have rocked basic steel and other components of the steel industry. In the USWA's Cleveland district alone, 55 plants have closed in the last four years, throwing 20,000 members out of work. As the convention met, LTV Steel Co. announced shut-down plans in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, laying off 360 workers.

The union is currently involved in 42 strikes. Most prominent at the convention were the copper miners strike in Arizona and Texas, the strike at Danly Machine Co. in Cicero, Illinois, and a strike at the Hess Oil refinery in St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

'Vote and organize'

The official convention theme was "Vote and Organize for the Future." In his keynote speech, USWA Pres. Lynn Williams called on USWA members to vote for Democrats Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro who, he claimed, "stand squarely behind America and all workers." "The election of Fritz Mondale and Gerry Ferraro will do more for our future," said Williams, "than any other single action."

Williams, a Canadian, pointed to the gains made by the Canadian New Democratic Party (NDP) in the recent elections there as an example of effective political action in Canada. Williams didn't explain that the NDP, unlike the Democratic Party, is a labor party based primarily on the USWA and other unions in Canada, despite its procapitalist political program.

Imports quota

Another major theme of the convention focused on the USWA officialdom's long-standing, reactionary, and ineffective campaign against steel imports. Williams and others blamed Reagan for not acting to stop them.

The week before the convention, Reagan rejected mandatory quotas on steel imports. He announced instead a system of proposed "voluntary" restraints on countries exporting steel to the United States.

Williams repeated charges that steel imports led to the loss of 100,000 U.S. jobs. He called for a five-year quota limiting steel imports to 15 percent of the U.S. market.

This has been the widely sounded theme of the USWA bureaucracy for many years. It has misled workers about the real causes of unemployment — the profit system — and has done nothing to defend steelworkers from the continuing scourge of shutdowns and layoffs.

In discussion from the floor a delegate from USWA Local 1005 in Hamilton, Ontario, questioned Williams' statistics and expressed the concerns of the Canadian USWA members about the impact that the plan to "protect" U.S. jobs would have on Canadian steelworkers. Canada exports steel to the United States.

Virtually the entire Local 1005 delegation and many other Canadian delegates voted against the resolution. However, no clear alternative perspective was put forward to explain that the campaign for import restrictions will not save jobs and diverts the union from a real fight against unemployment.

Much of the discussion on imports at the convention was cloaked in patriotic, pro-U.S. language about protecting "our" steel industry from "foreign" steel.

The danger of this chauvinist, USA-first theme was illustrated in a resolution on "World Affairs" passed by the convention. It sided with the U.S. government's argu-

ment that the source of war in the world today is "Soviet-Cuban expansionism." The resolution attacked the Sandinista government of Nicaragua while praising the dictatorship in El Salvador.

Like the imports discussion, this resolution presented the idea that the interests of U.S. workers are the same as those of the steel bosses and that both have the same "foreign" enemies.

Opposition to Salvador war

Joe Lindenmuth, president of USWA Local 2265 in Cleveland, argued, "If we adopt this resolution, we're almost adopting the line of Reagan." Lindenmuth spoke against U.S. aid to El Salvador in any form and said, "When American workers fight in Morenci we applaud that, and when South African workers fight apartheid we applaud that too, but when Central American workers fight against their dictatorships backed by 400 American multinationals, the same ones we're fighting at home, we along with Reagan yell, 'the commies are coming.' But we should support the fight of Central American workers too."

During the convention week, 115 steelworkers attended a slideshow entitled "A Steelworker's View of Nicaragua." They heard an eyewitness account of life in revolutionary Nicaragua based on a visit made by a Baltimore USWA member.

Another example of the danger of the chauvinist theme was a "National Legislative Policy" resolution, which, in part, called for "legislation to assure that the flow of future undocumented aliens be stopped, present alien residents be legalized, employer penalties be instituted, a more responsive refugee program be established and the bracero program not be reinstated."

Héctor Marroquín, an undocumented worker from Mexico seeking the right to live and work in the U.S., attended the convention and explained in discussions with delegates that undocumented workers are not the cause of unemployment among U.S.-born workers.

Marroquín called for solidarity among workers of all countries and warned against falling into the trap of U.S. chauvinism that labels foreign-born workers the enemy.

'Forging a Future'

Much attention was given to the Committee on Future Directions of the Union's report titled, "Forging a Future," which purported to lay out a long-term strategy for the USWA's growth and survival.

The report proposed better use of new technologies for communication and political action, better organization of local unions, more aggressive efforts by the USWA to seek mergers with other unions, and more diverse organizing efforts to include industries outside the traditional steel base of the USWA, especially industries that include large numbers of women workers.

Part of the projected expanded organizing includes the Caribbean, where the USWA already represents some workers in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, St. Christopher-Nevis, and other places.

Today less than 30 percent of the 740,000 working USWA members are employed in the steel industry. However, little attention was paid to the task of organizing the many thousands of nonunion steel workers, including those who work in "mini mills" which have taken over a growing share of the domestic steel market.

Similarly, no effective strategy was mapped out for taking on the escalating employer strike-breaking and union-busting that has hit the USWA hard during the past two years. Instead, another report outlined the USWA leadership's plans for more "corporate campaigns," to deal with the companies' more and more frequent use of "strike replacements, hired gun-toting guards, police interference and other strikebreaking measures."

The corporate campaign strategy involves going to banks and stockholders that



Delegates at USWA convention. Steelworkers need to fight against the deepening bosses' assault on their union, jobs, and living standards. But USWA officials reaffirmed dead-end policy of support to Democratic Party.

have investments in struck companies and trying to convince them to influence the company to treat the workers' demands more seriously and to bargain in good faith with the union.

This tactic is being used by the USWA leadership in the Phelps Dodge copper strike and the Danly Machine Co. strike.

Both Phelps Dodge and Danly have used violent police attacks and scabs in their union-busting assault. The copper miners have been on strike for 15 months and face a decertification election this month. The Danly strikers are holding their own after five months on strike and are focusing their efforts on winning solidarity from other unions and working people in the Chicago area.

Angel Rodríguez, president of striking USWA Local 616 in Morenci, Arizona, spoke to the convention and gave a moving account of the courageous struggle of the copper miners, appealing to the delegates for support.

Lonnie James, president of the striking oil workers at Hess Oil also appealed for solidarity for all steelworkers on strike.

Following these remarks, Lynn Williams passed the hat for the copper miners and the Hess Oil and Danly strikers.

A resolution on these strikes was approved that ended with the words, "Every member of our union is on every picket line."

Words or deeds

"All I see in this resolution is words," said Ron Weisen, president of USWA Local 1397 in Homestead, Pennsylvania. "I walked the picket line down there in

Arizona. We can spend \$200,000 at the Democratic National Convention. We can spend \$50,000 at the Republican Convention. We can spend \$800,000 in Washington, D.C., on your [Williams'] swearing-in ceremony. I think what we have to do with that money is mobilize the unemployed steelworkers and employed steelworkers and start marching on these corporations. It is about time we stopped shaking hands with management and start shaking our fist at them."

Weisen opposed Williams in the special election held earlier this year that was called to fill the vacancy left when previous USWA president Lloyd McBride died.

Divisions in bureaucracy

Williams' candidacy was also opposed by USWA International Treasurer Frank McKee in a bitter campaign marked by McKee's attacks on Williams' Canadian citizenship. McKee continued his chauvinist campaign against Williams at the USWA convention.

McKee supporters distributed a letter from McKee to the delegates implying that McKee should be the USWA president since he won the votes of a majority of U.S. USWA members.

In a move designed to avoid another special election like the one after McBride's death, a constitutional amendment was passed that allows the International Executive Board to appoint a successor to any international officer, district director, or Canadian director who doesn't complete their term of office.

A number of delegates spoke against this

Continued on next page

Socialist campaign at convention

CLEVELAND — Steelworkers who are also supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president found interest in the ideas of the socialist campaign on the part of United Steelworkers delegates.

Several of the Mason-González supporters in attendance are also SWP candidates for local office.

These included Joey Rothenberg (Congress, 1st C.D. Baltimore), Nelson González (U.S. Senate, Illinois), and Eli Green (Congress, 1st C.D. Newport News, Virginia). Joining them was Susan Berman, SWP candidate for Ohio State House District 16 from Cleveland.

Delegates at the convention bought more than 50 copies of the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*. Hundreds of copies of Mason-González literature were distributed.

Joining the discussion on imports, the socialists explained that the perspective of uniting with the steel bosses against imports does not create a single job but instead disarms workers by undercutting the needed alliance between workers of the world.

The socialists pointed out that the very purpose of unions is to overcome competition between workers in order to more effectively unify them against the bosses. But joining with the bosses' anti-import drive only increases the competition between workers.

The socialist steelworkers also explained that joining in the anti-imports drive is another concession to the companies by the unions since the drive is based on putting the companies' profits before the needs of the workers. This same argument has been used for years to drive down workers' wages and increase unemployment.

Mel Mason and Andrea González are using their campaign to point out that the anti-imports campaign leads to super-nationalist "Americanism" that plays into the hands of the U.S. government's wars against workers and peasants in Central America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere. Rejecting this U.S. chauvinism is a necessary step toward building an effective working-class opposition to Washington's wars based on solidarity among all working people.

— R.S.

L.A. garment boss closes shop after year-long strike

BY SETH GALINSKY

LOS ANGELES — On August 10, 1983, 150 workers at Southern California Davis Pleating and Button Co. were forced out on strike. The owners of Davis Pleating had demanded a 40 percent cut in pay, deletion of cost of living allowances, the end of seniority rights, the right to contract out all work, the end of pension plan payments, a reduction of two weeks vacation and four holidays a year, and the resumption of the right to compulsory overtime. The workers had no choice but to reject these demands. (The average wage of the workers was \$4 an hour. To have accepted the wage cut would have brought many of the workers down to minimum wage.)

Company official Gene Davis claimed the cuts were necessary to remain competitive. But in fact Davis and his partner paid themselves a half million dollars in salary the previous year — not to mention the company profits and fringe benefits.

Davis immediately hired scabs and professional strikebreakers to try to crush the strike.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) responded by setting up picket lines around firms that did business with Davis, convincing them to send their work elsewhere.

The union organized several rallies at the plant to try to seek allies for the strike. The strikers and supporters wore red and black, "the color of strike in Mexico" in the words of one striker. One of the more popular chants at these demonstrations was, "The workers united will never be defeated," along with "Down with the bosses, up with the workers."

The union consciously sought allies in this battle. The strikers organized a contingent that participated in the November 12, 1983, demonstration of 5,000 people held in Los Angeles to oppose the U.S. war in Central America.

One of the rallies at the Davis factory was cosponsored by the Coalition Against Plant Closings. At a picnic to raise funds for the strikers, Chilitic Itac, a popular musical group in the Salvadoran community, played songs in support of the struggle of Central American workers.

When the company challenged the workers' right to receive unemployment benefits, the union decided that the workers should volunteer to return to work. The company rejected most workers' requests to return, thus clearing the way for them to collect unemployment benefits while walking the picket line. Those that were al-

lowed to return to work were able to keep an eye on who was doing business with the company and aid in the boycott operations of the union. (Davis Pleating for the most part doesn't make the finished garment. Other firms send them garments in different stages of construction to have various operations performed, like pleating. The garment is then sent back to be finished.)

During the course of the year-long strike, the union sent letters to over 1,000 manufacturers, some as far away as Texas, demanding that they stop sending work to Davis. The ILGWU picketed several companies that initially did not comply.

Miguel Machuca, director of organizing for the Western Region of the ILGWU, asserted that as a result of the boycott, Davis lost over 80 percent of its work. Machuca stated repeatedly during the strike, "There are only two choices for the company, either they sign a contract or we will force them out of business."

On August 10, 1984, Machuca announced at a plant-gate rally attended by some 80-100 supporters and strikers that Southern Cal Davis was shutting its doors on September 1. Charles Goldstein, a lawyer who represents the company, would not comment on Machuca's statement, but he confirmed that the company had agreed to pay \$600,000 into the ILGWU's pension fund in New York to satisfy its responsibilities under the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

According to the *LA Times*, such a large lump-sum payment is a clear indication that the company is near closure.

While winning a contract would have been the best for the workers, it's better to force a garment shop out of business than allow it to continue to operate with scab labor. Forcing nonunion or scab shops out of business has been a tradition in the garment industry when the union has been strong. The attitude is if they can't pay union wages, then they shouldn't be in business in the first place.

Los Angeles has over 3,000 contract shops, several hundred manufacturers, and some 100,000 garment workers. Probably less than 4 percent are in the union. In the future battles to unionize the nonunion workers and prevent the union from destruction, many shops will probably be forced out of business.

Most of the Davis strikers have already found other jobs in the garment industry, some in union shops where they hope to advance the consciousness of their co-



Militant/Lynn Allen

One of several demonstrations by Davis Pleating strikers during walkout

workers with what they've learned through this strike. Some work in nonunion shops that the ILGWU hopes to organize in the future.

The militancy and determination of the Davis Pleating strikers should serve as an inspiration to other garment workers in Los Angeles. They showed that the ILGWU is capable of putting up a good fight to defend the rights of its members. They sent a message to other garment manufacturers who are considering taking advantage of the union's weak position in the industry: "Either continue dealing with the union or we have the power to put you out of business."

To honor the end of the year-long strike, the ILGWU put out a poster. It says: Southern Cal Davis Pleating on strike. August 10, 1983 to August 10, 1984.

During our year on strike
We struggled together
in hot and cold weather
through rainy days and spring

To workers everywhere
let's continue to struggle
so that our children enjoy
years of never ending spring.

Seth Galinsky is a member of ILGWU Local 482 in Los Angeles.

S.F. restaurant strike gets support

BY GALO QUEZADA

SAN FRANCISCO — The mostly Latino workers at Bruno's Restaurant in this city have been forced out on strike along with hundreds of their brothers and sisters in Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union. The bosses and the Golden Gate Restaurant Association are pushing to make drastic cuts in their benefits and rights on the job.

On September 26, a militant, noisy picket line of some 150 people paraded in front of Bruno's in the heart of the Mission barrio to say *no* to cuts in medical plans and pensions, *no* to reduced working hours and split shifts, *no* to elimination of seniority rights and job security. The Local 2 strikers were joined by members of the Service Employees International Union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, (ILGWU), the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, the Moulders Union, and by César Chávez, president of the United Farm Workers (UFW) union. Community groups and political organizations, including Father Rosalío Guerra from Mission Dolores Church and the Raza Labor Network, as well as Marilee Taylor, Socialist Workers candidate for the 16th State Assembly District, also came to show solidarity.

A speech by César Chávez was the highlight of the brief but spirited rally held at noon in front of the restaurant. Chávez, introduced to the crowd by Local 2 Pres. Charles Lamb, was met with chants of *Huelga! Huelga!* (Strike! Strike!) He explained that the Executive Board of the UFW had voted to send him to give the

Local 2 strikers the UFW's support. Speaking for the most part in Spanish, Chávez pointed out that "the restaurants were built with the labor of working people, men and women," and that when the bosses face the workers' resistance to their attacks and cutbacks they call the *migra*, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), to break strikes. "Down with *la migra!*" Chavez shouted, and the chant was taken up by the picketers.

The farm workers' leader ended his talk by underlining the solidarity between restaurant workers and the farm workers who produce food for the restaurants' tables. "Don't let up, continue your strike, because that's how you'll win!" he said.

A group of Mexican women on strike since July 5 against the Mission Foods tortilla factory in Richmond, California, were also on the picket line. They are also members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, Local 28. They passed out informational leaflets on their strike and announced that César Chávez would visit their picket line that same afternoon.

Marilee Taylor's socialist campaign was well received by the strikers. As a member of the ILGWU Local 101, Taylor was able to discuss with the Latino restaurant workers how the outcome of their strike would affect garment workers, and how the INS is used to attack workers and unions. Campaign supporters passed out dozens of leaflets with the socialist platform and sold several copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

USWA convention offers no solutions

Continued from preceding page

resolution as a move against the union membership's right to elect its own officers. The resolution passed over significant opposition.

Among the guest speakers to appear before the convention was Bill Sirs, head of the British Iron and Steel Trades Confederation — the British steel union. Neither Sirs nor Williams in introducing him mentioned the bitter seven-month strike being waged by British coal miners. Sirs has opposed the miners strike, which is being conducted to stop mine closures.

Although a routine civil rights resolution was passed by the convention, there was little discussion of issues facing Black and Latino steelworkers.

A special meeting held for women steelworkers at the convention was attended by about 50 women. Top union officials used the meeting, the first such officially sponsored women's meeting at a USWA convention, to urge women to vote for Mondale and Ferraro.

But women at the meeting wanted to hear some discussion on real issues facing women steelworkers, like sexual harassment and discrimination on the job. Women have been especially hard hit by

the massive layoffs in steel.

Women make up only 6 percent of the USWA membership today. The resolution on women's rights passed by the convention did not address the question of discriminatory layoffs that hit the last hired hardest — mostly women, Blacks, and Latinos.

Despite the media attention and the publicity given to the USWA officials' seemingly optimistic plans for the future of the union the proposals presented to the delegates did not represent any significant change in the strategy of cooperation with the employers and government that the union has followed in the past.

Continued reliance on the Democratic and Republican parties, and a continued alliance with the steel bosses against imported steel, remain the pillars of the officials' USWA perspective. This has failed to halt the massive loss of union membership and the offensive by companies like Phelps Dodge and Danly Machine against steelworkers.

Regardless of the outcome of the November elections, this offensive will continue hand-in-hand with the U.S. war in Central America. This will continue to pose big challenges to the ranks of the USWA.

African leader speaks in Harlem

Continued from back page

kinabé people, and the government's joint military maneuvers with Ghana last year. The maneuvers, explained Sankara, were designed to "show imperialism what the Ghanaian and Burkinabé revolutions are capable of doing."

"For the next maneuvers," he added, "there must be warriors from Harlem participating."

Sankara reaffirmed his government's anti-imperialist stance in his speech before the UN General Assembly. He told the UN delegates that "I also feel close to the comrades of Nicaragua, whose ports are being

mined and cities bombed, but who are, nevertheless, standing up." Sankara said he supports the Nicaraguan peace proposal to the United States, which calls for an end to the U.S.-backed war against the Central American country.

"We would like to see peace in Nicaragua on October 15 and after," said Sankara, alluding to the date that the Nicaraguan government warns the U.S. plans a major escalation of its war.

Sankara said the CNR stands with all those in Latin America fighting against imperialism and condemns the foreign aggression against Grenada.

Bankers, government drive Black farmers off land

My Uncle Bud works a farm just outside Marion Junction, Alabama. He used to drive a tractor-trailer for extra cash. But since a heifer kicked one of his knees, Uncle Bud hasn't been able to do that anymore.

Uncle Bud is 73-years-old and part of a dying breed — not because he's old, but because of capitalist greed.

Black farmers are being driven off their land.

Blacks, kidnapped from Africa, worked the land here as chattel slaves. We continued to work the land following the Civil war, which buried the "peculiar institution."



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

Black agricultural labor was barely distinguishable from peonage, with sharecropping and tenant farming predominating.

Getting land following the Civil War required a fight. The amount we got reached a peak in 1910 when Blacks had equity in 15 million acres of land. Blacks operated some 890,000 farms at that time.

By 1940, however, there were only 680,000 Black family farms on 12 million acres. And, by 1982, the agricultural census showed that only 54,000 Black farmers remained. These farmers only have access to about 4.7 million acres.

Black farmers, like other working farmers, are exploited by the big capitalists, who give them little for their produce and demand a pound of flesh for loans. Squeezed between these low prices and high debts, many family farmers have been forced to sell their farms.

Mechanization of cotton production was a major factor in forcing Black farmers off the land. Black farmers found they either lacked the money to buy the new mechanical harvesting equipment or their plots were too small to warrant the use of the tools.

But Black farmers also face racial discrimination. Government farm programs discriminate against Blacks. Banks refuse to give Black farmers much-needed loans.

As a result, U.S. employers are crushing Black working farmers out of existence at a faster rate than their white counterparts.

Between 1970-80, the Black farm population declined 65 percent against a 22 percent drop among whites. Since 1920 Blacks have lost 94 percent of the farms we owned. Whites have lost 56.4 percent.

Racist discrimination against Black farmers is also reflected in the income differential between Black and white farmers. The Black family farm median income is \$7,584, and that of a white family farm stands at \$17,323.

The plight of Black farmers is one of the questions taken up in the charter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), a revolutionary program that should be studied by all working people.

"We believe," states the NBIPP charter, "that Black people have the right to land ownership and should be protected against massive and unscrupulous land seizures as have occurred over the past twenty and more years."

The charter explains that Black land "has been stolen through foreclosures and refusal to make loans to help make the land productive; also, the concentration of land in the hands of multinational agri-businesses significantly contributes to hunger and malnutrition among Black people through monopolization and price manipulation."

The NBIPP demands "The immediate cessation of the seizure of Black-owned land" and "The implementation of a radical reform program to meet the social needs of Black farmers and rural dwellers, so that they may retain their land as individual owners and/or as members of farmer cooperatives and to maintain a decent standard of living."

As with all of the NBIPP charter's specific proposals, the demands regarding Black farmers are placed in an anticapitalist framework. The NBIPP program explains that "The society in which we live has systematically deprived the masses of our people of access to fundamental goods and services and has denied us political and social equality, as well as the right to self-determination. The twin evils of racism and capitalism (gross economic exploitation for profit) combined to force Black people to eke out a miserable, degrading, unproductive, and second-class existence in the United States."

"We believe that putting an end to this situation is achievable, but will require a fundamental, qualitative,



Black farmers are being driven from their farms

and radical restructuring of the present socio-economic order."

Such a social revolution — led by Blacks and other workers — will be necessary to end the exploitation of working people. It will usher in the day when farmers such as my Uncle Bud can do what they love most — farm.

Salvadoran regime says it will free union leaders

Continued from back page

Nicaragua. There, there is real trade union freedom, real unions, higher wages, better living conditions. In Honduras, it is a fact I felt everywhere, the government's guns are trained on the people."

Introduced from the floor was Sonia Cano, a top official of the Centers of Popular Culture in Nicaragua and a leader of the union representing government workers in the Ministry of Culture. Cano was on tour in Boston at the same time.

"I salute your efforts," she said, "to support our rights and our revolution."

The audience, composed mostly of local union officials, warmly applauded all the speakers, and Recinos, Acosta, and Cano were surrounded by many of them and offered handshakes and personal messages of solidarity.

A week prior, top AFL-CIO leader

Casa Nicaragua urges emergency peace vigil in New York City

NEW YORK — Casa Nicaragua, a Nicaraguan cultural and information center in New York, is calling on all opponents of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua to join with them in a peace vigil Saturday, October 13. The vigil is a response to Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega's October 2 warnings to the U.N. on the offensive planned by the United States and its mercenary forces. It will begin at 2:30 p.m. with a brief rally at the statue of Simón Bolívar in Central Park and then march to the Times Square Recruiting Center. There, in addition to cultural presentations, a candlelight vigil and procession will take place.

The emergency activity is also seen as a way to mobilize participation in the October 27 demonstration protesting the U.S. government's occupation of Grenada.

For further information on the October 13 peace vigil, please call Casa Nicaragua, (212) 696-4792.

Thomas Doherty, head of the CIA-connected American Institute of Free Labor Development, journeyed to Boston to try to convince several local endorsers of the Massachusetts Labor Committee to withdraw their support from the group.

He failed.

Likewise, state AFL-CIO president Arthur Osborne slighted the committee's effort in a statement to the *Boston Globe*. "We should be focusing our energies on trying to elect Mondale and Ferraro. Any

other exercise at this time won't enhance our opportunity to achieve that goal."

But top local AFL-CIO efforts to belittle the Labor Committee and shunt aside its meeting didn't deter many local delegates from coming to the meeting. Many stood throughout the presentations to hear the program, filling the room and turning out in larger numbers than organizers predicted.

One indignant delegate, an official in his late 50s, complained loud enough for any-

one to hear that Recinos should have been heard by the entire convention, a sentiment shared by many delegates.

Opportunities indicated by this event show that more than a few locals might have a chance to hear Recinos, if unionists take up the cause of freeing his trade-union-leader father. For more information contact: National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, 15 Union Square, New York, New York 10003, (212) 242-0700.

AIM leader Dennis Banks given jail term

American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Dennis Banks was sentenced on October 8 to serve three years in prison by a circuit judge in Custer, South Dakota.

Banks was sentenced on a charge of rioting with a dangerous weapon and assault with a weapon without intent to kill. He was framed up and convicted of the charges in 1973. The charges resulted from a confrontation between South Dakota authorities and AIM activists who were demanding justice in the racist murder of John Wesley Bad Heart Bull, an Indian.

Banks' trial was a travesty. For example, relatives of the man who killed Bad Heart Bull served on the jury that convicted Banks.

Rightly fearing for his life in the South Dakota prisons where prison guards boasted that he wouldn't last 20 minutes, Banks fled South Dakota in 1975 before sentencing. He lived in California until Governor George Deukmejian ended the previous policy of refusing extradition. Banks then fled and found sanctuary on the Onandaga Indian reservation in Syracuse, New York. The FBI vowed to extradite him the minute he stepped foot off the reservation.

On September 13, Banks surrendered to authorities in Rapid City, South Dakota.

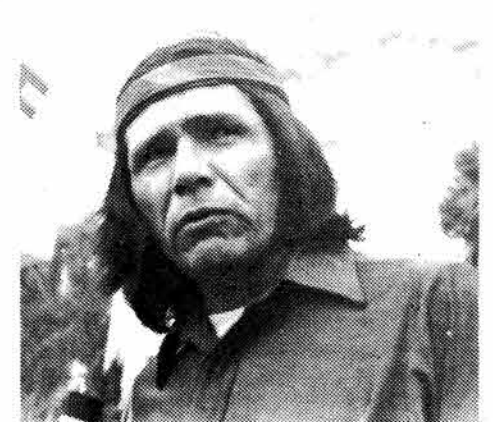
Banks said he wanted to be free as soon as possible to help Indians work against racism and discrimination. "I don't know if

you can feel discrimination," he told the judge. "I don't know if you can feel racism, but I do."

Russell Means, one of the leaders of AIM, appeared as a character witness on Banks' behalf, as did Nellie Red Owl, a 77-year-old Indian woman from Batesville, South Dakota.

Among those who sent messages on behalf of Banks were César Chávez, president of the United Farm Workers of America; Harry Belafonte, entertainer and civil rights activist; and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

William Kunstler, Banks' lawyer, announced that he would appeal the conviction and sentencing to the South Dakota Supreme Court.



Militant/Arnold Weissberg
Indian leader Dennis Banks in 1976

All out for Oct. 27 antiwar march

Continued from front page

Williams. Williams is the former representative of Grenada to the Organization of American States and currently represents the U.S. Grenada Foundation.

Also addressing the rally will be representatives of Nicaragua and the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. The program will have a speaker representing the Guatemalan liberation movement. The Reverend Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord Church

in Brooklyn and the National Black United Front is also slated to speak. Wilma Revelón, noted Puerto Rican independence fighter and director of the Office on Information for Puerto Rican Independence, will be among those chairing the rally.

Cultural presentations by Latino, Caribbean, and Black performers will round out the day.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact: October 25 Coalition, 451 A Nosstrand Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11216; or call (718) 638-0811.

CALIFORNIA

San Jose

U.S. Out of Grenada and Central America! Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; John Harris, SWP candidate for Congress, 10th C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 21. Reception, 5:30 p.m.; Program, 7 p.m. 461/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: 1984 Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO

Denver

Mason: Fight for a Government That Will Free the World, Not Enslave It. Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Kiko Martinez, Chicano activist. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 19. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 126 W 12th Ave. Donation: \$4. Ausp: Colorado Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (303) 534-8954.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Defend Abortion!: A Woman's Right to Choose. Sun., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Eyewitness Accounts of Revolutionary Nicaragua Today. Speakers: Rev. J. Paul O'Brien, S.J.; Mike King, Vietnam veteran and antiwar activist. Both recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Report from Grenada. Speaker: August Nimtz. Sun., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Roxbury Community College, Kennedy Bldg., rm. 307. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Boston-Grenada Solidarity Committee. For more information call (617) 442-0588.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Time of Daring: Video presentation on liberation struggle in El Salvador. Speaker: Guillermo dePaz, representative of Revolutionary Democratic Front. Sun., Oct. 14, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

U.S. Out of Grenada: One Year Under Military Occupation. Speakers: Yusef Mjeni, Malcolm X Pan African Institute; John Gaige, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 21, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Labor's Turning Point. A film on the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters' strike. Sun., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, #22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Stop the U.S. War Against Central America and the Caribbean. Panel discussion to build for October 27 antiwar demonstration in New York. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 19,

7:30 p.m.; Pre-forum dinner, 6:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (cor. Raymond and Halsey, 1 block from Broad). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

New York City

Campaign Open House. Meet Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, and Nan Bailey, SWP candidate for Congress, 16th C.D. Refreshments. Tues., Oct. 16, 5:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St., Manhattan. Ausp: New York Socialist Workers Campaign '84. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Memorial Service for October 19, 1983, Grenada Martyrs. Fri., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. St. Gregory's Church, St. John's Place and Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn. Ausp: Grenada Center and Grenada Foundation. For more information call (212) 926-5825.

Election '84: Will Voting Stop War, Racism, or Unemployment? Speakers: Nan Bailey, SWP candidate for Congress, 16th C.D.; Elombe Brath, Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Alfred Edmond, managing editor, *Big Red*, Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St., Manhattan. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Americas in Focus: A Central American and Caribbean Film Festival. And *That Is Why the State is to Blame*; *Guazapa: The Face of War in El Salvador*; and *Time of Daring*. Fri. and Sat., Oct. 12 and 13, Fri., 7 and 10 p.m.; Sat. 2, 4:30, 7, and 10 p.m.

Sowing Hope and Roses in December. Sun., Oct. 14, 1, 4, 6, and 8 p.m.

On Company Business. Mon. and Tues., Oct. 15 and 16, 7:30 p.m.

La Operacion and One Way or Another. Wed., Oct. 17, 7 and 9 p.m.

The Real Thing: Controlling Interest: The World of the Multinational Corporation; and *Banana Company.* Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 18 and 19, 7 and 9 p.m. Vandam Theater, 15 Vandam St. Ausp: Central America and Caribbean Film Series Project and New York CIRCUS.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Grenada: One Year Later. Film presentation and speakers. Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. University YMCA, 270 Calhoun St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Free Grenada Committee. For more information call (513) 221-5574.

'84 Socialist Campaign vs. U.S. War in Central America. Speaker: Ellen Haywood, national youth coordinator of Socialist Workers campaign and National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Toledo

Socialist Campaign vs. Reagan-Mondale War Drive. Speaker: Jackie Floyd, national youth coordinator of Socialist Workers campaign and National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

We Are Driven Video film on the life of Japanese auto workers. Speaker: Dennis Miller, member United Auto Workers Local 11. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

Women Against Sexual Harassment. Speakers: Denise Gotely, National Organization for Women; Lynn Edminson, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON

Portland

1984 Oregon Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea Gonzalez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president; Deborah Higdon, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: 1984 Oregon Socialist Workers Party Campaign. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

An Evening In Solidarity with the Grenada Revolution — 1979-1983. Slide show of 1981 tour to Grenada. Videotape: *The Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again*, interview with Don Rojas, press secretary to murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Sat., Oct. 27. Music and refreshments, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Pathfinder Press and Militant Bookstore. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

Oil Workers Under Attack. Speaker: John Cannon, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-367 and SWP candidate for Congress, 25th C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

The Grenada Revolution. A series of classes sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance every Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. through Oct. 25.

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Protests needed against U.S. war

Continued from front page
cal decision to launch the aggression."

The response of U.S. government mouthpieces and the big business-owned media to Ortega's warning was to downplay it as an example of the Nicaraguan government "crying wolf."

The State Department termed Ortega's warning "obviously absurd."

But is it true that the Nicaraguan government is just "crying wolf?"

Not only Nicaragua, but Cuba, and Grenada when it was led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, have come before the United Nations and other public forums time and again to warn of planned U.S. aggression against their countries. And for good reason. It was exactly one year ago that the U.S. government invaded Grenada.

In 1981, Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, and the revolutionary forces in El Salvador launched a similar international political campaign. This helped expose Washington and its clients in the region who were planning a new wave of aggression. It succeeded in slowing down the imperialists' war drive.

The underlying reasons for imperialism's hostility to the Sandinistas is what leads them to each new escalation of the war. The extension of the socialist revolution from Cuba to Central America and the Caribbean is why Washington began its war and will inevitably take more aggressive steps, including the use of GIs. Washington must try to overthrow the Nicaraguan and Cuban governments and to prevent El Salvador's workers and peasants from seizing political power.

The question is not if Washington will escalate, but how fast and with what forces.

This is the context for the Sandinistas' international political and diplomatic peace campaign. They are trying to raise the price the U.S. government has to pay for its intervention by answering Washington's lies about Nicaraguan "aggression" in Central America and to place the blame for the war and its escalation squarely where it belongs — on the U.S. government.

The Nicaraguan government has decided to sign the peace accord on Central America drafted by the Contadora Group, which is made up of the governments of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. The accord seeks agreement among the governments of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala for a political solution to the war in the region. So far, Nicaragua is the only one of these governments that has agreed to sign the pact.

The Nicaraguan government has pointed out that, since Washington is the source of the military conflict in Central America, the accord would be meaningless without U.S. ratification.

Washington has refused thus far to sign the accord. U.S. government spokespeople have admitted that their biggest objection to signing the accord is that it would mean ending their massive military intervention in El Salvador and Honduras, which lays the basis for escalating the war.

By challenging the U.S. government to accept the Contadora accord, the Sandinistas are helping to expose Washington's claim to be for peace in the region as demagoguery designed to cover its massive military buildup and plans to use U.S. troops directly against Nicaragua and El Salvador.

One part of Washington's response to Nicaragua's peace offensive, including the signing of the Contadora pact, came in José Napoleón Duarte's recent speech to the United Nations. Duarte announced that he was willing to meet with representatives of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The major media, with a straight face, is repeating the

White House story that Washington knew nothing about Duarte's announcement before it happened.

The government's position, however, was made crystal clear on October 10 when Secretary of State George Shultz, arriving in San Salvador, explained that Duarte's call for a meeting "has our unqualified support."

In an obvious attempt to divide opposition forces, Duarte said he would meet with representatives of the FMLN and not anyone from the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR).

In a joint statement, the FMLN and FDR announced, in line with their longstanding proposal for a dialogue with the government, that they would both attend the talks. Their delegation will include two representatives each from the FMLN and FDR.

Duarte's posturing as a man of peace comes as his government continues to carry out massacres of peasants in rebel-controlled areas, bombings of civilian towns, and as new proof comes to light of the army's use of napalm and phosphorous bombs against the Salvadoran people. His peace rhetoric has also provided useful cover to a number of European imperialist governments, who previously had cut off aid to El Salvador, to renew their backing for the Salvadoran government.

The peace talk of Duarte, like Washington's attacks on the Nicaraguan elections and accusations of Nicaraguan "aggression," has one goal: to throw sand in the eyes of U.S. working people about what's really going on in our hemisphere.

Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega has been traveling around the United States (see news stories on page 6) doing the opposite: telling the people of the United States the truth about what's happening in Central America.

"The people of the United States are not the enemy of the Nicaraguan people. But the U.S. rulers have made themselves enemies of the Nicaraguan people. They have declared war against the Nicaraguan people in the name of 'liberty,'" Ortega told a crowd in San Francisco.

The stakes for U.S. working people in the Central America war are very high. We are the ones who will do the fighting and dying to defend the employers' interests there. We will be used in Washington's attempt to destroy the gains our sisters and brothers have made in Nicaragua. And it is our living standard and our democratic rights that will be weakened and eroded in the name of the war effort as U.S. intervention increases.

Both capitalist parties — the Democrats and Republicans — are pledged to go ahead with this war. Reagan and Mondale have each made it clear that if they are elected president, U.S. intervention in Central America will continue.

The union movement can and should take the lead in aggressively campaigning against U.S. intervention in Central America. Unionists should go to Nicaragua and see for themselves the gains working people have made there, so they can tell the truth to others. They should invite Nicaraguan unionists and Salvadoran labor leaders to speak at union meetings to arm working people with the truth about Washington's role in the region.

And they should participate in every protest action organized by other opponents of intervention, like the October 27 antiwar demonstration in New York City.

It's in the interest of all U.S. working people to demand:

- All U.S. military personnel out of Central America!
- U.S. ships out of Nicaragua's waters!
- No U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan *contras* or the Salvadoran government!
- Free the political prisoners in El Salvador!
- U.S. troops out of Grenada!
- Stop the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean!

fight against the U.S. war in Central America. Many people learned of the plight of the STECEL leaders for the first time through Molina Lara's efforts.

Antiwar fighters in the labor movement and throughout this country should be encouraged to redouble our efforts. We must insure that Recinos and the STECEL leaders are freed and given safe transport to the location of their choice.

Moreover, other Salvadoran unionists remain in prison along with many other working class fighters. Thousands remain targets of the U.S.-financed Salvadoran death squads — like Recinos' wife and daughter who were "disappeared" two years ago.

The National Labor Committee is demanding that Washington grant political asylum in this country to the STECEL leaders. All those seeking refuge from the U.S.-backed terror in El Salvador have a right to come here. But the U.S. labor movement has a special stake in fighting for the right of the STECEL leaders to come.

They will bring with them a powerful message: that U.S. working people and our Salvadoran brothers and sisters should stand together against the U.S. war. That message should be spread far and wide in the U.S. labor movement.

Catholic church hierarchy and abortion rights

On Jan. 2, 1973, the Supreme Court issued the historic ruling that made abortion through the 24th week of pregnancy the legal right of all women. The ruling declared illegal all laws compromising that right — for example, laws that said an abortion could only be performed to save the life of the woman.

This victory was won as a result of the powerful women's liberation movement that arose in the late 1960s. The women's liberation movement put the demand for the right to safe, legal abortion squarely on the axis of a woman's right to control her own body and her own life. Reproductive freedom, which includes the right to abortion as well as protection against forced sterilization, was correctly understood as the most fundamental right of women, a precondition for the fight for women's equality.

Because of the stakes involved in abortion rights, the decision was never secure. The ruling class, as part of its general offensive against the rights of all working people,

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

has sought to reverse the 1973 ruling and deny the right of women to control their own bodies. Both the Democrats and Republicans have made opposition to this right a centerpiece in the current elections.

We are reprinting here excerpts from the article "Why the Catholic Church Hierarchy Opposes Women's Right to Abortion" by Evelyn Reed. The article first appeared in the *Militant* of Feb. 16, 1973. Then, as now, the Catholic church officials were in the forefront of the reactionary, antiwoman campaign.

Evelyn Reed was a life-long fighter for socialism and women's liberation. A Marxist anthropologist, she wrote extensively on feminism. Reed's works, including *Women's Evolution* and *Problems of Women's Liberation*, are published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

* * *

The Roman Catholic hierarchy, in the forefront of the antiabortion forces, is enraged by the Supreme Court decision handed down last month that recognizes a woman's right to abortion and rejects the proposition that a fetus is a legal person with rights superior to the mother's.

Immediately after the court ruling, cardinals Cooke of New York and Krol of Philadelphia indicated that they will leave no stone unturned in their efforts to nullify this measure giving women the right to control their own reproductive processes. This attempt to uphold archaic papal doctrine that for centuries has denied women even the smallest measure of control over their own bodies is not confined to Catholics but sweepingly applied to all women under the pretext of the "right to life."

Women should be aware of the basic issues at stake in this challenge. By opposing and seeking to overthrow the Supreme Court decision the Catholic hierarchy is striving to keep all women in the same status as animal females who are subjected by nature to uncontrolled procreation. They are determined to continue to rob women of their basic human right — the right of control.

[The church hierarchy] is fearful that if women gain control over their bodies, they will forthwith proceed to fight for full control over their minds and lives. In the course of this struggle women would shed many of the superstitions, fears, and prejudices indoctrinated into them over centuries of patriarchal rule to keep them on their knees before earthly and super-earthly lords and masters. Even a limited measure of liberation can lead to incalculable consequences — undermining the centuries-old male supremacy over women. This fear of liberated women can be seen in the dire predictions of the cardinals about the "disastrous implications" of the Supreme Court ruling and the "terrifying" developments the decision sets in motion.

This hostility to women is concealed behind the slogan of the "right to life" of the unborn. Such sanctimonious concern covers every germination in a woman's womb no matter how it was implanted — whether through ignorance or by accident, or even by violence on the part of a rapist. Each germination is called a "fetus," and every fetus is called a "person," and every "person's" life is "sacred."

Except the person of the mother. If a mere germination is elevated into a person, the woman herself must be downgraded into a nonperson — a mere receptacle or womb for producing persons. By this criterion, the solicitude for the sacredness of unborn life turns out to be only a cover for reducing a female person, a woman, to the animal level of uncontrolled procreation.

We say to them [Catholic cardinals]: stick to your business of controlling immortal souls. But keep your hands off the bodies of women and our democratic right to control our bodies!

Step up solidarity efforts

The October 8 announcement by Salvadoran Pres. José Napoleón Duarte, that his government would free Héctor Recinos and nine other leaders of El Salvador's hydroelectrical workers union (STECEL), is a victory for the working people of El Salvador and the United States.

The 10 Salvadoran trade unionists, imprisoned, tortured, and denied legal counsel for four years, were victims of a war conducted by a brutal regime that is propped up by Washington. That regime is fiercely resisting the just struggles of Salvadoran workers and peasants for national liberation.

The decision to free the unionists came, in part, because working people in the United States added our voice to the cry for their release. The National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador recently took up this campaign. The International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) spoke out for their freedom at its September 21-24 convention in Pittsburgh.

In late 1982 and 1983, Alejandro Molina Lara, a leader of the National Trade Union Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS) to which STECEL is affiliated, toured the United States speaking about the common interests of U.S. and Salvadoran workers in the

Honduran women victims of imperialist domination

The following is a guest column by Lee Martindale. Martindale is the business manager of the *Militant* and a member of the editorial board of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The July 30 New York Spanish-language daily *El Diario-La Prensa* carried an article headlined "Honduras: Prostitution Grows in Military Atmosphere." The article brings to light the intensified victimization of



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

Honduran women through prostitution as a result of imperialist oppression and militarization. Here are some excerpts translated from the article:

"COMAYAGUA — In a slum boarding house near a military base, half a dozen women are lying on rickety old beds waiting for their first customers of the night: Honduran and U.S. soldiers.

"The women spend their days and nights in the Serenito brothel, where a watchman stands guard at the locked door.

"The women only go out accompanied by the brothel's

proprietor, and a journalist who asked to take one of them outside to talk with her was told that he would have to leave a deposit equivalent in dollars to what the women had cost the proprietor, between \$150 and \$300.

"... the women of the Serenito and others in Comayagua are trapped in a circle of poverty and debts which has reduced them to virtual slavery.

"One way or another, the majority of the women in the red-light district are someone's property," said the owner of a brothel in Comayagua who did not want to be identified.

"The man said that some of the women, usually uneducated teenagers, are kidnapped and sold to the brothels, while others are trapped in a system of debt that ties them indefinitely to the proprietors.

"The red-light district in Comayagua, a dusty street flanked by wooden shacks with colored lights hung on the doors, is crammed most nights with Honduran and Salvadoran soldiers from the Palmerola military base a few kilometers from the town.

"The district bustled with activity even before the United States army constructed the headquarters for the joint military maneuvers in Palmerola, 75 kilometers from Tegucigalpa. But with the arrival of the U.S. troops, several new brothels and discos opened.

"The owner of one establishment said that the proprietors of the brothels make a monthly payment to the commander of the local Honduran army battalion, which protects them from police intervention.

"If a woman that doesn't belong to a brothel passes through the district, the police put her in an establishment

because they assume she's working outside the system, he indicated.

"Amanda Estela Rodríguez, president of the Honduran Federation of Women's Associations, said that occasionally they have reports of women who are compelled by force to work as prostitutes, but can't do much besides calling their families.

"How can we do anything when this type of business has the sanction of the authorities?" she said.

"Besides, the brothels often offer food and shelter. Honduras has the lowest per capita income in the hemisphere after Haiti — some \$600 per year — and only 50 percent of the population has steady employment.

"It's poverty and the lack of education and alternatives for women," said Edith Falck, secretary of the women's organization."

The massive amounts of money, weapons, and soldiers poured into Honduras by the U.S. government strengthens the repressive Honduran regime and props up an economic system that keeps workers and peasants in poverty so that U.S. corporations and their local henchmen get rich.

These Honduran sisters are victims of the U.S. war just as much as its more direct targets: Salvadoran women workers and peasants massacred by the U.S.-trained army, and Nicaraguan women teachers, doctors, and militia members who are kidnapped and tortured by U.S.-backed mercenaries operating out of the bases in Honduras.

The anthem of the Nicaraguan Sandinista revolution calls U.S. imperialism the "enemy of humanity," and that's the pure and simple truth.

LETTERS

'Best paper in America'

I first heard of the *Militant* while I was researching Malcolm X and learning about his ideas; he mentioned the paper and thought very highly of it; I believe he even said it was the "best paper in America."

I was a little startled at first because I was aware of how thoroughly he was misrepresented by the press, especially concerning the question of self-defense which the press turned into him advocating violence. Even the *New York Times* slandered him horribly.

Because he spoke so highly of the *Militant*, I always looked for it but it wasn't sold on any newsstands in Boston where I live. One day I was walking through Harvard Square and I found the paper there. I immediately bought it and opened it up and there was an article on Malcolm! The article was, I think, in the September 14 issue. It was Malcolm X on the 1964 elections and "lesser evils." I knew from listening to Malcolm's "Ballots or Bullets" speech that he likened Johnson to a "fox" and Goldwater to a "wolf."

The elections now are somewhat similar; Mondale being the current fox and Reagan being the wolf. Twenty years later and Malcolm's analysis and ideas are still "current." I received my political education from Malcolm X; it was through him that I first became politically aware; he was a person who always told the truth, could never be bought off, and never would betray the people.

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation to you for remembering Malcolm and representing him truthfully. I now have a subscription to the *Militant* and read it front to back every week.

Lynne Kellermann

Allston, Massachusetts

Mahlangu-Ngcobo

South African-born freedom fighter Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo, whose successful fight for political asylum has been covered by the *Militant*, spoke before the September general membership meeting of my local union, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 775 in Baltimore. Some 60 workers attended the meeting, an unusually high turnout.

Many of my coworkers had already heard about her case. The

publicity surrounding her victory heightened their interest.

At the union meeting, Mahlangu-Ngcobo described the South African apartheid regime's constitutional fraud of creating token parliaments for Indians and Coloreds, while denying even this token to Blacks. She described the repressive state of siege imposed on the masses to silence opposition. She talked about the wage differential between white and Black workers, and the effect of U.S. government support to the apartheid regime on the lives of Black workers in South Africa.

During the next few days at work, almost all the comments of coworkers were highly supportive of Mahlangu-Ngcobo and her struggle.

At the union meeting, a collection was taken up to help defray the expenses of her fight for asylum. Over \$50 was collected — a lot of small contributions from a group who didn't have money to throw around considering the low wages prevailing in the garment industry and the fact that we were two days shy of payday.

I thought this was worth writing to you about, because it's a modest example of the kind of working class solidarity and internationalism that the *Militant* promotes in its pages.

Tom Headley
Takoma Park, Maryland

Death row

On Oct. 20, 1977, Alvin Culberson was sentenced to death in Harrison County, Mississippi.

The district attorney made race an issue in the case, reminding the jury that a white man was killed and that two Black men were accused of the murder.

Alvin Culberson will be put to death in the gas chamber at the Mississippi State Penitentiary without having an opportunity to testify in his own defense, without having his witnesses in court to testify in his defense, without having had effective representation by counsel. He will be executed solely on the word of an alleged accomplice, unless something is done to change this injustice.

The alleged accomplice, Alvarace Pittman, retracted his testimony twice under oath, and as recently as Oct. 23, 1983, stated under oath that he did not see Alvin Culberson shoot or kill anyone on the date in question.

Pittman revealed that he was only 19 years old when he was arrested for this crime, that he was held incommunicado by the Harrison County authorities and threatened with death unless he testified the way they told him to. He believed that he would die unless he did what the authorities demanded. Pittman made a deal and served two and a half years in prison.

Alvin Culberson never really had a trial. If he had been given a fair trial and adequate counsel, this case would have been dismissed and this innocent man would be free.

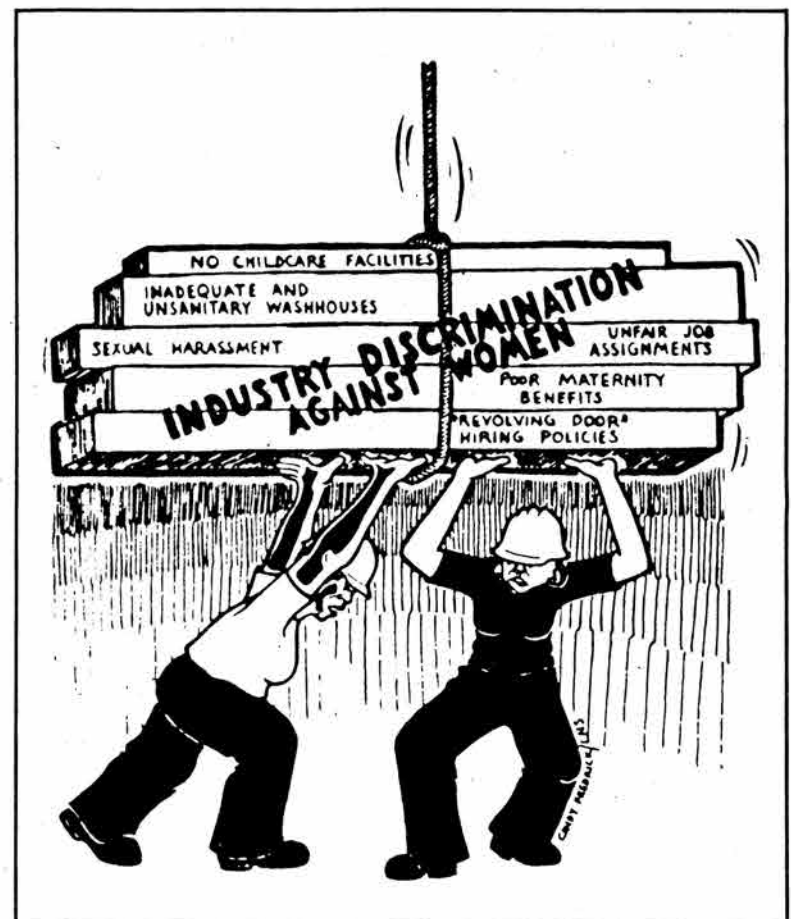
Renee Broomfield
Gulfport, Mississippi

'Young Socialist'

During an exciting week of emphasizing the Young Socialist Alliance, the Toledo YSA chapter along with Socialist Workers Party members sold 62 copies of the new Sept.-Oct. *YS*. This included 20 copies sold at an anti-Reagan demonstration held during Reagan's visit to Bowling Green State University Sept. 26, and 20 copies sold at the Hunt-Wesson cannery to the young workers that were hired for the summer tomato harvest. Although two YSAers had worked there the summer before and had a good response to socialist politics, we couldn't have anticipated the high level of enthusiasm that we found. Cars stopped one after the other to check out the *YS* and speak to the YSA campaigners, despite some occasional honking by people behind them. YSA member Della Lopez reports, "All we had to do was show people the paper and tell them it was pro-working people, antiwar, and antiracist, and they were eager to buy it."

Other sales during the week included 10 sold in the community, 4 at two regular plant-gate sales, and 3 to the coworkers at work. YSA members discussed why it was important that workers who read the *Militant* also read the *YS*, and how we needed to step up our *YS* sales to get out the name of the YSA in Toledo. The SWP branch agreed, and a joint plan was worked out. It was decided that the *YS* is a paper that everyone should read, and that we would target plants with young workers.

YSA members are eagerly planning to return to Hunt-Wesson next week with *Militants*, and also



to order more *YS*s. The Toledo YSA plans now to follow up on this success by having regular sales of the *YS* on a smaller basis.

Lynn Edmiston
Toledo, Ohio

Hard times

In these days there is much pressure being brought to bear on the working man. From all directions there is the feeling of being crowded into a corner; more taxes, higher prices, lower wages, wars, and the consequences that these foreign wars bring to bear on the home turf.

Deterioration in the schools, roads, railroads, housing, and amongst the lives of the young, the poor and elderly — these are all signs of the harder times yet to come. And over it all the capitalist news media attempts to pawn it off as a natural situation; that all must be accepted, and that this is our lot in our fight for "freedom and democracy."

But within this gloomy atmosphere there are many who are beginning to see and many who have seen too much. The media cannot cover up forever the pain in the belly from too little food; the house and the car lost to the bank; the young ones coming home in a box. Hard times press the people

into a corner until there is nothing left to lose. And though the times look gloomy and bleak many are gaining new eyes to see and new ears to hear. Hard times do funny things to people.

I compliment you, the writers and readers of the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*. I have learned much from the pages of your publications. You have cleared up many confusions; answered many questions.

Eddie Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

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.

African leader speaks in Harlem

President of Burkina Faso hits U.S. role in Africa, Central America

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

NEW YORK — "My White House is in Black Harlem," said Capt. Thomas Sankara before a crowd of more than 500 cheering Blacks at the Harriet Tubman School auditorium October 3. Sankara, president of Burkina Faso and chairman of that West African country's National Council of the Revolution (CNR), spoke at the Harlem meeting the night before addressing the United Nations General Assembly.

At both meetings Sankara hit U.S. policies in Africa and Central America, blasted the U.S. invasion of Grenada, and spoke of his country's progress since the overthrow of the French-backed regime of Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo.

Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, has taken a "revolutionary course," explained Sankara, since he and a group of other radical officers took power on the crest of a wave of popular protest in August 1983.

The Harlem audience gave a warm welcome to Sankara and applauded his anti-imperialist message. "L'imperialisme," chanted Sankara. "A bas! [Down with it]," the crowd shouted back. "Neocolonialisme — à bas! Racisme — à bas! Fascisme — à bas!"

"Droit [justice]," shouted Sankara. "En haut! [Up with it]" cried the audience. "Dignité — En haut! Pouvoir [power] — en haut!" To Sankara's "la patrie ou la mort! [fatherland or death]" the crowd answered back "nous vaincrons [we will win]."



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Capt. Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta.

For many in the audience it was their first lesson in French, but the significance of the meeting was lost on no one. The gathering showed solidarity with Burkina Faso. This sentiment grows as more people find out about the changes taking place in this poor country of 7 million people.

Sankara told reporters at an October 2 breakfast meeting that the "Burkinabé rev-

olution aims to give people the right to decent housing, the right to decent education, the right to decent health." The Burkinabé people themselves hailed the August 1983 overthrow of the French-backed regime. Mass demonstrations throughout the country greeted the CNR's seizure of power. In the weeks following the overturn, popularly based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution were set up on a neighborhood and village level.

In addition to President Sankara, the October 3 Harlem meeting was also addressed by Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, a spokesperson from the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, Samori Marksman of the Caribbean People's Alliance, and a representative of the Ghanaian Patriotic Association, among others.

Sankara explained that people of African descent everywhere must band together to fight imperialist exploitation and oppression. He particularly scored the U.S. and French imperialists for their role in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

Upper Volta was a French colony until 1960. Domination by the French rulers impoverished the 7 million people and warped their country's economic development. The average life expectancy in Burkina Faso is 40 years — among the lowest in the world. The illiteracy rate is 95 percent. The per capita Gross Domestic Product is only \$155.

In the 14 months since coming to power, the Sankara government has launched a lit-

eracy campaign, organized public trials of many corrupt officials, taken steps to improve the position of women, constructed new schools and health clinics, initiated an agrarian reform, built new housing for workers, and started efforts to bring social services to the countryside. These and other measures have won popular support for the CNR, and have brought the government into conflict with world imperialism.

Sankara pointed to the U.S. invasion of Grenada as an example of what the imperialist rulers are prepared to do to try to maintain their domination. "We must relentlessly fight against imperialism," said Sankara. "If we don't want any more assassinations of Maurice Bishops, we must be organized today."

Part of this preparation in Burkina Faso, according to Sankara, is a restructuring of the army, the military training of the Bur-

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Salvador regime says it will free union leaders

NEW YORK, Oct. 10 — In an October 8 appearance at the United Nations, Salvadoran Pres. José Napoleón Duarte announced the release of Héctor Recinos and the nine other imprisoned STECEL unionists. "They are free today," asserted Duarte.

Two days later the 10 leaders of El Salvador's hydroelectrical workers union remained in jail. Dan Cantor, a spokesman for the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, told the *Militant* that the labor committee was "disturbed but hopeful" that the STECEL leaders would be released quickly. Cantor urged that the U.S. State Department put no roadblocks in the way of freedom for the unionists.

Cantor said the committee, which has been campaigning to free the unionists, has been unable to speak to them directly. One possible reason for the delay in freeing the prisoners, Cantor suggested, is the danger that they will be tortured or killed by the notorious Salvadoran death squads upon their release from jail.

The labor committee, according to Cantor, is demanding that Washington grant the STECEL leaders political asylum in the United States. This demand, he said, is consistent with the desires of the prisoners themselves.

The article below was written prior to the October 8 announcement.

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — "I urge you, North American brother trade unionists," the soft-spoken 16-year-old Salvadoran youth said, "to please help free my father from prison. My brothers and I have already lost our mother and sister. We do not want to lose our father."

The youth, Héctor Recinos, was speaking to a packed meeting of 85 trade union officials assembled at the Massachusetts State Labor Council convention about his

father, Héctor Recinos, who's been imprisoned in El Salvador for four years. The elder Recinos is president of STECEL, the hydroelectric workers union in that embattled country.

Recinos made his plea at a gathering sponsored by the Massachusetts Labor Committee in Support of Democracy, Human Rights and Non-Intervention in Central America that took place after the formal close of the convention on October 3 in Boston.

A major campaign in Recinos' behalf is being waged by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

David Dyson, an official of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), and national secretary of the Labor Committee, made an appeal to area union officials to take up the campaign.

Blasting Washington's war policy in El Salvador, Dyson called Recinos "El Salvador's most prominent trade unionist."

Dyson said the campaign in support of trade union rights in El Salvador, and efforts to win Recinos' release from the tyranny's jail for trade union activities, are part of an effort to have a "more open debate in the labor movement on U.S. foreign policy, a debate that's needed to get out the truth about what is really happening to prevent a war before it starts."

Twenty-one international unions, representing more than half of the U.S. labor movement's membership, are affiliated to the National Labor Committee, Dyson said, along with more than 30 local committees like that of the Massachusetts body.

The ACTWU official said there is a "resurgence of activity in the labor movement in El Salvador not because of Duarte, but because the labor movement has seized the initiative and won gains in spite of Duarte."

Dyson and young Recinos were joined on the platform by Thomas Cronin, president of the American Federation of State,

County and Municipal Employees District Council 47 in Philadelphia, and Francisco Acosta, North American representative of the FENASTRAS (National Trade Union Federation of Salvadoran Workers).

Both gave powerful educational presentations on the current situation in Central America and U.S. labor's big stake in preventing a new Vietnam there.

"We are just like you," Acosta told the crowd. "Workers, unionists, working people who need the same things, who

fight for the same things. We don't want helicopters from Washington, we want food. We want our rights."

Cronin described the experiences of a 34-member labor delegation he headed from Philadelphia that went to Honduras and Nicaragua.

"I state categorically before you," he said, "that any worker, any working person with a choice of where to live, to live in Honduras or Nicaragua, would choose

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Utah miners strike for new pact

BY CECILIA MORIARITY

PRICE, Utah — United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals 1769, 2176, and 1859 struck Emery Mining Corp. at the beginning of the midnight shift October 6. Miners, wives, and retirees are picketing the principal coal properties Emery Mining manages for the Utah Power and Light Co. Picket locations include the Deer Creek, Wilberg, and Des-Bee-Dove mines, as well as the company's headquarters in Huntington.

Emery Mining Corp. is the only UMWA-organized coal company in Utah without a new contract with the union. UMWA members at the three mines voted to accept the National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement negotiated in late September by the union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). However, Emery Mining pulled out of the BCOA in 1981 and is demanding a separate contract.

The UMWA miners are striking to defend the 1950 UMWA Health and Retirement Fund. Emery wants to discontinue contributions to this fund which provides pensions and medical coverage to retired miners.

Joseph Abbot, director of employee relations for Emery, said that the company's annual contribution to the fund is "about \$8

or \$9 million, and that all gets charged to utility rate payers," implying that Utah Power and Light would lower utility rates if Emery didn't have to pay into the fund.

The union disagrees. UMWA District 22 Pres. Mike Dalpaiz said that Emery Mining "mentioned that they want to save rate payers and they've said they've cut material costs in half over the past three years. Well, I don't know about your electric bill, but mine is still out of sight."

In addition to safeguarding the health and pension fund, the UMWA is also resisting efforts by Emery and other coal operators to water down and chip away at the national coal contract. If Emery is successful in imposing its demands, the door is opened for other operators to try the same in other areas of the contract.

Striking miners are determined to prevent the company's attempts to divide the union by pitting working miners against retired miners and their families. UMWA selective strike committees are organizing pickets to keep coal production shut down and to see that no coal is transported to the power plants of Utah Power and Light.

Cecelia Moriarity is a striking miner at Wilberg mine. She is also the SWP candidate for governor of Utah.