

Reagan, Mondale agree: wage war to defend rich

The following statement was released on October 23 by Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González.

The so-called debate on foreign policy between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale showed, once again, that both parties are committed to prosecuting the war in Central America. No matter which one is elected, war — not peace — is on the agenda.

This underlines the need for all those opposed to the U.S. war against Nicaragua, U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, and the U.S. occupation of Grenada to step up public antiwar protests.

My campaign supporters have been building and are participating in the October 27 antiwar demonstration in Brooklyn, which will mark the anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

While the televised event was called a debate, the differences between Reagan and Mondale were overshadowed by their fundamental agreement on the need to use U.S. military force anywhere and everywhere that the "national security" interests of U.S. employers are threatened by oppressed peoples fighting for their liberation — from Central America and the Caribbean to the Middle East to southern Africa.

Reagan openly defended the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

Mondale expanded on his previous threat to "quarantine" Nicaragua. He explained that he would be willing to use force against that country when "she acts irresponsibly in asserting power . . . outside her border." With this statement, Mondale, who pretends to oppose Washington's four-year-long "covert" war against Nicaragua, repeated the central lie used to justify that war — alleged Nicaraguan "subversion" of other countries in the region.

El Salvador

The "debate" occurred a few days after the Salvadoran Army launched a new offensive against the liberation forces and the civilian population — an offensive which was directly overseen by U.S. officers and carried out by U.S.-trained troops from U.S. helicopters. Both candidates kept silent on this, while Mondale called for more military assistance to Washington's blood-soaked "friends" in the region.

Mondale slandered revolutionary Cuba as "a police state," which is the timeworn story used by both Republican and Democratic administrations to economically pressure and militarily threaten Cuba.

Neither candidate mentioned Grenada. There was no need to. Mondale had already expressed his support for Washington's criminal invasion and occupation of that once-free predominantly Black country.

Reagan enthusiastically endorsed two of the bloodiest dictators in the world — the former shah of Iran, and the current president of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos.

Both candidates called for stringent laws against undocumented workers, especially the beefing up of the racist, brutal border cops.

Reagan and Mondale outdid each other in talking tough against the Soviet Union. They both indicated their support for increasing the size and lethality of Washington's massive military arsenal under the guise of the need to defend U.S. "national security" against an alleged Soviet threat.

The Sandinista national anthem calls the U.S. rulers "the enemy of humanity." The

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Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González said televised "debate" showed both parties committed to war in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

U.S. out of Grenada now!

One year ago Grenada was trampled underfoot by invading U.S. troops. Today, Grenada is still occupied by some 300 U.S. soldiers and an equal number of troops from U.S.-backed regimes in the region. The U.S. rulers have no intention of removing these troops — at least not before imperialist domination of Grenada has been firmly reestablished.

The Yankee invaders are an ever-present sight on the Caribbean island. In a country

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that has a population of only 110,000 people, a 600-strong occupation force is a gigantic repressive force — like having an army of 1.2 million troops occupying the United States.

U.S. and other foreign troops patrol the island in jeeps, helicopters, and on foot. Grenada's waters are plied by U.S. Coast Guard ships, and the Point Salines airport has been used by the military for its huge transport planes, which constantly land to provide the supplies to keep the U.S. occupation going.

Held in the rifle sights of U.S. troops, the upcoming December 3 elections in Grenada are a fraud. U.S. employers hope to legitimize the proimperialist regime they foisted on Grenadian working people. At U.S. insistence, several capitalist parties merged to form Grenada's New National Party (NNP). This party appears to have Washington's blessings in the elections, and NNP leaders have made clear their support to the U.S. occupation.

"We cannot permit them [the occupation forces] to leave until we and they are satisfied that we have created a sufficient security force in Grenada," said Herbert Blaize, one of the NNP leaders.

Leaders of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), however, make the centerpiece of their program the demand for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops. This new party was formed to win Grenadian working people to Bishop's revolutionary program.

U.S. rulers aim to counter any resurgence of popular struggle against their domination. The U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada were designed to stamp out the remaining vestiges of the March 1979 revolution — a process that has made progress, but isn't over yet.

The U.S.-backed regime is attacking the union movement. Massive unemployment — at more than 30 percent — once again plagues the country. Programs to develop housing, farm cooperatives, and agro-industry have been scuttled. The adult education program has been halted.

As the U.S. imperialists whittle away at the economic and social gains of the Grenada revolution, they must also convince Grenadian working people to reject the central leader of the revolutionary government — slain prime minister Maurice Bishop. He and the other leaders murdered on October 19, 1983, are viewed as martyrs.

The ongoing trial of former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and 18 others in Grenada's High Court should be seen in this light. Coard and his followers organized and led the counterrevolutionary overthrow of Grenada's workers and farmers government. When the Grenadian masses, led by Bishop and his supporters,

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N.Y. SWP candidate: cop raid is blow to democratic rights

BY BARRY SHEPPARD

NEW YORK — In the dead of night in the early morning hours on October 18, 400 heavily armed New York City cops and FBI agents swooped down on homes in Brooklyn and Queens, and a Chinese restaurant, to arrest nine people the cops claim are "radicals" and "connected to the Black revolutionary group that committed the Brinks armored-car robbery three years ago."

Salvador regime launches new offensive

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The U.S.-backed Salvadoran army launched a major new offensive against the popular rebel forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) on October 18.

The same week, Nicaraguan government officials reported a series of provocations and attacks by U.S.-organized counterrevolutionaries across both the northern border with Honduras and the southern border with Costa Rica (see news story page 7). Nicaraguan and Cuban leaders had issued a warning to the United Nations at the beginning of October that a new U.S. offensive against Nicaragua was on the agenda.

In El Salvador, the army is targeting northeastern Morazán province — an FMLN stronghold — for its latest offensive. The army also began new moves against rebel-controlled areas in southern Usulután and northern San Vicente provinces.

Three high-level U.S. military officers, armed with submachine guns, accompanied the Salvadoran high command to the scene of the battle. This blatant violation of the U.S. government's own rules against U.S. military personnel going into areas where "combat is likely" was endorsed by Thomas Pickering, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and was widely publicized in the U.S. big-business media.

The flagrant way in which this was done was a conscious decision by Washington to show its determination to step up direct U.S. military intervention in the Salvadoran civil war to the degree it deems necessary and at the pace it finds possible.

The current offensive in Morazán is "very important," said Col. Adolfo Blandon, El Salvador's chief of staff, because the army is testing its ability to remain for some length of time in territory that has been held by the FMLN since 1982.

The latest shipment of 10 U.S. Huey helicopters — bringing the total number the Pentagon has given the Salvadoran regime up to 32 — made possible the movement of the thousands of troops needed for this offensive. Washington plans to give the military 10-15 more such helicopters before the end of the year. Key to the latest offensive was the elite troops of the U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion.

Rebel forces scored a blow against the government on October 23 when they shot down a helicopter containing a top combat commander of the Salvadoran army and three other senior officers, along with 10 others. The commander, Lieut. Col. Domingo Monterrosa and the others all died when they were shot down over the town of Joateca in Morazán province. Also

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A witness reported he was watching television shortly after midnight when a police spotlight beamed into his window. Looking out, he saw at least 50 cops in bullet-proof vests carrying shotguns herding the inhabitants out of a nearby house.

At another location the cops stormed into a home, kicking the door down. In spite of this provocative show of firepower, the cops admitted the arrests "oc-

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY LEE-MARTINDALE

In a recent issue of the railroad bosses' journal *Railway Age*, there's a column headlined "Memo to Unions: Don't misread those dollar signs." The point of the article is that while the rail industry is going through an upturn in profits, workers shouldn't expect their situations to improve. The carriers are demanding further concessions in wages, crew sizes, and work rules, which they claim they need in order to compete with the motor transport industry.

The targets of this company offensive — the workers who keep the rail system running — are among the unionists socialists reach with the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* each week through yard sales. In some areas, these sales have been regular for some time. In others, socialists are now figuring out how to reestablish or begin reaching railworkers with these sales as the upturn in the industry holds out the prospect of callbacks or possibly new hiring.

In Houston, socialists have been selling for over a year to workers

at the Santa Fe-Southern Pacific Englewood yard. Joanne Kuni-ansky, an oil worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union who participates in this sales team, reports that the workforce at the yard has been steadily shrinking for some time due to layoffs. The team sells an average of three or four papers a week, including copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* to Chicano railworkers who are bilingual and prefer the Spanish-language magazine.

When Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president, visited the rail yard during a campaign swing through Houston, these workers were impressed to meet a Latina worker running for that office. A Black worker, who doesn't usually buy the *Militant* from the team, shook hands with González and thanked Kuni-ansky the following week for bringing the candidate to the yard.

Railroad workers are organized into a number of unions. At Englewood, most of those the team talks to each week are in the

Maintenance of Way union. But occasionally the team runs into a member of one of the other rail unions like the United Transportation Union, and is able to talk with them about socialist ideas.

In Minneapolis, socialists have reestablished sales at two area rail yards: Burlington Northern's Northtown Shop, and the Chicago Northwestern yard. Jim Altenberg, a laid-off electrical worker who sells at the Burlington Northern yard, reports that the team meets members of a variety of shop craft unions as well as UTU members. In order to draw attention to the *Militant* as workers drive by in the early morning darkness, the team uses a big sign that reads "Stop the War in Central America; No to Union-busting; Read the *Militant*."

At the Chicago Northwestern yard, workers are facing a possible merger between Chicago Northwestern and the Milwaukee Road. Mergers like these across the country are being used to eliminate competing routes and cut



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
Andrea González campaigned at the Englewood rail yards during her tour of Houston.

back rail service to the most profitable lines. They also mean layoffs and demands for other concessions from workers.

The plant gate sales team noted an increased interest in the *Militant* due to news on the merger.

Regular sales at the rail yards are essential in expanding the influence of socialist ideas among rail workers, winning them to a revolutionary perspective, and over time recruiting rail workers to the revolutionary party.

Vietnam aims for three-way dialogue in Indochina



Nguyen Co Thach

BY WILL REISSNER

NEW YORK — Brimming with optimism at a meeting with reporters here October 11, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach predicted that a dialogue between the three Indochinese countries — Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea — and the proimperialist Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will begin within months.

The ASEAN alliance — Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei — backs Pol Pot's rightist guerrillas fighting Kampuchea from bases in Thailand. Vietnamese troops are helping Kampuchea's government resist those attacks.

Thach, who was in New York to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, said he had met here with the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Malaysia to lay the groundwork for talks on Kampuchea.

The *Militant* has learned that talks between ASEAN and the Indochinese countries are likely to begin in January in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Before it was overthrown in January 1979, Pol Pot's regime carried out a reign of terror against the Kampuchean people. As many as 2 million Kampucheans died through starvation, disease, and execution in less than four years of Pol Pot's rule.

Since being driven out of Kampuchea and into Thailand, the Pol Pot forces have continued to launch raids against Kampuchea's new government.

Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea have provided a shield against Pol Pot's return. Annual withdrawals of Vietnamese forces have taken place as Kampuchea has built

up its own military strength.

In the past year, Kampuchea's armed forces have carried out most of the fight against the rightists.

Thach predicted that even without talks with the ASEAN countries, all Vietnamese troops would be out of Kampuchea within five to ten years.

Vietnam's foreign minister also expressed his country's desire for improved relations with Washington. Thach reiterated his willingness to meet with U.S. officials on Vietnam's offer to send to the United States all former officials of the U.S.-backed Saigon regime still in reeducation camps.

Thach also stated that every Amerasian child who wishes to leave Vietnam for the United States could do so within three months if Washington would accept them.

Although Vietnam desires improved relations with the United States, Washington maintains an economic blockade against Vietnam and Kampuchea and provides aid to the anti-Kampuchean guerrillas based in Thailand.

Former Kampuchean prince Norodom Sihanouk, an ally of Pol Pot, revealed that after his September meetings with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, Washington agreed to double its support to the Thai-based rightists.

Friend of Vietnam slain

BY TOM LEONARD

Edward Cooperman was shot and killed in his office at California State University, Fullerton, on October 13. A 20-year-old Vietnamese immigrant, Minh Van Lam, has been arrested and charged with the killing.

Cooperman, an opponent of the U.S. war in Vietnam, was serving as chairman of the U.S. Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation with Vietnam at the time he was killed.

He helped initiate the study of soil samples from Vietnam for traces of Agent Orange and its effects on Vietnamese and GI victims.

In a statement protesting his killing, the Vietnam News Agency, referred to him as

"A prominent figure of the progressive intellectuals and ordinary people in the United States who had stood up against the U.S. war of aggression."

The October 19 *New York Times* reported that Cooperman received death threats after visiting Hanoi.

There are conflicting reports about Minh Van Lam. An October 14 AP dispatch, for example, referred to him as "a known associate of Dr. Cooperman," who called police to report the shooting. But on October 18, the AP referred to him as an "anti-Communist refugee."

Two high powered Los Angeles attorneys, Alan May and George Chula, have been hired to defend Lam. They were retained by the Orange County Vietnamese Association.

Follow the socialist presidential campaign — Subscribe to the 'Militant'

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.

That's where you'll find the *Militant* too, bringing you the kind of news and analysis you can't get except in a paper like ours — written by and for working people, not the rich.

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Auto workers shut down GM in Canada

BY GRANT ELGAARD

TORONTO, Canada — On October 16, some 16 hours before the official strike deadline, auto workers on the afternoon shift at the General Motors plant in Oshawa, Ontario, walked off the job. Their action began a battle against the same kind of concessions recently won by GM in the United States.

The walkout was sparked by news reports that a last-minute offer by GM had been described as "totally unacceptable" by officials of the Canadian wing of the United Auto Workers (UAW). It began in the chassis division around 8:00 p.m. An hour later, the largest GM operation in the world, which employs 17,500 workers, had been shut down by the members of UAW Local 222, the union's biggest local.

When word of the Oshawa shutdown spread, workers at GM's Ste. Thérèse plant north of Montreal, Quebec, joined their brothers and sisters who had walked out.

By noon on October 17, the 36,500 workers in GM's nine Canadian plants were on strike. Spirits were high on the picket line, typified by the comments of an Oshawa worker employed at GM for 23 years: "If we don't get what we want, we won't be going back. These gates will be closed until this contract is settled." The picketers this reporter talked with expect a long strike and are prepared for that possibility.

GM is putting pressure on the UAW to exempt from the strike its diesel division in London, Ontario, which makes amphibious armored vehicles for the U.S. marine component of Washington's Rapid Deployment Force. GM is claiming that its plants for war production have been kept open in other UAW strikes.

David Chesney, the UAW plant chairperson in London, declared, "We couldn't go along with that. This is a Canada-wide UAW strike."

GM's final offer was closely patterned on the contract that was only narrowly ratified in the U.S. It was "almost a rubber stamping of the U.S. agreement, but has less total money than that agreement," said UAW Canadian director, Robert White.

On October 22, after six days of fruitless negotiations, White underlined GM's intransigence. The only light at the end of the tunnel, he said, comes from the "front of the freight train and we're trying to stay to the side of the tracks."

As in the U.S., GM wants to impose takebacks, including a paltry tiered-wage increase in the contract's first year that widens wage differentials between various job classifications. There would be no increase in the second and third years. Instead, workers would receive lump-sum

payments that would leave their base wage rate unchanged for the future. It also wants to slash the cost-of-living allowance.

In negotiations with the locals, GM wants concessions on work rules, seniority, and job assignments.

UAW members are demanding restoration of the traditional three percent across the board annual wage increase and the paid personal holidays given up in 1982. They are also fighting for higher pensions.

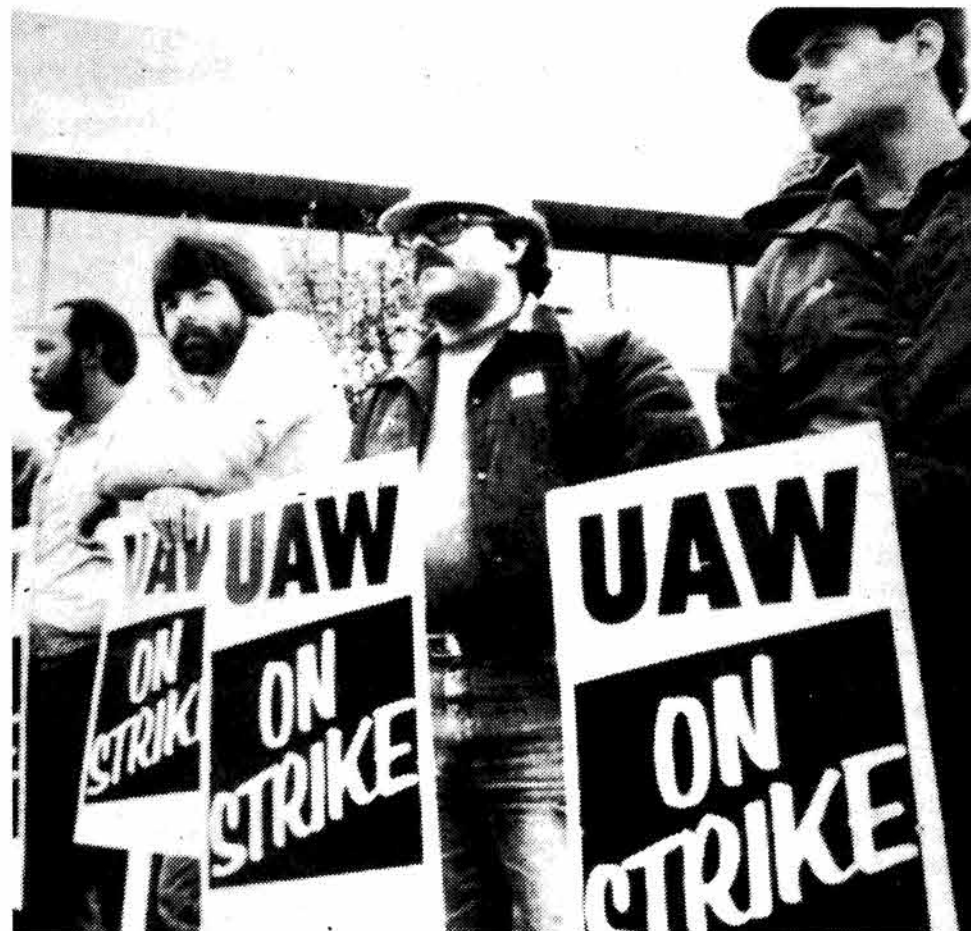
Oshawa workers made known their feelings about GM's take back demands when they "liberated" a large, portable electric sign from GM's parking lot and used it to barricade one of the plant gates. The sign now defiantly notifies passers-by that Local 222 is on strike against concessions.

Workers who felt pressured to accept concessions in 1982 because of massive layoffs are in no mood to accept them now. As one new employee at the Oshawa plant put it, "Two years ago they really had you guys. Now they're making profits. If we don't get a good contract now, we never will."

This massive rank and file resistance left the UAW's Canadian officials with little choice but to call a strike.

Two weeks before the UAW started its six-day selective strike in the U.S., White announced that the UAW in Canada would delay its negotiations with GM and postpone any action until after a settlement had been reached in the U.S. White and his fellow union officers justified the delay by arguing that UAW members in Canada

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Canadian auto workers on the picket line in front of the General Motors transmission plant in Windsor, Ontario. Canada's 36,000 UAW members at GM went on strike on October 17 after the union rejected a new concessions contract offer similar to the GM-UAW pact in the United States.

Britain: miners win new support

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

SHEFFIELD, England — Throughout the 32 weeks of the strike by 150,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) against mine closures and loss of jobs, there has been an

Oct. 24 — As we go to press, the union representing coal-mine supervisors called off a planned strike today. No details of the agreement between the government and the union were released.

epidemic in Britain of "ballotitis," as the disease was diagnosed by Mick McGahey, NUM vice-president.

The Conservative government, the capitalist press, and 30,000 miners who have refused to join the strike, endlessly call for a national ballot. The NUM Na-

tional Conference rejected this, saying that no one had the right to vote, for or against, another miner's right to fight for his job. The conference endorsed the strike action taken by Yorkshire, and other areas of the NUM, to stop mine closures.

Then, at the beginning of October, "ballotitis" disappeared overnight. The National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies, and Shotfirers (NACODS), responsible for mine safety and supervision, balloted, with a massive 82 percent majority for strike action.

The NACODS strike is due to start on October 25. Under the Mine and Quarry Act, no one is allowed into a mine without the supervision of a certified pit deputy. This would prevent the scabs, who have refused to join the strike, from continuing to work, finally bringing all coal production to a complete halt.

Every effort is being made by Margaret Thatcher's government and the National Coal Board (NCB) to head off a NACODS strike. Negotiations were reopened on October 23, but the issue for NACODS is now the same as for the NUM, opposition to mine closures and loss of jobs.

The press and television have been trying to find NACODS members who can be encouraged to scab. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) would be better called the "Scabs Broadcasting Service," in the opinion of Tony Benn, leader of the Labor Party left wing.

Despite this offensive, area meetings of NACODS have endorsed the strike call, even in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, where a majority of miners are scabbing.

Further support for the miners struggle has come from the 8,000 open cast miners, organized by the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU). A 70 percent vote in favor was recorded in a ballot for strike action in defense of jobs.

Solidarity and support for the miners has been growing over the past week. A mood of confidence and determination is to be found on the picket lines and in the miners welfare clubs.

Scottish miners have produced 20,000 leaflets, and have been going door-to-door on the Craigneuk Housing Estate, where many steelworkers from the big Ravenscraig plant live. Throughout the strike, scab coal has been used at this works. This has been encouraged by Bill Sirs, right-wing leader of the steelworkers' union.

The miners' confidence is not matched by the employing class. Over the weekend,

Michael Eaton, a senior NCB area executive, was appointed to "coordinate communications," in place of Coal Board boss, Ian MacGregor. There has been widespread criticism of MacGregor by unnamed NCB executives and government ministers reported in the press. It has quickly become clear that Eaton's role is far more than public relations. Scottish miners vice-president, George Bolton, said the move was "a clear sign of panic in government circles," and he was sure "that Mr. MacGregor will soon be removed." Reports have recently circulated that MacGregor has been offered a job by U.S. President Reagan, in the event of his re-election in November.

Striking British miners determined to win, need support

BY KIPP DAWSON

LONDON — On October 1, as thousands of members of the United Mine Workers of America were suddenly laid off from mines in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, 150,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers here were entering the 30th week of their nationwide strike to save miners' jobs.

The resolve, determination, and confidence one finds here among these miners, their families, and supporters stands in stark contrast to the sense of despair that hangs over the lives of thousands of laid-off miners in the United States.

As a recently laid-off miner from Pennsylvania, the reason for this difference became clear to me within a few hours of being in this country. Here miners and their families are fighting back. Here the National Union of Mineworkers is leading what Tony Benn, Labor Party member of parliament from Chesterfield, described to an October 22 London support rally as "the greatest industrial and political struggle in our lifetime."

Lyn Francis, chairperson of the Kent Miners' Wives Organization, told that same London meeting about problems miners and their families face as they enter the eighth month of this strike.

She described the hassles of trying to cope with everyday life after seven months without a paycheck. She described her shock and outrage at being chased out of a pub by riot police because she and her 10 women friends were wearing buttons sup-

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Socialist campaigners step up sales of 'Militant,' 'Perspectiva Mundial'

BY TOM LEONARD

Some branches of the Socialist Workers Party got an early jump on the five week drive to sell 15,000 *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials*, a Spanish-language biweekly magazine, between October 13 and November 17.

The sales drive is at the center of intensified campaigning for the socialist presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González, and local and state election campaigns. The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are the voices of the socialist campaign.

The day after the drive began, Chicago socialists sold 175 *Militants* and *PMs* at a big nuclear freeze rally, nearly a third of their sales goal of 600. Socialists from Milwaukee attending the rally sold an additional 35 *Militants*.

Holly Harkness, the Chicago branch organizer, said a lot of people were not too excited about the pro-Mondale speeches, but showed a lot of interest in the SWP campaign.

From Los Angeles, we received a report of successful sales at the Third Mexico/USA Border Conference Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean on October 13, attended by over 150 people.

Perspectiva Mundial was the hot seller there. Twenty subscriptions and 11 single

copies were sold along with 17 *Militants*. Los Angeles has a sales goal of 1,000 during the 5 week drive.

In thinking out *PM* sales, socialists in Houston had a good learning experience at a recent plant-gate sale. They found that many of the bilingual workers prefer to read politics in Spanish. So if bilingual workers hesitate to buy the *Militant* from you, be sure to offer them *PM*.

The SWP branch there also sold 130 *Militants* and two *PMs* on the kick-off Saturday of the drive and a total of 160 for the first week. This included 28 *PMs*.

Houston has taken an impressive sales goal of 800 *Militants*, and 200 *PMs*.

Lastly, we have an inspiring sales report from Young Socialist Alliance members in Columbus, Ohio.

In a letter to the YSA national office one wrote: "Twice we went to the gates of the Fisher Body plant here, and sold out of the *Militants* and *Young Socialists* we took, (15-5). Since the *Militant* headline was aimed directly at them, it was a lot easier. Yet by any standard those were the best sales I've been on in my entire four years in the YSA."

We will be covering the sales efforts of our readers regularly in the *Militant*, and we expect more enthusiastic reports in the weeks ahead. There are a lot of thinking people out there who will welcome the answers we have to offer.

BY JAMES WINFIELD

Across the country, members of the Young Socialist Alliance are participating in and helping to organize protests against the U.S. occupation of Grenada and the escalating U.S. war in Central America. The actions are scheduled for the end of October to mark the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

In New York, YSA members are helping to build a demonstration on October 27 along with Black, Caribbean, Central America solidarity, religious, and political organizations. The theme of the demonstration is "The Caribbean and Central America are nobody's backyard."

Stop U.S. intervention

The demands of the demonstration are: "Remove U.S. and all other foreign troops from Grenada now!" "Stop U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua,

Honduras, and Guatemala!" "End the U.S. military occupation of Puerto Rico!" "No more U.S. intervention and economic destabilization in the Caribbean and Central America!" and "Say no to Reaganism!"

The meetings to plan the demonstration have often been attended by representatives of more than 40 organizations. They have been an arena for lively political discussions on how to fight the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Debate over focus

Black and Caribbean organizations and the YSA, along with the Socialist Workers Party, put forward the perspective that opposition to the U.S. occupation of Grenada should be the central focus and most important demand of the demonstrations.

Other organizations argued that the central focus of the demonstra-

tion should be around the demand "No to Reaganism." Making this demand the main focus of the demonstration would mean orienting it toward electing a Democrat to get rid of Reagan in the November presidential elections.

While the central focus of the demonstration is opposition to the U.S. occupation of Grenada and the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean, after several discussions the coalition adopted the demand "Say no to Reaganism."

This discussion will continue up to and beyond the October 27 action. It is an important opportunity to raise ideas on how to build an effective antiwar movement instead of subordinating efforts to electing prowar capitalist politicians.

Members of the YSA have been right at the center of this discussion explaining why the U.S. will have to launch a direct military in-

tervention in Central America, how the U.S. war there is connected to the attacks against workers and working farmers in this country, and how a movement that actively involves the unionists, Blacks, Latinos, youth, and other working people can be built.

Educate on lessons

Through efforts to build the October 27 demonstration, members of the New York and Newark YSA chapters are also helping to educate activists and others on the gains of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada led by the slain Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop. YSA members are educating on how the overthrow of the PRG by a Stalinist clique headed by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard led to the U.S. invasion last October.

YSA activists are helping to promote sales of the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and are publicizing

an October 26 Militant Labor Forum with SWP leader Steve Clark on the lessons of Grenada.

The New York and Newark YSA chapters see building the October 27 action as a major effort. We will be at the demonstration with our banner, socialist campaign literature, the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*.

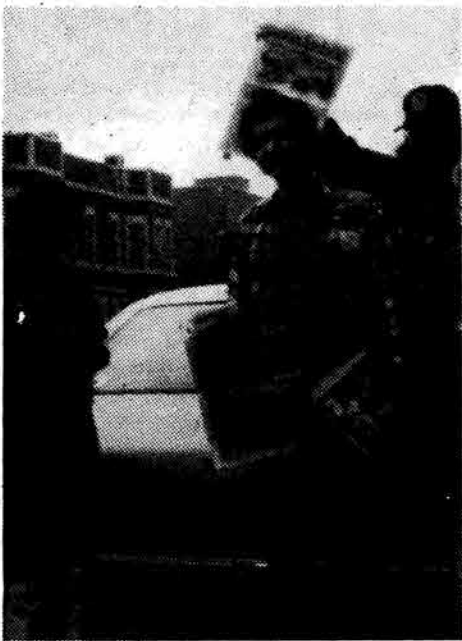
We urge everyone to join us!

James Winfield is a member of the Young Socialist Alliance National Committee in New York.

To find out more about the YSA and the Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential campaign, write to Young Socialist Alliance, 14 Charles Ln., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions to the *Young Socialist*, the YSA's bimonthly newspaper, are \$3 for one year.

Socialist campaign takes 'Militant' to coalfields

Teams talk to workers, farmers in southern Illinois . . .



Members of southern Illinois campaign team.

BY HÉCTOR MARROQUÍN

ST. LOUIS — The two weeks that our *Militant* sales team spent in southern Illinois was an inspiring experience.

Kipp Dawson, Tony Dutrow, and I visited a number of towns in this coal mining and farming area including Mount Vernon, New Baden, Marissa, and Freeburg.

We passed out hundreds of election campaign brochures and sold dozens of *Militants*. A number of people bought subscriptions. Others signed interest cards, and two young workers asked to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

We talked to working people who are angry about the growing U.S. war in Central America and the attacks on the labor movement by the bosses and their government.

Many working people we met are thinking out big political questions and searching for answers.

One coal miner with 20 years experience

happily invited us in for coffee after learning that Kipp is a laid-off coal miner.

"There has never been a time like the one we are living through today," he said. "Things are rough, and it doesn't matter who'll get elected — the politicians will continue to do the same things against working people. They are out to destroy our unions and we have to defend them, that's all we've got."

We talked to this miner about the Nicaraguan revolution. "I know from being in the military," he said, "that we can't fight the kind of wars the government is getting us into today. They're not in our interests, and I tell that to my sons. The wars the government is fighting today are rotten. If they want to send my sons to Central America, I'll help them get to Canada."

This miner is now a subscriber to the *Militant*.

We also met David, a 17-year-old construction worker whose father is a miner. Before we even mentioned the war, he told us, "There is one thing I'm mostly concerned about, and that is this war they are getting us into. I don't like that at all!"

David is very pronoun and insisted that "If anybody talks to me against unions, that's the end!"

Then he told us, "I think our generation,

young people, have the responsibility to change the world."

David decided to join the YSA.

A working farmer told us, "These banks and the fuel companies are making it impossible for us to make any money. I think I'm going to lose the 300 acres I've got. I'm glad you are talking about our problems, the politicians aren't doing anything." He was happy to see an article in the *Militant* on the situation of farmers.

The military is a big employer in southern Illinois and we talked to relatives of servicemen. Deborah was one of them. We told her that we didn't think people like her husband should be sent to fight and die in Central America.

Her concerns, however, went far beyond what could happen to her husband. With an angry look on her face she replied, "And what about the people in Central America? Why should they have to die too? Our government has no right to interfere in the lives of people in other countries."

"Our government goes to war only to make things worse for them by destroying whatever little things these people may have."

After our discussion, Deborah bought a subscription to the *Militant* and took some pamphlets on Nicaragua.

Mason campaigns in Baltimore

BY BRENDA BRDAR

BALTIMORE — In spite of an FBI-style car break-in, Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, completed two successful days of campaigning in the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore area October 6-7.

Mason said that the theft of his clothes, campaign speech, and other materials "was not some robbery off the street." Similar thefts had been carried out against Mason and his campaign supporters while he was running for governor of California in 1982.

Recently, Mason was the victim of U.S. customs officials' harassment at the Miami airport upon his return from a two-week tour of revolutionary Nicaragua. These incidents — as well as attempts to keep the SWP off the ballot and break-ins and attacks on SWP campaign offices — are part of a pattern of harassment inspired by the government's reactionary policies, Mason explained.

Rallies in Washington and Baltimore drew nearly 60 participants each and attracted activists from the Central America solidarity movement, National Black Independent Political Party, African National Congress, and All Peoples' Congress; as well as members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), United Steelworkers, United Transportation Union, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, United Auto Workers, and Amalgamated Transit Union; and several students.

Deborah Lazar, a member of the D.C. Young Socialist Alliance and IAM local 1784, spoke at the Washington rally. She told of her experience on a three-week cotton-picking brigade in Nicaragua. She had the opportunity to talk to many young Nicaraguans and learn firsthand how strongly



Mel Mason

they feel about defending the gains of their revolution.

At the Baltimore rally, SWP candidate for Congress in the 2nd C.D., Ted Leonard, urged young people to join the YSA. "We don't like the future the U.S. government has in store for us. But the YSA sees a future worth fighting for. A future, where, like in Nicaragua, the government takes the side of the workers and farmers, where human needs come before profits — a socialist future."

Joey Rothenberg, SWP candidate in Maryland's 7th C.D. and steelworker at the giant Sparrows Point mill in Baltimore, also spoke.

Over \$800 was raised in both Washington and Baltimore for the socialist campaign and two people asked to join the D.C. YSA. More than \$25 of Pathfinder literature was sold at the Baltimore rally.

. . . and West Virginia, Pennsylvania

BY GEORGE CHALMERS AND MATT HERRESHOFF

WEIRTON, W. Va. — "We've got to fight like our forefathers did," a mill hand at Weirton Steel said. Like other workers here, he was thinking about how to defend our jobs and unions. He was also concerned about the growing U.S. war in Central America.

A team of socialist campaigners traveling through West Virginia and Pennsylvania talked to him and dozens of other workers at a Weirton Steel plant gate. Weirton Steel made national headlines when two years ago workers there were forced to accept concessions under an "employee ownership" scheme.

The worker told us that under the setup, "there's really no difference: the same bosses, the same rules, the same conditions. I get a little less money in each paycheck, but at least I'm still getting a paycheck," he said. Many workers here aren't. Recently, 250 more steelworkers were laid off by Weirton Steel.

During the shift change, dozens of Weirton steelworkers stopped to talk with Dave Ferguson, a coal miner running for governor of West Virginia on the Socialist Workers Party ticket. Over 100 took copies of the socialist campaign platform. Eight bought copies of the *Militant*.

"It takes nine years' seniority to hold a job here," a steelworker told us. "Young fellows can't get in here." Throughout

West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania, working people have been hard hit by layoffs and closings of coal mines and steel mills.

"A lot of guys I went to school with are in the service," a young woman told us in Shinnston, West Virginia. "There was nothing else for them to do." Many young men here have been forced to go into the military for lack of work and antiwar sentiment runs deep. "I know the war's coming, and I'm against it," she said.

In the coal-mining community of Welch a young Black man told us, "A lot of my friends have gone into the service because there's nothing else to do except stand around on the streets. I've been thinking about it myself, but I'm worried by this war."

In Brownston, some 25 miles from Shinnston, a laid-off miner told us, "I have two sons, 15 and 16, and they're already talking about going into the service because there's nothing else for them." He, like many others we talked with, liked the socialist proposals for ending the war and spending the U.S. military budget on human needs. "If they spent that money here, we wouldn't have half the problems we have in this country," a retired miner told us in Monongah.

Through hundreds of discussions like these, 98 people bought copies of the *Militant*, and 9 signed up to receive regular information on the socialist campaign during the team's second week on the road.

Socialist fund helps 'spread the word'

BY YVONNE HAYES

A legislative representative of the United Transportation Union from Nebraska explains that he supports the socialist presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González because their message is "power to the working people." He says, "I've been listening to the Socialist Workers Party for a number of years and have received this message. Now I intend to help spread the word."

One way that campaign supporters like this union activist are helping to spread the word about the socialist campaign is by contributing to the \$100,000 Socialist Campaign Fund. Their donations are helping to put the socialist program into print and to get it into the hands of thousands of working people across the country.

This fund has helped to finance an ambitious effort by socialist campaigners in recent weeks to reach workers and farmers, Blacks and Latinos, women and youth at the plant gates and in their communities. Traveling teams of campaigners have visited the coalfields in Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and southern Illinois to talk with miners. And socialist candidates and spokespeople for the campaign have

been on the road, speaking at rallies and meetings.

A new campaign brochure has just been produced in Spanish to broaden this effort. This brochure and the English version, along with the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language socialist magazine, will be at the center of the socialist campaign's participation in anti-war activities focusing on the anniversary of the U.S. government's October 25, 1983, criminal invasion of Grenada.

The socialist campaign is also making an effort to take advantage of the increased attention to the campaign in the news media. Nationally, the socialist candidates have been interviewed recently by *People* magazine, the National Black Radio Network, and the National Radio of Spain.

Campaign committees around the country have been able to reach thousands of working people through radio interviews and press coverage of socialist candidates for local and federal office. In Tidewater Virginia, the Congressional campaign of Eli Green, a member of the United Steelworkers of America who works at the Tenneco shipyard, has received wide coverage

because of his exclusion from candidates' debates in the area.

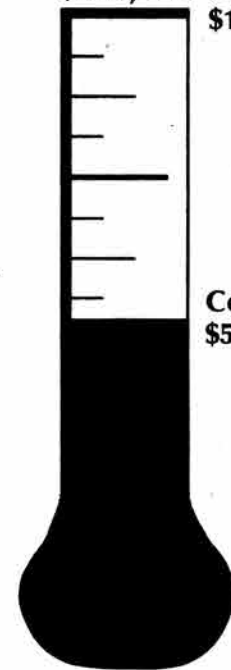
Evidence that the word is getting out on the socialist campaign can be seen in the dramatic increase in the number of phone calls and letters requesting information that are received at the socialist campaign national headquarters in New York. These requests come in response to ads in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, coupons from national campaign materials, and as the result of the distribution of local campaign materials that support the socialist presidential ticket.

Many of these inquiries include campaign contributions to the \$100,000 Fund. Often these are accompanied by requests for subscriptions to the socialist press or for information on the availability of other socialist literature.

In order to keep up the effort to reach as many working people as possible in the final weeks of the campaign, an extra push is needed to collect \$46,000 in order to meet the national fundraising goal of the socialist campaign. In the past week, over \$15,700 has been sent in. Special efforts must be organized to ensure full collection of the goal on time.

Socialist Campaign Fund

\$100,000 Pledged: \$102,561



Collected: \$54,011

González talks to farm workers.

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

MIAMI — An evening meeting with a group of 25 migrant farm workers in Florida City highlighted Andrea González' October 10-12 tour of south Florida. The two-hour discussion with Mexican and Salvadoran workers was held in the main parking lot of the Everglades Migrant Housing trailer camp.

Many of the workers were members of Santuario, a Florida organization of undocumented workers that provides legal and financial aid and helps them stand up for their rights against the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Border Patrol.

Gloria Hernandez, an organizer for Santuario in south Florida, explained some of the other problems farm workers face: rent on the trailers has gone from \$12 per week to \$52 per week in just three years, while wages remain at barely the \$3.35 hourly minimum.

A January freeze and the outbreak of citrus canker in the orange groves upstate mean that there have not been jobs for many workers as they arrive here for the winter. Many are not eligible for unemployment or food stamps, or are afraid to apply for fear of being deported. In desperation, some are borrowing gas money from local churches, planning to drive to Texas in hope of finding work.

There is no union organization among farm workers in south Florida. Workers are at the mercy of the growers and contractors, who hire and fire at will, drive down wages, and often cheat workers out of their hard-earned money. They have repeatedly defeated attempts to pass a law meeting such minimal workers' needs as providing toilets and drinking water in the fields.

González explained the experiences of farm workers she met in other parts of the country, how the United Farm Workers union (UFW) developed along with the Chicano movement of the 1960s, and the fight the UFW now faces as the California growers try to destroy the gains of that struggle.

Much of the discussion focused on the question of deportations. Florida City is near the southern end of Krome Avenue — just a few miles from the notorious INS detention center. Many farm workers have been seized and deported by *la migra*.

González explained the socialists' opposition to all deportations and started a discussion on how to fight back.

"The bosses and their government want to divide the workers," she explained. "They want us to blame each other for problems like unemployment. But no worker — whether in Haiti, Mexico, or here, with or without papers — ever decided to hire or fire anyone. It is the bosses and their drive for profits that cause unemployment."

"Socialists welcome all workers who

want to come to this country," she said. "We want to increase production to meet human needs, not restrict production to drive up prices and boost profits."

Asked what could be done now, González explained that "we need to win the labor movement, the most powerful organizations of workers, to defend all workers, whether we have papers or not. Most union officials have a reactionary, anti-immigrant stand. They echo the lies and prejudices of the bosses and their politicians. We need to campaign within the labor movement to change this position."

"Deportations are especially crucial for all of us who are Latinos," she concluded. "Anyone that *la migra* thinks looks Brown, or speaks with an accent, is liable to be arrested, beaten up and deported. Those of us who have papers or citizenship must take the lead in standing up for the rights of our brothers and sisters from Mexico, El Salvador, and Haiti."



Militant/Stu Singer
SWP vice-presidential candidate Andrea González speaking at Miami rally.

Ohio socialist candidate protests exclusion from debates, media

BY MORRIS STARKS

CINCINNATI — Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from Ohio's 1st District, held a news conference October 12 to protest her exclusion from candidates' debates, unequal media coverage of her campaign, and harassment of campaign supporters.

Denny was excluded from an October 12 debate sponsored by Sigma Delta Chi, the Society for Professional Journalists, and

one on October 11 sponsored by the St. Catherine's Catholic Church Forum. Last week, the *Cincinnati Post* ran a full-page feature article on the Republican and Democratic candidates in the First Congressional District race, but merely mentioned that Denny was running.

Recently, two campaign supporters were prevented from handing out literature by University of Cincinnati security officers on the public sidewalk in front of a downtown auditorium owned by the university.

In her statement to the media, Denny explained that these violations of democratic rights are "essential to the tiny minority of rich people who rule through both the Republican and the Democratic parties." She pointed out that without her participation there will be no real debate because both candidates "agree on the capitalist program of war against the people of Central America and against workers here at home."

Denny said that if she were in the debate, she would tell working people, farmers, and oppressed nationalities that the only way they can change how things are set up in this country "is through an independent mobilization that puts in power their own government — a workers and farmers government."

Denny contrasted U.S. elections with the upcoming election in Nicaragua being conducted by a workers and farmers government. "Every party with a declared candidate has automatic ballot status. The gov-

ernment provided \$300,000 to the many parties running in the election for campaign expenses. There is equal media coverage for all candidates."

The news conference was attended by both daily newspapers, a suburban weekly, two television stations, and three radio stations. One television anchor interviewed Denny live in front of the General Electric plant where she works. In a later news program he did a commentary questioning the policy of excluding socialist candidates from debates and the media's limited coverage of socialist campaigns.



Militant/Salm Kolis
Kathleen Denny, SWP candidate in Ohio's 1st Congressional District.

From Pathfinder

Nicaragua: An introduction to the Sandinista Revolution

By Arnold Weissberg, Managua correspondent for *Intercontinental Press*.

A clearly written description of pre-revolutionary Nicaragua, the insurrection, the far-reaching social measures taken by the Sandinista government and the U.S. government's response.

48 pp., \$95. Add \$.75 for postage.
Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

New Salvadoran army offensive launched

Continued from front page

killed was the commander of the Atlacatl Battalion.

Army spokesman Col. Ricardo Cienfuegos claimed that the deaths were the result of a mechanical failure of the helicopter. However, upon being further questioned by reporters, Cienfuegos said that he didn't know whether the helicopter had been fired at or not.

CIA spy plane crash

The day after the offensive by the army began, four CIA employees on a night-time spy mission for either the Salvadoran army or the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries died when their helicopter crashed over Salvadoran territory. This brings to eight the number of known U.S. combat casualties in Central America in the last year and a half.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D.-NY), vice-chairman of the bipartisan Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, confirmed immediately that Congress had approved such spy flights for the Salvadoran army. The information gathered is then used by the army to target civilian population centers for dropping bombs.

The Salvadoran army raid on Morazán was started three days after the talks held in La Palma, El Salvador between the government of José Napoleón Duarte and the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR). The offensive underlined the fact that Washington and Duarte have not given up their goal of crushing the FMLN militarily and that Duarte was using his proposal for talks as a cover for escalating the war still further.

FMLN statement

The day after the meeting with Duarte, the General Command of the FMLN issued a statement on what was accomplished with the talks and what lies ahead for the Salvadoran masses.

"With the start of the dialogue," the statement pointed out, "we have made important gains in the political arena. We have opened up space for the masses of people to politically organize, mobilize, and express themselves.

"These spaces must be extended and broadened through the organized struggle of the whole people.

"We have been able to break the muzzle the dictators had imposed on the media in an attempt to confuse and demoralize the people's struggle."

The FMLN statement also warned the Salvadoran people that nothing fundamental had been changed by the meeting, a point which was confirmed by the subsequent army invasion of Morazán.

"[O]ur people must be vigilant. The imperialist enemy and the puppet regime still hope to use the dialogue as a propagandistic maneuver. They hope to confuse the people, making them believe that democracy has been implemented in El Salvador, that the conditions of poverty and exploitation do not exist, that people's freedoms and rights are no longer trampled, and that there is no longer the genocidal barbarism that justifies armed struggle.

"The transformation that our country has undergone has not been democratization or implementation of social justice, as Duarte said, but rather the turning over of national sovereignty and the political, economic, military, and diplomatic spheres to the imperialist government of the United States, whose weapons, planes, and military advisers are drenching the soil of our homeland in blood and destroying the humble possessions of the working people.

"Duarte is trying to manufacture a peaceful image while his repressive apparatus deepens the war against the people and continues bombing defenseless settlements and persecuting, jailing, torturing, and massacring our people's best sons and daughters."

Death squads strike again

Leaders of the death squads, who have links with the army officer corp, had charged Duarte with "high treason" for meeting with the rebels. They openly reject

anything that could imply recognition of the revolutionary forces. Death squad leader Roberto d'Aubuisson pointed out that the guerrillas gained credibility from the talks."

On October 19, the death squads struck at Duarte supporters. Boris King Montes, the 14-year-old son of Arilio Montes, the public relations director for the Salvadoran Peasants' Union, was kidnapped from his home in San Salvador on October 19 by heavily armed men. His body, along with the bodies of two other youths, were found later that evening with a note ordering Montes to leave his union job. The bodies had the initials of the Secret Anticommunist Army carved in the foreheads. The Secret Anticommunist Army is the name of one of the death squads. The Salvadoran Peasants' Union leadership supports Duarte.

Nicaraguan elections

A new move by Washington to undermine the legitimacy of Nicaragua's November 4 presidential elections and thereby provide cover for escalating the U.S. war against Nicaragua was made with the October 22 announcement by the Independent Liberal Party candidate Virgilio Godoy Reyes that he was withdrawing from the campaign.

Godoy demanded that the elections be postponed till January, and repeated claims by Washington that the election procedures were unfair.

The Nicaraguan government responded that the elections would not be postponed. Six parties are now in the race.

'Nicaragua chief wasn't crying wolf at UN'

"Invasion by U.S. Inevitable. Nicaragua Chief Wasn't Crying Wolf at UN." That was the headline on an October 5, 1984 column written by Jack McKinney, a regular columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. It reflects the concerns of many working people. We are reprinting excerpts for the information of our readers.

It didn't seem right, hearing Daniel Ortega compared to the boy who cried wolf — after the Sandinistas' chief coordinator told the United Nations General Assembly that a U.S. plan to invade Nicaragua "is ready to begin Oct. 15."

You remember the boy who cried wolf. He raised so many false alarms that when the wolf finally did attack his sheep, no one paid any attention to his cries for help.

Forgetting the impropriety of calling the acting head of a sovereign nation a boy, at least it would have been fairer to compare



Salvadoran army helicopter dropping supplies to members of U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion. Salvadoran army raid came only three days after the government's so-called peace initiative in La Palma.

Godoy, who recently resigned from his post as Minister of Labor in the Sandinista government, had been using his election campaign to attack the Sandinista revolution. "To say that the workers and peasants are in power is a monstrous lie," he said in a recent speech. "The only equality we are achieving is equality in misery."

When asked, in reference to Washington, whether the Liberals had been urged by any "outside force" to withdraw from the election, Godoy responded, "No outside pressure, either from inside the country or from outside, has anything to do with the decision" to withdraw from the race.

However, Reagan administration officials recently admitted to the *New York Times* that Washington had made sure that the pro-Washington opposition candidate

Arturo Cruz did not enter the presidential race. Cruz is a representative of Nicaraguan big businessmen and the counterrevolutionaries.

"The [Reagan] Administration never contemplated letting Cruz stay in the race," one official said, "because then the Sandinistas could justifiably claim that the elections were legitimate, making it much harder for the United States to oppose the Nicaraguan government."

Other officials admitted that the CIA had worked with Cruz and his supporters to insure that while they made believe they were desperately searching for an agreement with the Sandinistas, which would allow them to participate in the elections, they would reject every concession offered by the government.

Daniel Ortega to the lad who stuck his finger in the dike. No one took him seriously, either, but his vigilance saved the town from being washed away.

When — and if — Oct. 15 passes without U.S. paratroops dropping on Managua, the Sandinistas' critics can be expected to cite the nonevent as proof of Ortega's paranoia. But at least his country will still be intact — for a little while longer, anyway.

Meanwhile, we'll never really know what timetable Ronald Reagan may have had in mind for hitting Nicaragua — before the Sandinista chief spoke out.

Was Daniel Ortega just crying wolf in hope of making the front page of the *New York Times* (which chose, incidentally, to play the story on page 4)? Before you make that judgment, there's some historical background you should know.

This might come as a jolt to those who prefer to remain ignorant about the most

undeveloped and underpopulated country in Central America, but to Nicaraguans, the prospect of a U.S. invasion seems as inevitable as their next earthquake.

For them, it's not a question of *if*, but *when*.

Certainly, the powerful neighbor they refer to as the "Colossus of the North" has had plenty of practice. The U.S. has invaded Nicaragua no fewer than 14 times over 73 years!

Daniel Ortega might have had the wrong date, even though he seemed to have based it on some hard evidence.

But among truly knowledgeable Nicaragua-watchers — no matter whether their perspective is left, right or center — there are no longer any doubts that sooner or later, Reagan will send in his first team. And when that happens, a lot of American parents are going to find their own sons on the varsity.

'IP' interviews rebel leader in Philippines

For more than a year, the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines has been confronted by mass protests of millions of workers, students, farmers, and others demanding Marcos' resignation. In the meantime, the New People's Army, led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has stepped up its guerrilla operations in the countryside.

The upcoming, November 12, issue of *Intercontinental Press* will include an exclusive interview with Jose Maria Sison, the chairman of the outlawed CPP. It was obtained in a Manila courtroom by *IP* correspondent Deb Shnookal during one of the sessions of the "subversion" trial of Sison and several other accused CPP leaders. Sison was arrested in 1977 and has spent most of his detention in solitary confinement.

In the interview, Sison explains the CPP's views on the character of the revolution in the Philippines,

the perspectives facing the mass movement, and the roles of U.S. and Australian imperialism.

The current, October 29, issue of *IP* features an interview with Rubén Zamora, a leader of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador.

Intercontinental Press carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics — from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America — than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

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Cuba, Nicaragua Warn of U.S. Intervention Threat



FSLN's Daniel Ortega:
'U.S. Wants to Disrupt
Nicaraguan Elections'

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca
Warns of Attacks on Central America

Interview with Salvadoran FDR-FMLN
Leader Ruben Zamora:
'Realism is the Only
Revolutionary Politics'



South African Blacks Say 'No'
to Apartheid Constitution

Reagan, Mondale agree: wage war for rich

Mason-González statement blasts prowar policies of Democrats, Republicans

Continued from front page

"debate" was one more illustration of the truth of that statement.

U.S. military aggression is not simply bad or mistaken policies on the part of these two individuals. Their parties — the Republicans and the Democrats — are the parties of the U.S. imperialist ruling class. "Imperialist" is not just a nasty name for the tiny handful of super-rich families of industrialists and bankers that own and run the United States and much of the rest of the world.

The term "imperialist" means that the class of people these parties represent live off the wealth produced not only by workers and farmers in the United States, but also in the semicolonial countries they dominate. Maintaining and increasing these profits is a life-and-death question for these parasites.

The results of imperialist domination — extreme poverty, hunger, repression, illiteracy, disease, and deepening of racist and sexist oppression, — mean that the workers and farmers of the dominated countries are driven time and again to rebel against the imperialists and their native agents. For them, ending imperialist domination — the decisive way that Cuba did and Nicaragua is doing — is also a life-and-death matter.

That's why imperialist wars against the colonial peoples are an inevitable and permanent part of the private profit system.

Socialist campaign

Our campaign and our party represent the interests of a different class of people — working people and the oppressed nations.

We stand for an end to all U.S. aggression

against Cuba and an end to the war against Nicaragua.

We think the key to peace in El Salvador lies in ending U.S. military intervention and the massive financial aid on which that regime relies. The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, not the U.S.-installed regime of José Napoleón Duarte, represents the aspirations of the Salvadoran people for peace and social justice.

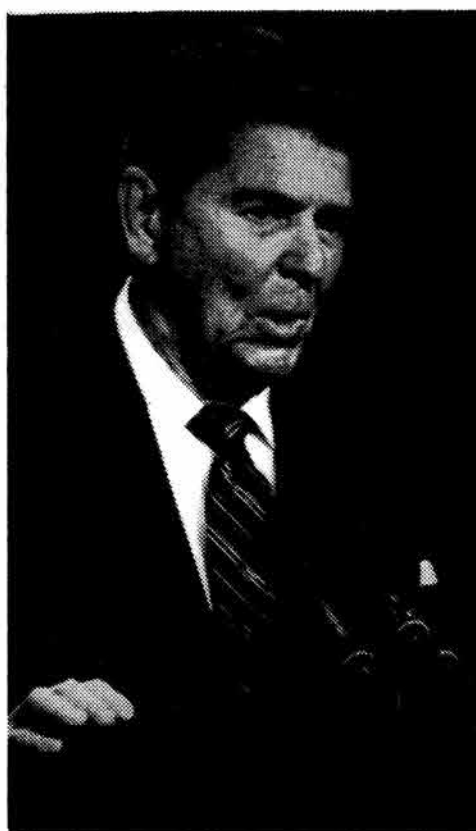
Che Guevara, who Mondale called a "contemptible figure in civilization's history," is one of the best-loved leaders of the oppressed peoples of Latin America and the world. Unlike the despicable shah, Guevara was a noble and heroic leader of the Cuban revolution, who gave his life in the struggle to free the workers and farmers of our entire hemisphere from the yoke of U.S. imperialist domination.

For a world without borders

Our campaign opposes the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill and all other anti-immigrant legislation. We call for full rights for every person within the borders of the United States.

We also call for the U.S. borders to be opened — in fact, for a world without borders. We welcome working people from Mexico, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries who are forced to leave their homelands by poverty and government and right-wing terror that results from decades of U.S.-imposed "democracy" and "development."

The presence of these workers has strengthened our class and our trade unions. They have helped lead militant struggles against the employers, as Mexican copper miners are doing in Arizona today. They have helped make U.S.-born



Reagan and Mondale took staunch anticommunist stands in their joint TV appearance. Mondale proudly announced he considers Che Guevara one of the "contemptible figures in civilization's history." Both stand opposed to national liberation struggles throughout the world.

workers much more aware of the reactionary role that U.S. imperialism plays throughout the hemisphere, and of the need to oppose Washington's attempts to drown in blood the liberation struggles in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our campaign says that Washington, not

Moscow or Havana, is the terror capital of the world. It was Washington, not Moscow, that actually dropped two atomic bombs — on Japan.

Democratic President Harry Truman, whose mantle Reagan and Mondale are vying for today, gave the order.

It is Washington, not Moscow, that has always been the initiator of new and more deadly weapons systems, forcing Moscow to do likewise as a defensive move.

The fact that the Soviet Union has been able to develop a nuclear arsenal has been the only thing that's prevented Washington from carrying out more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis in Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Central America — and the Soviet Union itself.

Our campaign is for unilateral nuclear disarmament of Washington, not a phony bilateral nuclear freeze that tries to put an equal sign between U.S. imperialist aggression and defensive moves on the part of the Soviet workers state.

Join the socialist campaign

Supporting either Reagan or Mondale won't bring us any closer to an end to the escalating U.S. war in Nicaragua and El Salvador, or to the attacks on our living standards and rights here at home.

But there are things that workers, Blacks, Latinos, women, and farmers can do today to respond to the new Vietnam war developing in our hemisphere. We can go to Nicaragua and see for ourselves the truth about what working people there have accomplished with their new government.

And we can participate in antiwar protests like the one in New York City on October 27.

We urge those who agree with us to join us in our last week of campaigning and get out the program of the socialist campaign in 1984.

Increased 'contra' attacks from Costa Rica

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA — Nicaraguan Government Coordinator Daniel Ortega charged October 15 that the United States is transporting to Costa Rica arms captured in Grenada. These Soviet-made arms, Ortega said, will be used by the CIA in staging mock attacks against Costa Rica itself and then blaming the attacks on Nicaragua.

The U.S. war scenario unfolds with U.S. troops being sent in to defend Costa Rica against the "aggressor" Nicaragua.

This latest war plan was revealed by Ortega at a meeting of the Mixed Commission of Supervision and Prevention of Border Incidents. This joint Costa Rican-Nicaraguan body has as its stated purpose the prevention of such incidents by outside forces that "try to create artificial conflicts between two historically fraternal peoples."

As the Sandinistas explain, such a conflict, which the U.S. government has taken several ominous new steps to try to provoke, would be used to justify a direct U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

There have been at least six separate attacks against Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory since the beginning of June. These include an attack on the border town of Peñas Blancas on June 5, carried out with the support of the Costa Rican Rural Assistance Guard; artillery fire from the Costa Rican town of Punta Tostillo on towns in the Nicaraguan department of Rio San Juan on August 27; the capture in Costa Rica of an airplane doing spy flights over Nicaragua on June 28; and mortar fire supported by launches and helicopters against the Nicaraguan sectors of Machuca and Agua Fresca on June 13. The latter attack succeeded in its goal of drawing Nicaraguan counter fire into Costa Rica.

One of the most recent incidents of this type took place on October 15 when U.S.-organized mercenary forces attacked the Nicaraguan border post of San Pancho from Costa Rica. While they fired mortar, two support helicopters flew overhead.

That same day two jet planes flew over the Nicaraguan port of Corinto. And the following day another jet flew over Diriamba, San Juan del Sur, and Peñas Blancas. All the jets headed southward into Costa Rica. Then on October 20 the *contra*

forces fired across the border, again directing their attack against Peñas Blancas.

It has also been revealed that several U.S. citizens living in Costa Rica are allowing the use of their farms for the landing of planes and helicopters sent by the U.S. government to assist the CIA-hired mercenaries. One of the Americans involved, John Hull, admitted this recently on a Costa Rican news show.

On October 18, acting Foreign Minister Víctor Tinoco protested to the Costa Rican government, making the connection between this news, the sighting of the jets, and the possibility that Costa Rican territory will be used to "prepare greater military actions against Nicaragua."

A similar series of provocations has come from Honduras, Nicaragua's northern neighbor, with the added danger of U.S. troops already stationed there immediately becoming involved.

On June 21 the Honduran government accused Nicaragua of having involved its troops in a clash with the Honduran army. The Sandinistas emphatically denied the accusation — pointing out that it took Honduras more than 48 hours to complain about the supposed act of war. Nicaragua charged that such lies could be a screen for the preparation of real, CIA-organized attacks against Honduran installations — attacks which would then be attributed to Nicaragua.

A second phase of joint U.S.-Honduran troop maneuvers, called "Dragonfly," is scheduled to get under way before the end of October. Since 1983 to date, at least 20,000 U.S. and Honduran troops have participated in such exercises. Moreover, on October 18 two U.S. ships were spotted carrying out maneuvers off the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua within 16 miles of the towns of Puerto Sandino and Montelimar.

Until recently the strongest and best-supplied wing of the *contras*, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), has been stationed in Honduras. From there, they had carried out the most serious attacks against Nicaragua, with on-the-spot guidance and assistance from the CIA.

However, as Nicaraguan Commander of the Revolution Carlos Núñez explained to the press here on October 19, since the September fusion of the FDN and the Costa

Rican-based *contra* forces, the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), FDN mercenaries and supplies have been moving into Costa Rica in a flagrant violation of the declared neutrality of that country.

The counterrevolutionaries, Núñez said, plan to "bring the war to the Pacific," the more densely populated western region of Nicaragua. The *contras* will try to take a few towns, create the appearance of a civil war, and allow the U.S. imperialists to step in as the "solution factor."

Meanwhile, on October 17, Cristian Pichardo, Ministry of the Interior Delegate for Region I (includes the departments of Estelí, Nueva Segovia, and Madriz), denounced the presence of three "regional commands" (about 3,000 troops) of counterrevolutionaries in the northern departments of Estelí and Jinotega. He said their plan is to attack the regional capital, Estelí, and thereby achieve a publicity coup by appearing as a "powerful belligerent force." Heavy fighting has been reported near Estelí during the third week of October.

Between October 12 and 18, there were 13 battles between the *contras* and Sandinista troops. The Ministry of Defense reported that in that same period two state farms were destroyed, at least 40 peasants kidnapped, and various ambushes of civilians and soldiers carried out by the mercenary forces.

Join Oct. 27 antiwar demonstration

The October 27 demonstration demanding the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign troops from Grenada, and an end to the U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador will take place at Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza. Three feeder marches will join each other at this rally site. The first march begins at 10 a.m. at Fulton Street and Nostrand Avenue and will march through the heart of the large Caribbean community in that area.

A second feeder march will assemble at 10:30 a.m. at Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue in South Brooklyn, while a third march is scheduled to pass through

Brooklyn's huge Black community in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Speakers at the Grand Army Plaza rally, which begins at 12 noon, will feature Dessima Williams, former Grenadian ambassador to the Organization of American States. Other speakers include representatives of Nicaragua, the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. Rev. Herbert Daughtry, chairperson of the National Black United Front, and Wilma Reverón, director of the Office on Information for Puerto Rican Independence, will also address the rally.

U.S. Customs agents are gov't cops, not 'neutral' officials

BY THABO NTWENG

If you are returning from a trip overseas, do U.S. customs agents have the right to interrogate you about your visit and your political views, or to seize literature you brought back with you?

Many supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution are being confronted with these questions as U.S. government agencies step up their attacks on the right to travel to Nicaragua.

A recent case is that of Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, and Sam Manuel, a national leader of the SWP and San Francisco coordinator of the party's presidential campaign. This past August, Manuel and Mason were both stopped by customs agents in Miami on their return from a fact-finding trip to Nicaragua. The only two Blacks in the tour group, they were singled out for political interrogation.

Customs agents subjected them to harassment, including questioning about what they did in Nicaragua and about their political views. The cops seized literature on the Sandinista revolution that Manuel was carrying and turned it over to the FBI. A receipt given Manuel for the confiscated literature labeled it "possibly seditious material." After several weeks of public protests against these unconstitutional moves, Manuel forced the FBI to return his literature.

Other travelers to Nicaragua have faced similar harassment when they go through U.S. customs. These attacks on the right to travel are part of the general assault on democratic rights by the U.S. government as it escalates its war in Central America

New Jersey labor opposes U.S. war in Central America

BY MARY GUTKANST

WILDWOOD CREST, N.J. — The war in Central America was one of the issues addressed by the convention of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council (IUC), a statewide federation of AFL-CIO unions. The IUC convention met here October 19-21.

A resolution was passed urging "the U.S. Government and all nations to do everything in their power to further the peace process under way in El Salvador and the efforts of the Contadora nations to provide economic aid to the region, rather than further arms build-ups, covert operations or any other actions which will lead to out-and-out war and to the escalation of the conflict beyond the Nicaraguan borders. . . ."

The resolution went on to hail the release of nine Salvadoran electrical union leaders and the work of the National Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

In discussion under the resolution, several delegates spoke against U.S. policy in Central America. One Latino delegate explained the war is between the people of Central America and the U.S. government and its hirelings.

Carol Graves, president of the Newark Teachers Union, also spoke movingly of hearing Héctor Recinos, Jr., son of one of the released Salvadoran leaders, at a reception hosted by her union.

Activists from the New Jersey and Philadelphia chapters of the Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador arranged a literature display during the convention sessions, and widely distributed a brochure describing the Labor Committee's purpose and activities. Several delegates signed up to be contacted for upcoming activities of the Labor Committee.

Mary Gutekanst is a member of Local 447 of the International Union of Electronic Workers.

and the Caribbean.

The assault is carried out on many fronts by various arms of the government. The Supreme Court has upheld the ban on travel to Cuba. The Treasury Department is currently demanding that Marazul Tours, a travel agency, turn over its records on clients who have traveled to Cuba. The State Department routinely denies visas to Nicaraguans who wish to come to this country and speak to U.S. working people. The FBI has made numerous visits to the homes of U.S. activists who have been to Nicaragua, demanding they answer questions about their political views and what they did in Nicaragua.

Harassment by customs agents is part of this offensive. These agents are cops too, not "neutral" functionaries. Intimidating people who have visited Nicaragua, Cuba, and other countries on Washington's enemies list is one of their main functions. Customs agents try to bully travelers into thinking they must answer all kinds of questions that have nothing to do with customs.

Travelers returning to the United States must fill out a customs declaration form that lists such things as your name, occupation, address, flight number, and purchases you have made abroad if they exceed a certain limit. When you turn this over to customs, you must answer questions the agents ask you if they are related to customs matters, such as the price of purchases you are bringing into the country.

But you are under no obligation to answer other kinds of questions. Charles Sims, staff counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, explained to the *Militant* in a telephone interview:

"Customs agents have no right to interrogate persons returning from Nicaragua about their political beliefs. Persons returning are only required to answer questions that are related to customs matters.

"You are not obligated to answer questions about your political affiliations, what you did in Nicaragua, who you visited, or what places you visited."

In other words, it is your right *not* to answer questions about your experiences in Nicaragua, who you traveled with, your political beliefs and affiliations, and your personal life.

Don't let agents provoke you into responding to such questions, and don't attempt to "outsmart" them with a clever answer. Don't answer a couple of "harmless" questions about your politics or affiliations in the hopes that they will stop harassing you.

Remember, you are dealing with agents of the federal government. It is illegal, for example, to give false answers to a customs agent.

The general political guideline is, *don't talk to cops* — whether they're customs cops, immigration cops, Treasury Department cops, FBI cops, or the cop on the beat. If they detain you for questioning, *always* assert your right to remain silent and to have a lawyer present when you are being questioned.

Under the law, the customs police can examine the contents of your luggage. In Sam Manuel's case, they took away some of his property, claiming it fell under a U.S. customs code banning literature "containing any matter advocating or urging treason against the United States."

This unconstitutional code is simply being used to prevent U.S. working people from learning the truth about Nicaragua. There is nothing illegal or "subversive" about Nicaraguan literature.

If customs agents seize literature or other materials you are bringing back from Nicaragua, or if they hold it "for inspection," demand to know under what law they are doing so. Make it clear that they are taking it from you without your agreement, or permission. Demand a signed receipt for your property and the names and badge numbers of the agents involved.



Militant/Barbara Mutnick
SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason (right) in Nicaragua last July. Mason and San Francisco campaign coordinator Sam Manuel were interrogated by customs cops on their return to United States. Sandinista literature, branded as "possibly seditious material," was illegally seized from Manuel.

Midwest ACTWU holds meeting

BY CHRIS RAYSON

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Over 160 members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) attended the Seventh Annual Midwest Regional Conference on October 4-7 here.

The theme of the conference was "Why Is Your Union Involved in Politics?" Unfortunately, the only politics discussed were supporting Democrat Walter Mondale for president and "dumping" Ronald Reagan.

In his keynote speech, Scott Hoyman, executive vice-president of ACTWU, lamented the results of a recent AFL-CIO poll of union members: 50 percent of those who had made a choice between the major capitalist candidates were for Reagan, 50 percent for Mondale. He then urged delegates "to go back to our shops with an emergency agenda until November" to defeat Reagan.

By the last day of the conference two big posters were taped on the wall behind the podium saying "Object #1: Defeat Ronald Reagan on November 6th." A Mondale-Ferraro campaign poster hung from the front of the podium. Throughout the conference ACTWU officials campaigned for the participants to wear Mondale-Ferraro buttons and to put bumper stickers on their cars.

Though some participants wanted to submit a resolution encouraging fact-finding trips to Nicaragua, only one resolution was put before the delegates. This was a "political action" resolution that at last session was passed overwhelmingly with a few nays. It resolved that ACTWU would "spare no effort" to defeat Ronald Reagan and elect a Mondale-Ferraro administration.

Building a bandwagon for Mondale at the conference meant that the real problems facing ACTWU members were ignored.

The conference met soon after Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega warned the United Nations about U.S. military plans to sabotage the Nicaraguan elections. U.S. military escalation in El Salvador, including the bombing and napalming of civilian areas, was also an urgent matter for the labor movement to address.

Yet raising the issue of the U.S. war in Central America was treated as a "diversion" by the ACTWU officials responsible for organizing the conference.

This was a big step back for the Midwest Regional Conference. At the 1983 conference Víctor Rubio, spokesperson for El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front, detailed the political situation in his country.

Conference delegates adopted a resolution supporting ACTWU Secretary-Treasurer Jack Sheinkman's fact-finding trip to El Salvador. The resolution called for an end of U.S. aid to the military regime.

In 1982 the regional conference passed a resolution calling for the formation of a labor party.

But in 1984 ACTWU is supporting

Mondale who fully endorses U.S. war plans in Central America. Gone is the talk of forming a labor party.

On the first day of the conference a cartoon entitled "Mouseland" was shown. This eight-minute film was produced by Canada's labor party, the New Democratic Party. It urges labor (the "mice") to stop supporting capitalist politicians (the "cats") and form their own party.

In the discussion afterward an alternate delegate made the obvious point that both Reagan and Mondale were "cats" and working people should have nothing to do with them. He was answered by ACTWU Midwest Regional Director Charles Sallee who declared this delegate's point of view out of order at this conference.

While ACTWU officials tried to promote a pro-Mondale rally atmosphere at the conference (with mixed success), many delegates wanted more than this.

Though not part of the official program, about 35 delegates and guests attended a slide show on Nicaragua given by Richard Metcalf, manager of the Twin Cities Joint Board. Metcalf had attended an international Trade Union Conference on Peace in Nicaragua last spring.

A few ACTWU members, including two alternate delegates, who support the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, attended the conference. They won a respectful hearing for the socialist campaign and new support for Mexican-born socialist Héctor Marroquín in his fight to win permanent residency and remain in the United States.

SWP barred from ballot in N.Y. — protests to Sec. of State urged

NEW YORK — The State Board of Elections, in a move to restrict access to the ballot for opponents of the capitalist parties, has ruled that the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González not appear on the ballot here.

The undemocratic move throws out the window the petitions of 30,000 New Yorkers who signed up for the socialist ticket. The Board didn't challenge the validity of these signatures, which amounted to 10,000 over the legal requirement, but ruled that the petitions were invalid because they nominated the SWP presidential ticket and not "electors." In fact, the petitions were prepared exactly in accordance with instructions from the Board of Elections itself.

Protests are urgently needed against this undemocratic exclusion of the SWP candidates. The Secretary of State has the authority to reverse the Board of Elections.

Send protests urging that the SWP candidates be placed on the ballot to New York Secretary of State Gail S. Shaffer, 162 Washington Ave., Albany, New York, 12231. Telephone (518) 474-4750.

Maurice Bishop: 'Fight unemployment through production'

BY MARGARET JAYKO

October marks the one-year anniversary of the overthrow of the Grenada revolution and the invasion of that island by troops from the United States.

The Grenada revolution began on March 13, 1979, with the toppling of the corrupt and brutal British- and U.S.-backed dictatorship of Eric Gairy by a successful armed insurrection led by Maurice Bishop and his supporters. Grenada is a small island with an overwhelmingly Black, English-speaking population of 110,000 in the eastern Caribbean.

A People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) was established, with Bishop as its prime minister. Instead of being a tool of the imperialists and native employers, as Gairy's government was, the PRG was a government of the workers and farmers. For the first time in the English-speaking Caribbean, the exploited producers — the majority of the population — wielded political power and used it to begin economically developing their country, making the needs of the masses of workers and farmers their top priority. The government was a tool that the Grenadian people used to begin to wrest control of their economy and lives from the hands of the imperialists.

The Grenada revolution brought real political, social, and economic gains to the Grenadian people.

All of Gairy's repressive legislation was wiped off the books. Employer recognition of unions was made compulsory and the right to strike was guaranteed. As a result, membership in the island's trade unions rose from about 30 percent of the labor force before the revolution to some 90 percent.

Other organizations of the oppressed and exploited, like the National Women's Organization, the National Youth Organization, and the Productive Farmers' Union, also won thousands of members.

At a time when the world capitalist system was suffering its worst downturn since the 1930s, Grenada increased its Gross National Product in 1982 by 5.5 percent.

Medical and dental care became free. Education became a right, not a privilege. A land reform was carried out. Real wages rose 10 percent over the 1981-1982 period. Unemployment fell from 50 percent to 12 percent during the first four years of the revolution.

Special attention was placed on upgrading the rights and opportunities of Grenadian women.

These and many other progressive gains were made as the government consciously organized to increase the participation of the masses of Grenada's workers and farmers in the decision-making processes of the country. Councils were set up in workplaces, parishes, villages, and neighborhoods. They discussed and debated proposed government policies, including the nation's 1982 and 1983 budget and plan.

The PRG was overthrown on October 12, 1983, by a clique of military and government bureaucrats led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. This same group organized the murder of Bishop and other central revolutionary leaders on October 19. This opened the door to the October 25 U.S. invasion of the island.

The Grenada revolution carries rich lessons for U.S. working people on how to achieve fundamental social change, and what can be accomplished when workers and farmers take political power into their own hands.

The best way to mine the political legacy of the Grenada revolution is through reading and studying the speeches of Maurice Bishop, who was the central leader of this process.

We are reprinting here a speech Bishop delivered on June 28, 1982, to a conference on unemployment in Grenada.

The Grenadian leadership had declared 1982 the Year of Economic Construction. This speech was part of an effort to mobilize the mass organizations and the trade unions to fight against the remaining unemployment by increasing production. In this way, Bishop explained, the unemployed could participate in helping to expand the Grenadian economy. Because the PRG represented the interests of the Grenadian workers and farmers, every ad-

vance in the national economy benefited the vast majority, and not a tiny handful of profiteers.

The speech was originally printed as a pamphlet in Britain titled "Grenada: Fight Unemployment with Production!" It was published jointly by the Britain-Grenada Friendship Society and the magazine *Liberation*. The version below is taken from the pamphlet with minor punctuation changes.

Maurice Bishop

Comrades,

At the beginning of this historic conference there are five brief points I would like to make by way of introduction.

First, unemployment is not the fault nor is it the wish and desire of our party, our government. In fact, as all comrades here know, we regard now and always have regarded unemployment as being a disease, a curse, a blight and a waste of very important and scarce human resources.

The second point is that unemployment for us in Grenada is a relatively new experience for our people, an experience created by capitalism. The Siboneys, the Caribs and the Arawaks, the first inhabitants of our soil, all worked in those days because if you did not work you could not eat. Likewise, under slavery, one *had* to work under conditions of degrading, criminal brutality and exploitation. One had to work under the whip.

It is only when slavery had ended and capitalism came around that we began to see unemployment emerging in our country. And that came about historically largely because agriculture was the mainstay of the economy and agricultural land was owned by a very small minority. All the rest of the people had to find work on a few huge agricultural estates.

The third point is that our people have had a long tradition of working, and working hard and working honourably. Our people have been accustomed to work and working in the best tradition of hard, dedicated work.

All of this can be seen in many different ways. We can see it certainly in the fact that today when we look around at our own historic landscape and we look at Fort Rupert and Fort Frederick, as we look at the tunnel, as we look at the network of roads going around the hills of our country we know that it was our forefathers who built all those things. It was their sweat, it was their blood, it was their labour, their sacrifice which produced all of those historic monuments and important networks of roads.

We can also see this evidence of hard work by our people in terms of the work our people have done in several metropolitan centres, certainly London and England as a whole, in Canada, and in the United States. Our people who have migrated to these countries have in fact done tremendous work, and in the case of England it is our people who are responsible to a great extent for maintaining the transport and health systems in this country.

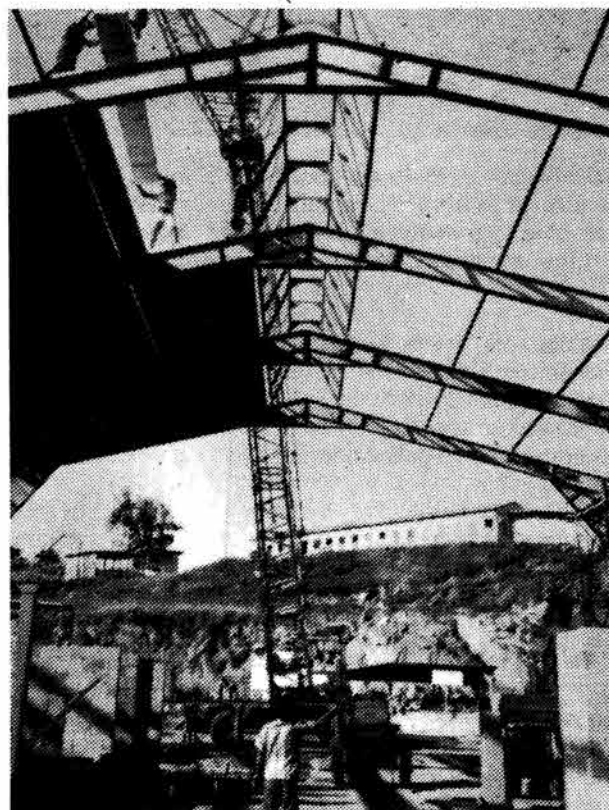
The fourth brief point, comrades, is that there is more unemployment today in the capitalist world than in the past 50 years. The capitalist world today is going through a major crisis and one of the major side effects of this crisis is this massive, unbelievable unemployment. It is estimated that today in the capitalist world there are 25 million people out of work in the 24 most heavily developed capitalist countries. And it is also estimated that by the end of this year that figure will become 30 million people out of work.

In other words, some 300 times the entire population of our country are out of work in the capitalist world and, as you know comrades, imperialist propaganda attempts to hide and distort this reality. They try to pretend that there is no unemployment. Or when they admit unemployment, as they are more and more forced to do now, they say not only what they have always said — that unemployment is necessary, unavoidable — but they have moved to the ludicrous extent of trying to blame un-

Continued on next page



Militant/Ernest Harsch



Grenada's former prime minister, Maurice Bishop (top). Construction work on Grenada's airport. Many unemployed youth, said Bishop, were hired to help build airport, which revolution viewed as vital to developing country's tourist industry.

Continued from preceding page
employment on the national liberation struggles worldwide.

These people try to blame their unemployment on what is happening in El Salvador, in Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, in Mozambique, Angola, in the socialist world. That is the extent of the desperation that the capitalist world now has.

The fifth point, comrades, is that in Grenada we allow no concealment, we allow no secrecy, we allow no lies to fool or mystify our people. We come before our people openly as always, admitting this problem of unemployment and pointing out that together as government and people we have to find a solution to unemployment. And that is why, comrades, we have this historic conference today. That is why today we continue this whole task of finding a mass solution for ending unemployment, trying to fight unemployment through increasing production.

In setting ourselves the huge task of solving our traditional and inherited unemployment problem we can allow ourselves no brambles. Because unemployment for us is a mass problem, we are determined to find a mass solution to it. The people themselves, in particular the unemployed themselves, must be fully involved and engaged in finding the remedies that will cure joblessness once and for all in our society.

So when we began this historic process of tackling unemployment, our first move was to organise an unemployment census which started on March 26th, this year. This was followed by a series of parish conferences on the issue, first of all in St. Patrick's, then St. John's and St. Mark's followed by St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. David's and finally Carriacou. In broaching the problem in this participatory way, we knew that we were only beginning the first steps of a long process that could not be completed overnight, or in a few weeks. Democratic solutions, as we have learned repeatedly during the revolution, do not happen that way.

As an honest revolutionary and democratic government we cannot give unproductive jobs to our unemployed simply for the sake of giving them jobs and then watch them dig holes in the road and fill them up again, and then declare that we have finished with unemployment. Neither do we have the economic capacity nor the desire to serve out a weekly dole or freeness to the unemployed. Comrades, we can only honestly seek to solve unemployment by seeing it in the context of economic construction, of the drive for greater production — of the necessity to work harder in order to build our country. So any solution that we create must have the capacity of contributing to production so that other jobs are created, and conversely any productive drive we make must throw up more and more possibilities of work for our people. In short, each job we create must generate dozens more jobs.

Comrades, unemployment is both your concern and your problem as well as a national problem, so you especially are the people to attend to its solution. In the same way that we embarked upon an unprecedented democratic and participatory method in organising and framing our national budget, which became a true People's Budget, we are taking the same road, already blazed for us by our budget process, in seeking to resolve the massive problem of unemployment. For we want a people's solution, a people's remedy, a people's cure that will come out of the very guts and experience of our masses, and which will therefore be a guarantee of its acceptability and success.

So this is why we are here today comrades, and this is why our process has brought us to this point. For by the end of the day we shall arrive at no magic formula, let us be very clear about that. What today will serve to achieve will be a pooling of ideas and information, a discovery of common ground between us, an itemisation of the insights and genius that our people have for creative ideas to solve their problems; and a definition of the precise nature and dimensions of the beast against which we are all fighting. Our struggle is continuing today along the road of the process of solution, so we must not think of today as a last act or finale. We are merely taking another step, but it will be a giant step, a massive step because it is a step being taken by all of us together, with our minds focused and clenched round the same evil, and our wills collectively determined to finish with it forever in our country.

Comrades, during the period of 1970s our economy was unable to create jobs for our people. The economy lacked the capacity. We exported our primary products, which resulted in no value added, and we imported finished consumer products which only used up our foreign exchange.

To get the extra value and benefit what was needed was to process our primary products such as cocoa, nutmegs, and coffee, and also to process our fruits, vegetables and spices. However, the Gairy regime did not think of this, they were not interested in changing the 400 years of misery our people had suffered. First under slavery and then under capitalism the majority owned nothing but their ability to work, and they were forced to work at a subsistence wage.

GRENADA

CARIBBEAN SEA



Kevin Williams
Mirabeau Agricultural Training School. Since agricultural goods are Grenada's primary products, developing agricultural-related jobs was key, said Bishop, to solving unemployment problem.

Comrades, let us look at some of the figures of the labour force during the period of the 1970s under the Gairy regime. In 1970 the estimated unemployment was approaching 30 percent of the total work force. This was so despite the so-called boom in the economy during the 1960s.

Of course, as the Gairy dictatorship displayed its total incompetency in handling the economy, the situation worsened between 1970 and 1975 as all production fell, and unemployment increased tremendously.

After March 13, 1979

Thus by the time of the March 13th revolution, nearly 50 percent of the total work force could not find anything to do. The economy had not changed much over the previous 400 years in terms of providing productive employment for our people. This was even more destructive for our women and young people under 25, where the brunt of the unemployment fell.

When the people took power in 1979, the People's Revolutionary Government pursued its previous objectives of diversifying the economy and processing its primary products, while, always in our minds was the crea-

tion of productive employment — not just any employment, but productive employment — for our people. Our first priority was to increase the employment of women, especially our young women who were the hardest hit. Our first step in that direction was to decree equal pay for equal work in the state sector for all our women. This was not employment in itself, but it brought equality and justice to women by ending discrimination against them. And since then, on a progressive basis, more and more women have been brought into the work force. Today we have women workers at the airport project, women tractor drivers, more women in the National Commercial Bank, in the Fisheries Company, in the Agro-Industrial Plant, forming micro-co-operatives, etc.

Our other main priority was to provide jobs for the thousands of unemployed youth. Here, we ensured that whenever new jobs were opened up that the unemployed youth were among the first to be placed. It was this conscious policy that allowed thousands of youth to be employed in the international airport project, on the roads, in the expanded and revitalised agricultural state farms, in fisheries and so on.

Together with this, we embarked on a nationwide campaign in 1980, our Year of Education and Production, to create more jobs through getting our youths to work co-operatively on the idle lands in our country. Our great slogan then was "Idle lands + idle hands = an end to unemployment." This campaign achieved reasonable success with the result that some 20 agricultural co-operatives with almost 200 members were established with the assistance of the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA) — an agency established by the revolution to promote co-operatives.

And of course this program of 1980 is continuing with a bang this year with our Land Reform and Youth Employment Programs, which we confidently expect to make a major contribution to our twin goals of raising production while providing more jobs. Certainly the enthusiasm of the 50-odd youth present at last Thursday's formal opening of the new La Sagesse Agricultural Training Centre leaves us in absolutely no doubt that the youth of our country are ready to "Fight Unemployment through Production," in the firm conviction that production is the only real solution.

The 1982 Unemployment Census

The Unemployment Census was conducted in April and May of this year and aimed at identifying all the unemployed in the state. This is, all those who at the time of the census had no jobs. It was also intended to identify part-time workers, that is, persons who on average worked less than two days a week and seasonal workers — those who worked for three consecutive months within the calendar year.

The census identified 7,040 such persons, including 6,640 who were fully unemployed, 229 part-time workers, and 171 seasonal workers. The majority of the total unemployed was found in St. Andrew's with 27 1/2 percent followed by St. George's with 27 percent, St. Pat-

rick's had 15 percent, St. David's with 13 percent and the other three parishes making up the other 17.5 percent.

The census also confirmed another point which was generally known: that is, most of those unemployed are young people. About 64 percent of the persons met in the census were between 16 and 25 years old. This percentage got smaller as the age increased — only 18 percent of the total number of unemployed, seasonal workers, and part-time workers were between 26–35 years; only 8 percent between 36 and 45 years; and only 3 percent of the total were over 55 years. Fifty-two percent of those actively seeking jobs are the 16–25 year olds, with 12 percent not seeking jobs, probably because of the frustration experienced or which they saw their colleagues experience. The other 36 percent of this age group, the 16–25 year olds, are either seasonal workers or part-time. Still, they also need to find full-time jobs to ensure security and a better standard of living.

The greatest number of unemployed by far were found to be females. Seventy-two percent or 4,781 persons were females. Coupled with the fact that most of the unemployed are between the ages of 16 and 25, we see a real problem that these young women of our society face.

The parish which registered the largest percentage of female unemployed happened to be Carriacou, where nearly 90 percent of the total number of unemployed counted were female.

Comrades, the data also indicated that we are still trapped to some extent within the socio-historical trap of sex discrimination, where men find it easier to get a job. Although the male/female ratio in the population is roughly 1 to 1, we found that generally the split between male and female in the unemployed pool is 1 to 2. That is, for every one man unemployed, two women are unemployed.

The ratio between the sexes in relation to the number of persons seeking jobs suggests to us that for every one man seeking a job there are two women. This is in line with the unemployment breakdown. However, when we examine persons not seeking jobs we see that there are three times as many of our women as men who have given up the search. In terms of the educational background of the unemployed, seasonal workers, and part-time workers, less than 2 percent had no education whatsoever. Over 70 percent of the comrades have gone beyond class four and up to secondary education but did not go to secondary schools. We came across 18 percent of these comrades who had been to secondary schools — of course, we employ all our university-trained cadres.

When consulted about which sector they would like to work in, whether state, private, co-operative, or self-employed, the vast majority of comrades preferred the state sector. In all parishes between 68 and 78 percent said they would prefer to work in the state sector.

Therefore, although 42 percent of the comrades displayed an interest in areas which are not directly productive, such as services and commerce, we must remind comrades today that jobs can only be created if we first produce goods, that is, agricultural products, nectars, jams, juices, fish, etc. Only then, after such production, can we talk about employing people in the other economic sectors which are not directly productive.

A new concept of work

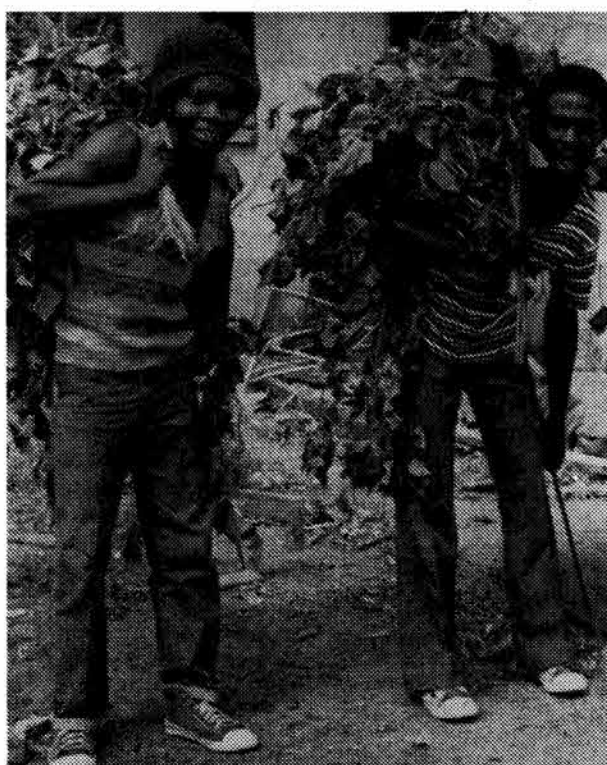
Comrades, we have already spoken of the curse and brutality of our labour and the class of parasites it served in the days before we grasped our power and unfurled the flag of freedom in every village across our country. For March 13, 1979, as in so many things, gave us a new direction, a new cause, a new concept of work. For as soon as our land became *ours*, as soon as we had severed its beauty from the ugly grip of the dictator, we knew that work itself would and must take on a new meaning for us. From being an alienated act of hate and despair, work suddenly had the promise of being an act of love and fulfilment. From being drudgery it began to take the shape of joy.

We began to see the extraordinary spectacle of many hundreds of our people from every village in our land, coming out in happiness to perform *voluntary* and *unpaid* acts of work, in their *own* time and most usually upon Sunday mornings. We began to see drains and culverts cleared that had been clogged up by 25 years of sewerage and Gairyism. We saw roads repaired by the collective work of neighbours, overhanging branches chopped down, bridges built and walls decorated with the colours and words of freedom.

We saw the parents of our school children and the children themselves taking over their schools while their teachers discussed the future of education in our country at the National Teachers' Seminar in their hundreds during January 1980. We saw the parents contributing in that one week over a million dollars' worth of free labour, of truly free labour.

We saw the House Repair Programme depending on the voluntary help of neighbours of the homeowners and getting it too. We saw the maroon* coming alive again in Grenada!

*Traditional voluntary act of collective work.



Wayne Carter

Top: In 1980, Grenada's revolutionary government embarked on national campaign to get unemployed youth to work cooperatively on idle lands. "Our great slogan then was 'Idle land plus idle hands equals an end to unemployment,'" said Bishop. **Bottom:** Members of Technical and Allied Workers Union study documents from union delegates' council. Bishop stressed that unions must play central role in encouraging unemployed workers to get necessary education and training.

A new attitude had developed towards work. Work changed its very nature as the revolution revealed its true meaning for us. For through our voluntary community work brigades and all the sessions of collective work that were carefully, or sometimes spontaneously, organised, we were realising a truth that was new to us — that work is a liberator, work is what unites us, builds us, develops us and changes us. Without work we go nowhere, we achieve nothing. When our work is against us, only serving others who exploit and scorn us, we fall into despondency and frustration. *But with work on our side* we build a new world, a world which will truly serve the workers of the world.

Comrades, perhaps I could make this point clearly and forcibly by quoting to you the words of a man who was with us in Grenada just a few weeks ago, as a member of the delegation of President Samora Machel of Mozambique. For travelling with this great man were other outstanding men with a whole history of struggle and victory inside them. One such Mozambican leader, who unfortunately we did not hear speak publicly as the visit was so short, was Comrade Sergio Vieira, who travelled with the delegation as Minister of Agriculture. This comrade is recognised in his own country as a prominent poet and thinker. He is the author of a particularly widely read and influential pamphlet setting out the ideas for the creation of new men and women in his country, with new, liberated mentalities, called *The New Man is a Process*. In the following way, Comrade Vieira writes about work in a revolutionary society where the people themselves are creating their own future and constructing their own economy:

"Work creates and liberates. Work is not punishment.

When a person works there should be some result to his work. Work can never be a game! Work has to have a concrete result and have a social benefit. Work which has no benefit is not work. It is a demoralizing action."

Comrades, there is much to be learned in these words which is very relevant to our situation here in Grenada. For here too, *our work must have a concrete result*, and that concrete result must be *more and more production*, which itself will create *more and more jobs*. That is why we are framing our slogan in this way: *Work is the mother of production, production produces/creates/throws up work!* For we can allow ourselves no non-productive work, no joke work, no disguised unemployment — for our task too in tackling unemployment is to unmask that and tear away the disguise. Production is both the cause and product of our work, and there can be no space for work which is merely ornamental or which stands on the sidelines of development like an interested spectator on the roads, watching the bands pass at Carnival.

Work, the transformer

Why are we so concerned about unemployment? Why do we see it as such an evil, such a negative force in our society? It is because we believe in the future and because we know that our people are builders of the future — and because we know that if we don't work, then we can't build. We are working for ourselves and each other in Grenada now, and most importantly, we are working for our children, all our children. So we believe that every single Grenadian should enjoy that right and responsibility to be a builder and constructor of that future.

While a Grenadian remains unemployed it means that he or she is denied the right to build that future, to participate in the construction of that planned and real civilisation that we are mapping out for our children and our children's children. We would not deny anybody in our country that right and responsibility, which is why we believe so strongly in the right to work, and why we have to set out on this long process to ensure that every single one of our people can proudly say: "I am a builder of Grenada, I am a part of that fuel that will drive my country forward."

For when we understand the nature of the *dignity* that the revolution is bringing to our people, we see that the right to stand up as a working person, the right to achieve excellence in work, the right to be emulated for that excellence, the right to be exemplary in punctuality, efficiency, and productivity — all these are the new rights that the revolution has brought us with respect to work, rights that are a part of the great treasure that is March 13th. And it is these rights which contribute to the new notion of dignity and independence that our people are proudly demonstrating right across the land.

Unemployment therefore, is an attack on that dignity. But more importantly it is an attack on our resolve to achieve greater production, which will give us the true material basis for that dignity. Unemployed workers mean less land under the plough, less processing, less manufacturing, less exporting, and therefore less foreign exchange, less ability to buy those things we *really* need from abroad like tractors, medicines, and vital spare parts. And yet with all the loss in production that unemployment brings, we still have to feed the unemployed, to care for them, to educate their children, to hospitalise them when they are sick. Like anyone else they still need housing and recreation, and they must still participate in and take the social wage that is there for all our people. Although, in short, they are not producers, they are still consumers, and so they are inevitably taking out more than they are putting in, although this may be no fault of their own.

For work is a great transformer. Not only does work change the material reality around us — like it created a new city in Dresden in the German Democratic Republic [East Germany], like it is making concrete our dream at Port Salines [construction site of international airport] — but in doing this it transforms the human being himself, or herself. For the serious application to the tasks of work, discipline and sense of fulfilment that it brings, the sense of pride and purpose of contributing to building a new world — all this in itself creates a new mentality and a new type of person that must live in, contribute, and bring his strengths to bear to that same new society he is helping to create.

The fruit of new jobs

Comrades, we in Grenada are struggling to be part of that new world, and to build it we must ensure that there is work for everybody, that nobody is excluded. At the moment we are a long way from that situation, for between 21 and 22 percent of our people are still unemployed, which means that some 7,000 of our brothers and sisters are not being allowed to make their full contribution. It is towards these Grenadians that we are resolving to reach over the next two to three years, to ensure work for all, and thus push up our productive capacity to create the possibilities of more and more benefits and a greater social wage for all of us. For the solution to unemployment lies only in increased production.

Continued on ISR/6

Nicaragua unions vow to raise production

BY ELLEN KRATKA
AND JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The key task of the Nicaraguan working class is to raise production and strengthen military defense in order to safeguard the political power of the country's workers and peasants. That was the central conclusion of the Third National Assembly of Unions — Enrique Lorente, held here September 8-9.

Some 620 leaders of trade unions led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) attended the assembly. Present were 345 leaders of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), which represents the bulk of Nicaragua's

industrial workers; 55 from the Association of Workers of the Countryside (ATC), the farm workers union; 80 from the National Union of Employees, the organization of government workers; 80 from the Federation of Health Workers; 28 from the National Association of Nicaraguan Educators; and 30 from the Nicaraguan Journalists Union. These unions organize the great majority of Nicaragua's workers.

Invited guests included representatives from government ministries, the FSLN, the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers, and the professionals organization. To facilitate the widest-ranging and freest discussion and debate, reporters were only allowed to cover the opening

and closing sessions of the meeting. Following the assembly, CST leaders and other participants briefed reporters on what transpired. In addition, the full text of all resolutions adopted by the meeting was published in the FSLN daily *Barricada*.

Working class confronts new situation

To prepare the discussion at the assembly, organizers had drafted and circulated a "Base Document" among union leaders beforehand.

The document explained that "the revolutionary working class of Nicaragua" is the "support and motor of the entire process of political, social, and economic transformations in our country." Today, due to the U.S. war against the revolution, the Nicaraguan workers are "confronting new situations, greater and graver problems, which demand of us higher levels of consciousness and organization, greater united efforts, and a more active, dynamic and combative presence of the unions."

The document reviewed what has been achieved in five years of the Nicaraguan revolution and the nature of the problems confronting the workers and peasants today.

On July 19, 1979, the Nicaraguan masses, led by the FSLN, succeeded in overthrowing the dictator Anastasio Somoza, a puppet of the U.S. government. A workers and peasants government was established that began organizing and mobilizing working people to rebuild their country, devastated by war and imperialist exploitation.

Outlining what has been accomplished since then, the document explained, "The fundamental achievement of the revolution is the maintenance and defense of revolutionary power."

The document went on to outline accomplishments in



September 8-9 national assembly of unions, held in Managua, discussed and adopted a series of resolutions to combat U.S. war and resulting economic problems facing Nicaraguan workers and peasants.

New wage-scale system in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The September 8-9 National Assembly of Unions here voted to press for rapid completion of the new system of wage scales being implemented by the revolutionary government.

The new wage-scale system, called the National System for Ordering Jobs and Wages, is the result of a decision by the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) and some other unions more than a year ago to press for "a new wage policy that would have as its principle: equal pay for equal work."

The system provides for 26 different wage categories for all nonagricultural occupations, ranging from a minimum of 1,700 córdobas a month to a maximum of 15,000 córdobas. (U.S.\$1 equals 28 córdobas.)

This new system means, for example, that drivers of a certain type of truck will receive the same pay whether they work for a government-owned or a private company, whether they live in Managua or in a city on the other side of the country, and whether they are male or female.

Pay is being equalized by raising the wages of worst-paid workers. The 1,700 córdoba minimum represents a 30 percent increase over the old minimum wage. In those cases where workers have been getting wages higher than those provided for under the new system, they will continue to get their old, "historic" wage.

In some cases, wage increases have been dramatic. For example, municipal employees in the city of León averaged increases of almost 700 córdobas a month. One group of sanitation workers went from a subminimum wage of 1,080 córdobas to 2,830.

According to Lucío Jiménez, general secretary of the CST, some 60 percent of all nonagricultural workers are receiving wage increases through the new system. A wages system is also being established for agricultural workers. It includes a new piece-rate plan and raises wages for many farm workers.

The new wage-scale system is designed to reinforce unity and solidarity of the working class, cutting across efforts by the bosses to pit workers against each other. As an editorial in the CST newspaper, *Trabajadores*, explained, "This means that we take the interests of the workers to be a common cause."

In the course of the discussion over the new system,

Sandinista leaders have stressed that it cannot accomplish magic. While the system will reduce anarchistic practices in the economy and combat discriminatory wage differentials, it cannot solve the fundamental problem of workers' declining real wages in the face of inflation and shortages.

The new wage scales themselves, drafted almost a year ago, do not reflect the continued increases in prices that have occurred here. To deal with this problem, the national assembly of unions voted that first, application of the new system to all workplaces should be completed. Once all workers are covered by it, the assembly decided, then the government should immediately begin revising the wage scales to compensate as much as possible for inflation.

Another aspect of the wage-scale system is that it seeks to limit the flight from Nicaragua of needed technicians, professionals, and administrative personnel by increasing their pay. The top of the scale, 15,000 córdobas a month, is a 50 percent increase over the old 10,000-córdoba maximum.

The system is also designed to curb a practice known as "pirating." This consists of offering technicians higher pay to get them to leave their current job and take on a different one. The practice leads to rapid turnover that disrupts the economy. It has also led to a constant, although illegal, upward drift of salaries for top layers of administrators and specialists.

Nicaraguan companies owned by capitalists in the United States and other imperialist countries, as well as some embassies and missions here have access to U.S. dollars and thus can easily practice pirating. They can pay their Nicaraguan employees relatively high salaries for next to nothing by exchanging dollars on the black market, where one U.S. dollar is worth up to 250 córdobas compared to the 28 córdoba official rate.

Implementation of the first phase of the new wage-scale system began last January and was being completed in early October. This phase is called "categorization," assigning each job in Nicaragua to one of the 26 wage categories. Simultaneously, wages are being raised according to the new scale. The process has been slow, entailing detailed negotiations between management, the unions, and the Ministry of Labor.

Labor assembly

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — One of the important political issues before the national assembly of unions here was use of the strike weapon. The assembly adopted a resolution discouraging strikes in Nicaragua and calling on the workers to "resolve labor problems and conflicts by means of negotiations without stopping production."

The motivation for this and other resolutions adopted by the assembly was spelled out in a preamble describing the economic, social, and political situation faced by workers and peasants in Nicaragua today. "To the extent we advance in reaffirming our national sovereignty, self-determination, and economic independence," said the preamble, "imperialism increases its aggressive actions, trying to push us back to the past of domination...."

"The imperialist aggression has forced us to turn our economy of reconstruction into an economy of war. Therefore, all our efforts in production must be directed toward sustaining military defense.

"Economic production becomes the rearguard of the battlefronts...."

"This demands of us workers greater discipline, a higher spirit of sacrifice, and more combativity than we used to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship."

The preamble called for "raising productivity to the highest level," so that "our efforts can make it possible to obtain more products which would allow us to meet the needs of the people and gradually improve our standard of living."

It was in this political context that delegates looked at the question of strikes and at the problem of Nicaraguan workers' declining real wages, which has led some workers to strike.

The assembly saw such work stoppages as disrupting production for the war, thus weakening Nicaragua's military defense and harming the overall economy. They discussed the fact that the U.S. war imposes big limits on wages and that wage increases will not solve the problem of inflation. They adopted a series of proposals to strengthen the economy and protect workers' standard of living, including resolutions on increasing production and improving distribution of basic goods to curb price gouging. (See main story above.)

Just a few weeks before the assembly, in late August, workers at two Managua plants organized by the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) had gone on strike briefly. At the Victoria brewery, the issue was wage increases. At the METASA plant, metal workers struck demanding immediate collection of the bonuses usually paid to employees when they leave the plant for another job. About 700 workers were involved in each strike.

The two walkouts were given prominent coverage in the right-wing capitalist daily, *La Prensa*. Nicaragua's capitalists, who under the old Somoza dictatorship not

1, strengthen defense of revolution

agriculture, explaining that the revolution has prioritized resources for the countryside and agricultural development because this is "the basis for transforming economic activity" as a whole in Nicaragua. Since 1979, more than 30,000 peasant families have received titles to land in the government's land reform program, and more than 3,000 farming cooperatives have been set up. Peasants have also received technical assistance and credit, as well as cancellation of 380 million córdobas worth of debts. (U.S.\$1 equals 28 córdobas).

The document also reported progress on a number of agroindustrial projects, including new mills to process agricultural products, and the development of new crops.

Nicaragua's agricultural products are its main export and therefore its main source of hard currency. The document said that despite expectations of an increase in farm production this year, "this will not fill our requirements for hard currency to meet our subsistence needs." As a result of the world capitalist economic crisis and of imperialist sabotage of trade with Nicaragua, the price of its exports has fallen and the price of goods it imports has risen. Between 1980 and 1983, according to the document, Nicaragua lost \$674 million in trade.

Industrial production

With the 1979 triumph, Nicaragua faced the task of reconstruction, including rebuilding industry, much of which Somoza had bombed or otherwise tried to destroy before he was overthrown. One of the first steps of the revolutionary government was to promote the unionization of workers. The number of workers in unions shot up to about 260,000, compared to 27,000 when Somoza was in power. There were 1,320 new unions formed compared to 133 weak unions under Somoza. The spearhead

of the unionization process has been the FSLN-led CST federation.

"During the years 1981 to the middle of 1983," the document reported, "working conditions and social services improved significantly. However, now we see a deterioration due to the U.S. aggression."

The document explained that one of the first tasks the CST set for itself in 1979 was to bring industrial production levels back up to what they were under Somoza. This task has yet to be accomplished, it was reported.

The lack of hard currency has meant Nicaragua has great difficulty buying raw materials and spare parts. This has led to temporary plant shutdowns and to slowdowns in the plants to "stretch" the materials that are available.

The impact of the war and the economic squeeze has also limited Nicaragua's budget for health, education, housing, social security and other programs that were established with the revolution. The document explained these programs "don't reach everyone nor do they reach the levels desired." With the resources it has, the government has prioritized development projects in the most backward, rural parts of the country and aid to the war zones and families of soldiers.

"Because of the war," the document continued, "we are passing through a situation ever more critical, which strikes at the aspirations of working people for a better life."

There is a smaller supply of goods for sale, but an increased demand for these products due to the general increase in consumption brought about by the gains of the revolution. The government subsidizes some basic goods — such as rice, beans, and milk — and is stepping up measures to crack down on speculation and hoarding.

However, "The scarcity of hard currency and inflation have forced us to raise the prices of both basic and non-basic goods, eating away at workers' wages," the document said.

Factory commissaries have been unable to maintain a sufficient supply of goods, the document continued, and new government distribution outlets, which are small neighborhood stores, "themselves suffer weaknesses . . . and do not even guarantee the basic products."

Central problem is war

The "Base Document" explained that despite the economic difficulties Nicaragua is going through, "the main problem of the revolution is not the economy" but the imperialist war. "We are waging a war to the death in defense of our sovereignty and independence, safeguarding our conquests and revolutionary power."

Tens of thousands of young Nicaraguans are doing full-time military service, combatting the U.S.-paid mercenary forces which are now estimated by the Sandinista army at more than 15,000.

The war has meant a reduction of 11.6 percent in the amount of land that can be harvested, the document reported. Counterrevolutionary sabotage has cost the nation more than \$1 billion, most of that in the last year and a half.

The document stressed that "The aggression will not cease, with or without elections; nor will the Contadora or Manzanillo negotiations stop it."

"Today," the document continued, "the United States has already prepared all the logistical and infrastructural conditions for a direct invasion of El Salvador or Nicaragua, which can happen at any time, including before the

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discourages strikes in industrial conflicts

only brutally smashed strikes but denied workers all rights, suddenly began defending the right to strike and lamenting the low wages of Nicaragua's workers.

National leaders of the CST and government officials held discussions with the strikers and convinced the workers at both plants to return to their jobs while negotiations proceeded on their demands.

The *Militant* later interviewed workers at the Victoria brewery, a plant in which the government owns the majority of shares. Several of the unionists said confusion about the government's new wage-scale system contributed to their walkout. The wage-scale system, which is being applied nationally, is aimed at establishing equal pay rates for all workers performing the same kind of job. (See story on facing page). It is being implemented by setting uniform wages for each occupation, and raising the wages of the lowest-paid workers.

This new system was supposed to go into effect at Victoria in July, but discussions on it only began in August. This was "due to problems with human resources in the Ministry of Labor," mechanic Alfonso Luna Rivera told the *Militant*.

When the new wage scales were presented to the Victoria workforce, it turned out that some better-paid workers would not be getting a raise. The workers went out on strike, demanding immediate wage increases for all Victoria workers, with the lowest-paid employees getting the biggest raise. The walkout took place August 20-24.

Juan José Solís, a member of the union leadership at the brewery, said, "there was a breakdown in communication." Neither the union leadership, plant management, nor ministry officials initially explained to the workers that once the new wage-scale system was in effect, there would be a new study on a national level to bring wages more in line with the price of basic products. Until this was explained to them, many Victoria workers believed there would be no further wage increases after the wage-scale plan was in place.

Róger Urbina, another member of the workers negotiating commission, said that the workers had never opposed the new wage-scale system itself. "We were in agreement that it had to be applied, on a national scale, as a matter of justice."

Alfonso Luna Rivera said that having a uniform wage scale would make it easier to carry out revisions of wage rates in the future. But, he added, "The revision will not solve the problem. We're going to have problems as long as we're the victims of aggression."

On September 14, Victoria workers signed a new contract which was basically the government's original wage-scale proposal.

Until this past July, strikes were illegal in Nicaragua as part of State of Emergency regulations put into effect by the revolutionary government in March, 1982, to cope

with the U.S. war. The ban on strikes and other activities was lifted at the beginning of the campaign period leading up to the November 4 presidential elections here.

Previously, during the time strikes were illegal, walkouts did occur. The government's approach was to try to convince workers that this was the wrong way to put forward their demands given Nicaragua's situation.

Victoria workers interviewed by the *Militant* said that in light of discussions held during their strike and the subsequent deliberations at the national union assembly, they agreed with the CST's position of resolving conflicts without strikes.

Some lessons of the strikes were taken up by Lucío Jiménez, general secretary of the CST, after the union assembly was over. In an interview in *Barricada*, daily paper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, Jiménez said the full scope of Nicaragua's economic difficulties "was only understood by a handful of [union] leaders until the day of the assembly, when we sat down to discuss it."

Some of the reasons for the economic problems "were known by union leaders and did not get to the ranks, such as the problems with supplies of consumer goods. . . . A

leader might know about the situation, but he hadn't yet assimilated the depth of the problem."

Jiménez explained that many workers had been viewing the U.S. war as something only affecting border areas, or the young men and women in the military. "In relation to the war, it was enough to make a donation of 10,000 córdobas and we felt satisfied."

Not seeing how the war puts a tremendous squeeze on the economy of the nation as a whole, "some union leaders believed that the economic problems of the workers could be solved; it is only necessary to use a little force. All the more so if the company where they work is profitable."

"But it was not only some union leaders," he added. "Some directors of enterprises and even officials of government ministries with a narrow, local vision thought that the problems could be solved, which contributed to generating false expectations."

"The lesson," explained Jiménez, "is that it is necessary to discuss problems taking into account the interests of all the workers, and not just the interests of one group of workers, and all of this within the framework of the limitations imposed by the war."



Unionists from Victoria brewery in Managua sign new contract September 14. Workers struck plant briefly in August. Militant/José G. Pérez

Maurice Bishop on fight against unemployment

Continued from ISR/3

We still have over 7,000 acres of idle and under-utilised land. Every two acres of this land can create at least one new job in agriculture for our people. This will cause the creation of a minimum of another 3,500 jobs in agriculture alone. Then we need to examine the prospects of the greater production that cultivated lands will bring, and the *fruit of more jobs* that will grow from that production, for example in the agro-industrial sector, with the production of more mangoes, more guavas, more bananas, more soursops, and more tamarinds to process. The boxing plants will need more workers for more boxes for more bananas. The greater volume of fruit will need more transport, more trucks, more drivers. The docks will need more warehousemen, more stevedores, more forklift truck operators.

All in all, the rise in production caused by the new jobs we create by putting more land under cultivation, will take us towards a one-job-per-acre situation and in the case of bananas, one and a half jobs per acre. If we include the further jobs created in all the sectors connected to and spinning off the production from the newly cultivated land we get 7,000 acres creating over 7,000 new jobs! Comrades, this is why we say again *work is the mother of production, production produces/creates/throws up work*; and we can only fight and win the battle against unemployment through greater production.

In addition to our agricultural thrust, we shall see the expansion of our fishing fleet and its greater efficiency through the land-to-sea radio equipment that we shall soon be receiving from our friends in the German Democratic Republic. We shall also be encouraging the expansion of further light industries, particularly in the area of garment-making. For we need to turn resolutely towards new forms of work and new methods of production in order both to diversify our products and diversify our type of work.

All this will need new and requisite forms of education and training, something we have already successfully started with our fishing school. For what we have seen in the fisheries sector is that our training facilities have developed alongside our growing capacity to catch more fish and process more fish. All this growth has begun to create a genuine fisheries industry in our country, which is not only contributing to feed our people and beginning to give us some more valuable export earnings, but it is, of course, creating more and more jobs in that sector. And this growth has caused many of our people to take fishing far more seriously. It is causing our fishermen to look at themselves in a more organised way and to combine together and form fishing co-operatives. For a spirit of co-operation and working seriously together in a planned and organised way, will always cause the creation of more jobs than the dog-eat-dog, violent individualist competition of the capitalist way of production, which might have a few winners, but at the expense of many losers, many victims. And the worst casualties are the rejected unemployed, those who are left behind the race to dominate, crush, and push out of the way.

A legacy of discouragement

We would all know comrades that in our country we have inherited from our particular history many reasons and factors which have encouraged unemployment. Conditions of work were so bad under the dictatorship that many workers actually preferred unemployment to staying in lowly paid jobs. There they were exploited not only by their employers, but also through a situation whereby they paid a large proportion of their salary as dues to a corrupt union, whose leader only used its funds to build his own hotels, host decadent parties at his Evening Palace, and lay up accounts for his inevitable defeat and flight to the heart of imperialism! Who wouldn't prefer, if one was able, to drop out of such work and perhaps fall back on some gardening, or sewing or a little washing and ironing or whatever you could get?

Also in Grenada we have a legacy of unwillingness among many of our people to work the land. Again, conditions historically have been so bad on many of the private estates that our people have always identified agriculture in terms of that particular form of production.

What is significant now, however, is that the revolution has introduced new forms of production, organisation and management in working the land, in particular through co-operatives, whereby organisations and ownership are participatory and collective, and whereby the co-operators are working for themselves and for each other. This democratisation of agriculture has clearly attracted many of our young people back to the land, and of course NACDA [National Co-op Development] guarantees to find the resources to assist serious co-operative ventures to start and continue, and this is as true in the agricultural sector as it is in other areas.

In addition, colonialism continually floated the white collar in the dreams of our people, so that work was val-

ued in how far you could escape from the land, rather than how well you could work it. Non-productive work in an office was seen as the ideal, with the desk, the paper pad and the pen far more worthy of respect and aspiration than the hoe and the fork — and colonial education was based squarely on this premise.

The six sizes and shapes of Henry the Eighth's wives became more important than our own sizes and shapes of our bananas or mangoes. Little Miss Muffet sitting on a tuffet became more significant than the sister who sat on a wooden stall cracking nutmegs. And Sir Francis Drake's pirate boat, *The Golden Hind*, took precedence over our schooners and fishing boats from Windward, L'Esterre, Petit Martinique, or Gouyave.

This is why education for us now must mean production too, and this is why we place so great a value upon education, and why we have put the Centre of Popular Education at the centre of our educational thrust to raise the cultural and skills levels of our people. So that when the time for more specific work training comes, then they can be more ready, more able, and more receptive to commit themselves to it and to succeed. This is also why we have resolved to integrate real production into the curriculum of our schools, so that they cease to be centres of irrelevant education that take our children's heads out of their own land and earth and send them chasing after Brooklyn, Toronto, or London, but instead become genuine production centres where all the growing brain power of our youth and students is focused upon how to produce more for our country — and thus how to find more work and prosperity for our people.

Production the key

For we have inherited an economy that *doesn't* teach us to feed ourselves, doesn't teach us to clothe ourselves, doesn't teach us to educate ourselves — and those are confines and walls that we must break through, for they force us towards importing rather than producing. But the reality is that *if we don't produce then we can't import*. So our emphasis must *all the time* be on *what else can we grow ourselves*, and how much of all *these* things we can consume ourselves, rather than all those imported items that give our economy such daily licks and blows.

For while we depend upon other countries' products we are like cast-asides and orphans in the world, motherless children without our own production. For dependency in any form is very dangerous for us, and can jeopardise any progress we may be making. When we import equipment and machinery from abroad we *must* be able to maintain and repair it and this again shows the crucial need for training. To have foreign equipment obtained at great cost sitting idle until a mechanic or technician from its country of origin can come and repair it is another sure sign of our dependency and underdevelopment, something which can only be changed by permanent training, the acquisition of new skills and the mastering of the science and technology that we use on a daily basis.

Real employment

Comrades, during our People's Budget process of January, February, and March we spoke about the need to eliminate what we call disguised unemployment — labour which receives a wage but which is unproductive, which is wasted, which does not create wealth or contribute to development.

And our call was echoed by our people all over the land in the parish and zonal councils on the economy leading up to Budget Day.

This disguised unemployment was and remains a major concern of our people, because they recognise that the provision of unproductive jobs through political patronage is part of the destructive and wasteful colonial and neo-colonial legacy inherited by the revolution, designed to keep us in a state of permanent poverty.

Our people have correctly pointed out that some sectors of the public service are overloaded, that some of these workers could be better placed somewhere else, that they should be redeployed in a productive or a potentially productive sector.

For it is our working people who have to pay the cost and carry the weight of disguised unemployment in the same way that they have to support the totally unemployed. Our disguised unemployed too need to be freed from the mockery of work they are presently engaged in, so that they can make a real and genuine contribution to production and national development.

In three short years, the revolution has made it possible for thousands of hitherto unemployed sisters and brothers to make such a patriotic contribution because the revolution has created countless job-generating projects.

Formerly unproductive workers in the Ministries of Construction and Health who have been redeployed on roads and other new projects like the Sandino block and

tile-making plant and the expanded telephone system, also now have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the production process.

In 1982 the forward movement to rid the economy of unemployment continues. Despite critical problems, we have still been able to create jobs in our economy and redeploy people. For example in the Ministry of Health we have created over 70 new jobs although the critical budgetary problems have made it necessary to redeploy people.

To give a concrete example of this redeployment into areas more productive, we can also use the Ministry of Health. The hospitals are now producing food for themselves. For example, instead of laying off workers at Princess Alice Hospital, in the month of May alone the hospital's farms produced 510 pounds of cabbages which not only made this hospital self-sufficient in cabbages for May, but also allowed them to sell 180 pounds of cabbages to the General Hospital.

The General Hospital itself is also producing — redeploying its workers to produce. There are 100 banks of potatoes now, and during May they produced 50 pounds of cucumbers, 8 pounds of lettuce, 25 pounds of sweet pepper, 30 pounds of calaloo, 25 pounds of green peas among other products that this hospital has produced, to preserve the jobs of workers and produce directly.

Richmond Hill and Princess Royal are also involved in agricultural production to save money, and also more so to redeploy those workers, thus saving their jobs.

Comrades, a tour around the country on any working day would reveal a startling sight that could convince even the scientists, the critics, and the doubting Thomases. What is taking place today — in every parish in our land, involving hundreds of our people who were once jobless — is the most widespread activity geared towards social and economic development that our nation has ever known in its history. What you can see on such a tour are dozens of capital projects that have and will continue to create jobs for our masses, projects which cost hundreds of thousands and in some cases millions of dollars. Let me give a few examples.

So far this year over \$3,660,000 has been spent on our international airport, a project where 250 Grenadian workers find meaningful and productive employment.

Over 100 workers are now producing jams, jellies, nectars, pepper sauce, and other food products at our new Agro-Industrial Plant in True Blue.

In Corinth, St. David's and Bonaire, St. Mark's dozens of workers are productively employed in the construction of two new primary schools.

With seven hotels and restaurants, the Grenada Resorts Corporation — a production of the revolution — today employs over 100 workers while our new fishing fleet and fishing company has given employment to some 70 of our people.

In our sister isle of Carriacou over \$1 million is being spent in bringing electricity to the entire island and \$264,000 has been laid out already this year for the continuing resurfacing of roads. In Petit Martinique a new \$24,000 health centre is going up, the Marketing and Importing Board outlet is expanding and an electrification project has just begun. All this, of course, means new jobs have been created for the people of Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

But, comrades, perhaps the most dramatic evidence of

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this stepped-up economic activity can be seen in our massive road construction and resurfacing programme presently under way all over our country.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Productive Farmers Union, 32 miles of feeder roads have been laid with cliff sub-base since July 1981 and another 20 miles will be prepared before this \$2 million project is completed. Here alone 240 jobs have been created and valuable voluntary labour has been provided by patriotic farmers all over the country who understand what these feeder roads would mean for opening up new lands to agricultural production.

But this is not the only feeder-road project. In fact, \$7.5 million in funds provided by the Caribbean Development Bank will go toward the complete paving of 15½ miles of feeder roads in our agricultural parishes of St. Andrew's and St. David's. This project currently employs 56 workers, while 60 more have found employment on the \$560,000 Westerhall Redgate project and the \$300,000 Davey Project Road in St. Patrick's.

Of course, not to be forgotten is the huge Eastern Main Road that by next year will link St. George's to Grenville with a beautiful new highway. Over 100 of our people are now employed on this project.

And comrades, we can continue this list but time on this occasion does not allow for a lengthy catalogue. However, we cannot overlook at this time one particular project with direct bearing to the strengthening agriculture, the motor of our economy, and which is indicative of the revolution's new thrust to create employment. I make mention of the La Sagesse Agricultural Training Centre which opened last week with 50 students who will learn a wide range of agricultural sciences and ways of applying theory to practice in the service of increased production. At the end of this training these students will become workers in agricultural co-operatives and elsewhere in agriculture.

Plans are also under way to open three more such training centres which will teach 200 additional students by the end of this year, and which will bring 500 acres of productive land under cultivation as part of the practical application of the scientific skills acquired in the classroom.



Workers at a small spice grinding plant that was started during years of revolution. A priority of revolutionary government, said Bishop, was to increase the employment of women, "especially our young women," who suffered most from unemployment. Revolution also outlawed discrimination and sexual harassment on the job.

Comrades, there is no doubt that the revolution has created jobs, and not just any job, but jobs that are directly productive, real jobs that produce goods and services, thousands of new jobs in three years. In fact, more jobs than were created in the first nine years of the 1970's.

By the beginning of 1981, the total number of unemployed had fallen to about 28 percent of the work force. Thus jobs had been found for about 22 percent of those previously unemployed along with others who were just joining the labour force. So our successes in the field of employment have been impressive and unprecedented in the history of Grenada and the English-speaking Caribbean.

A democratic solution to unemployment

But we must never rest on our victories. We must never grow complacent. The relentless struggle against unemployment continues.

So comrades, what is our way forward from here in the mighty task before us — to remove unemployment from our country. We have started a process which is democratic in nature, which will involve all of you here and thousands of other Grenadians. For in fighting and organising to end unemployment we shall be using centrally our democratic structures and mass organisations. They are our problem-solving infrastructures and our means of mass consultation. Just as they provided the organisational basis for the making of our People's Budget, so they shall form the structures through which we shall finish with unemployment.

This is because we believe that people's participation is a must, is *essential* to solve the people's problems. If we attempted to solve unemployment by bureaucratic methods with no popular involvement, we are convinced not only then such a method would be wrong and unacceptable to our people *but that it would and could not work*, because the most important people in this entire venture — the unemployed themselves — would not be involved. So we are calling upon the mass organisations, the National Youth Organisation, the National Women's Organisation, the trade unions, the Productive Farmers' Union to be deeply and integrally a part of the vanguard in this national campaign against unemployment. Your members are involved in the problem. So it must be your task and responsibility to contribute towards finding the solution.

We see it as your task primarily to help in the organisation of the unemployed, so that they can find work themselves with the backing of the mass organisations. We envisage that your members will seek to identify the possible areas of projects alongside your unemployed brothers and sisters as well as helping to mobilise support for projects already existing in their own villages or other parts of their areas.

In addition, the mass organisations must assist their unemployed comrades in the formation of co-operatives and lend their organisational expertise and experience to those comrades interested in the co-operative principle, but who are inexperienced in the actual day-to-day organisation, administration and maintenance work necessary.

Continued on next page

Nicaraguan unionists: raise production, strengthen defense

Continued from ISR/5
U.S. presidential elections."

Therefore, "the working class must put all its energies on alert and get ready to fight and produce in order to defend the revolution without sparing efforts, risks, or sacrifices," recognizing that the economy will be "subject to ever greater tensions."

During discussion at the assembly a delegate from the farm workers union in the Matagalpa-Jinotega region explained the severity of the war there, noting that women and children are maintaining production on farms while most of the men are engaged in the military. He appealed for unity between workers in the cities and in the countryside: "We're at war in these zones and we're counting on you."

Miguel Jiménez, head of the tobacco workers union in Jalapa, a region hit hard by mercenary attacks, told delegates that because of the war situation, it was essential that workers not stop production.

Other delegates also spoke against strikes, calling for the firmest possible unity of all workers to defend the revolution.

Resolutions adopted

The assembly unanimously adopted 10 resolutions on steps to increase workers' role in defending and strengthening the revolution.

The first resolution calls for strengthening military defense, stressing workers' participation at all levels, from the Sandinista People's Army to neighborhood and workplace vigilance patrols. "Those who have the greatest obligation to defend the power of the workers are the workers themselves," it said.

This point was amplified in a speech by Victor Tirado, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, to Managua CST leaders a few days before the national union assembly. "In our revolution what is most important, what the working class must guard and defend as its most heartfelt demand and achievement . . . is the *conquest of political power*," Tirado said. His speech was reproduced and made available to all the delegates at the national union assembly. Tirado also gave the closing speech to the assembly, focusing his remarks on the impact of the world capitalist economic crisis on Latin America and Nicaragua in particular.

The second main resolution called for raising productivity at all workplaces in order to meet the needs of the population and defense needs of the country. "This is not possible without the development of a conscious discipline to take maximum advantage of the working day," it said.

CST leaders agreed that raising productivity is key to ameliorating the economic problems workers face. As CST General Secretary Lucio Jiménez explained in an interview with *Barricada*, "The truth is that it is not realistic to aspire to more than we have now until we succeed in raising production and productivity, although we know that the main thing to blame [for the economic difficulties] is imperialism."

Jiménez explained that no matter how much wages were increased, shortages and price gouging will continue unless there is more production. "First we have to talk about production and productivity so that we can then talk about wages realistically."

He stressed that this can only be achieved through the conscious decision of the working class. "The ideological factor has a lot of weight," he said. "We must make it so that production quotas are fulfilled, knowing beforehand that there will be fewer consumer goods, and more social problems, because we have more war."

The assembly, Jiménez continued, "opened the possibility of strengthening ourselves ideologically to confront these situations. . . ."

Beginning of an offensive

In another resolution, the assembly decided to initiate a process of holding local union assemblies in every workplace to discuss the situation facing the country and the role of the working class in confronting it.

"This assembly was the beginning of an offensive throughout the whole length and breadth of the country," Jiménez said, "to make sure we all understand that it is necessary to work more, even if with fewer economic demands than we had before, and in addition, to be ready to confront the invasion."

Several resolutions dealt with the best ways of distributing scarce consumer goods. The unionists called for the distribution of basic necessities through neighborhood "people's outlets" only rather than also through factory commissaries and supermarkets, as it has been done

in the past. The scarcity of goods is such that maintaining several different distribution networks has proved impossible, leading to repeated spot shortages. Since each people's outlet supplies only one small neighborhood, the local Sandinista Defense Committee can more easily ensure that products are not diverted to the black market.

A related resolution dealt with the practice of selling to workers at cost a given amount of the product made in their plant. The resolution condemned the way this has been done as "an obstacle to the rational distribution of our resources" and as a practice that "facilitates speculation." It called for reducing the quotas of products sold to workers at their plant.

Strikes and wages

A resolution on strikes called for resolving labor disputes through negotiations, rather than stopping production. Just prior to the assembly, two CST locals had carried out brief strikes. (See story on ISR/4.)

Another resolution called for completion of the government's new wage-scale system and for a review of wages after that to help compensate for inflation. (See story on ISR/4.)

Rank-and-file delegates put forward two other resolutions, in addition to those proposed by the presiding committee that had been elected by the assembly. These two resolutions were also adopted.

One was to "recognize the solidarity of the workers of the world" with Nicaragua and to "encourage them to continue demonstrating their effective solidarity by means of material aid."

The other called for "absolute support to the FSLN's Plan of Struggle," which is the Sandinista platform in the presidential elections.

The final resolution from the assembly pledged that "the leaders who participate in the National Assembly of Unions commit ourselves to maintain close ties with our ranks, to continually explain the main problems no matter how hard they are, and to overcome organizational failings and deficiencies in order to meet the challenge of defending the revolution."

The resolutions ended with a call for "More Productivity! More discipline! More organization! Greater production!"

"Everything for the war fronts . . . Everything for the fighters!"

CIA role in Letelier assassination bared

Death in Washington: The Murder of Orlando Letelier, by Donald Freed with Fred Landis. Westport, Connecticut, Lawrence Hill & Company, 1980, 254 pages \$6.95 paperback.

BY MORRIS STARKSKY

When *Death in Washington* was published, David Atlee Phillips, a retired CIA senior officer, filed a \$200 million libel suit against the author and the publisher. Phillips is also involved in the \$60 million lawsuit against the movie *Missing*, and General William Westmoreland's lawsuit against CBS.

Death in Washington is an account of the 1976 assassination of Dr. Orlando Letelier and the subsequent CIA cover-up.

Letelier was Chile's ambassador to the United States in 1972. He held cabinet posts in President Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government until the 1973 CIA-or-

BOOK REVIEW

ganized coup. He was arrested during the coup, taken to a remote prison on an island in Chile's coldest region, and subjected to slave-labor conditions.

An international campaign saved him from the wave of executions that swept Chile after the coup. In 1974, exactly one year after the coup, he was released and exiled to Venezuela. He subsequently moved to the United States and settled in Washington, D.C.

In Washington, Letelier was a prominent figure in the Chilean exile community. He organized international opposition to the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet which had imposed a brutal dictatorship on Chile. Letelier initiated a boycott of shipments to Chile by dockworkers in the Netherlands, and convinced the Dutch government to cancel a needed \$63 million mining investment in Chile. In reprisal, the Pinochet regime stripped Letelier of his Chilean citizenship. Without doubt, Letelier was a thorn in the side of the military regime in Chile — and the U.S. government which had put it in power.

On September 21, 1976, Letelier was driving to his office at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. with his aide, Ronni Karpen Moffitt, and her husband, Michael Moffitt. As the car drove past the Chilean Embassy, a bomb placed under it earlier was detonated by remote control. Letelier and Ronni Moffitt were killed, and Michael Moffitt was injured.

Two cover-ups

Freed says that Letelier's murder was secret U.S. government policy, and that the cover-up was organized by former CIA officer Phillips to prevent disclosure of CIA and Chilean government involvement. Specifically, Freed accuses Phillips of being "at least" an accessory after the fact for his role in the cover-up. He raises the question of whether Phillips was part of the conspiracy to assassinate Letelier, but sets it aside as impossible to answer without subpoena power and sworn testimony.

According to Freed, there were two cover-ups or-



On Sept. 21, 1976, Orlando Letelier (inset), Chile's ambassador to the United States under Allende, was killed when bomb placed under his car blew up. Evidence points to CIA involvement.

ganized by Phillips and others. The first one was an attempt to shift the blame from the Chilean secret police (DINA) and the CIA to "jealous lovers" and "Castro agents." There was also a media campaign to discredit Letelier as an agent for Cuba or the Soviet Union in order to make blaming Castro for the assassination more plausible.

A second cover-up became necessary when the anti-Castro Cuban terrorists who blew up a Cuban airliner in 1976 began boasting of their involvement in the Letelier murder.

Two years later, a federal grand jury indicted five anti-Castro Cuban terrorists and three Chileans for the Letelier-Moffitt murders. Of those indicted, only three of the Cubans stood trial and were convicted. The other two could not be found. The Chilean government refused to extradite the Chileans who were DINA agents.

At the trial, the prosecution produced two mysterious witnesses. They were Michael Vernon Townley and his wife Mariana Ines Callejas. Townley, a U.S. citizen who had lived in Chile for many years, pleaded guilty to a single charge of conspiracy to commit murder and was given a 10-year sentence in a plea-bargaining deal for his testimony. Callejas was not prosecuted.

This is where the official story ends. There was no CIA involvement, and the Chilean government was absolved from responsibility.

Longtime CIA agents

Freed, however, establishes that the mysterious witnesses in the Letelier-Moffitt murder trial were longtime CIA agents. He links Townley with Phillips in the "coup team" sent by Washington to overthrow the Allende government. Although the evidence is circumstantial (there is no smoking gun), it points beyond reasonable doubt to

the conclusion that the CIA had prior knowledge of the plan to assassinate Letelier and that Townley participated in the assassination under CIA direction, probably from Phillips. He even provides an account of why the Cubans were thrown to the wolves.

Whether or not Phillips organized the assassination of Letelier, he certainly did organize the 1973 coup that put Letelier's — and thousands of other Chileans' — murderers in power. The decision to overthrow the regime was made at the highest levels of U.S. government and industry. It was the culmination of a three-year effort to prevent Allende's election and his taking office. These plans are summarized in several remarkable chapters.

This is why Phillips' libel suit against Freed must be seen as another weapon in the U.S. government's escalating assault on democratic rights. Columnist Jack Anderson noted in the *Washington Post* on June 12, 1983, "The CIA has backed Phillips all the way. The agency even sent a lawyer and a classification expert to Phillips' deposition to make sure he didn't answer any questions that would embarrass the agency." This means that the government can use libel suits with impunity to create a "chilling effect" on the publication of information it does not want the public to have. Thus, it can more easily impose the capitalists' view of events on public opinion.

Freed has been a target of government harassment for many years. He is a social activist, investigative journalist, and a playwright. At one time, the government attempted to frame him on a phony weapons-buying charge. He was acquitted. In recent years he has been involved in a campaign against government spying.

Copies of *Death in Washington* can be obtained from the Donald Freed Defense Committee for a \$10 contribution. The address of the committee is P.O. Box 2084, Rolling Hills Estates, California 90274.

Maurice Bishop: 'Fight unemployment through production'

Continued from preceding page

sary for the planning and efficient running of such structures. The mass organisations must be firm and reliable means of support and infrastructure to the unemployed, must be there at all times to lend comradely help to the comrades' search for work.

In particular, and here the role of the trade unions is especially paramount, our mass organisations must continue to encourage the unemployed comrades to gain as much education and training as they can obtain, as well as stimulate their own educational and training schemes. [This will] increase the technical capacity of our unemployed to make them more useful future workers, as well as raising their general grasp of necessary agricultural and industrial skills — so that when they begin to work they will already have attributes and abilities that will make them more productive in the building of our production and economy.

The private sector, too, has a significant role to play in this great challenge to finish with unemployment in our country. We hope and trust that they also, along with the mass organisations and trade unions, will keenly contribute their long experience and practised expertise to this vital process for our people and the future of all of us.

At this stage in the development of our economy, it is generally true to say that our private sector has, over the years, achieved greater skill levels in economic and managerial organisation than we have presently in our public

sector. Clearly, the brothers and sisters in the private sector are veterans in this respect and have a lot to teach us and give us. They are in no way left out of our economic thrust and strategy, and we see them taking a crucial and responsible role in our present battle against unemployment, for we are the same side.

Within the ranks of the private sector many too are practitioners and businessmen with sympathies and significant capabilities in raising and mobilising funds for schemes and investments that will create more jobs and thus create more production. We welcome them into the heart of our strategy to cure our country of joblessness — for we are all doctors in this process.

We can see, for example, in the area of garment manufacturing how great a contribution is being made to fight unemployment by the private sector. This particular industry is highly labour-intensive and is providing many jobs for our people — particularly our sisters, for, as we have seen, our women are the principal sufferers from the disease of unemployment in our country. We feel strongly that similar strides could also be made by the private sector in the area of shoe-making, wood-working, furniture, and food-processing — all of which would both cut down on our import bills and provide jobs for many of our people through direct production. So comrades from the private sector, we are asking for your contributions and your advice and suggestions, for you are and always have been, in the mainstream of creation in

our country, and we would certainly want this to continue.

So these are the basic points I wanted to make to you this morning comrades. As you continue in your crucial work, I am confirmed yet again in our Grenadian belief in collective consultation, collective discussions, collective wisdom which always emerges from assemblies such as these. For with so many proud, independent, and free minds exchanging and combining, giving and receiving, criticising and deciding, together and more together every day, every week, every month, we are creating an intellectual and democratic unity which will form the basis of all our social activities and progress.

For comrades, all of you are the parents of progress, the mothers and fathers of national development, and as such you are making our economy not only productive but also reproductive. With your insights, ideas, and collective genius you will cause the birth of more jobs, more production, more wealth and carry our country forward to more happiness and freedom for all our people, whereby every Grenadian will be able to say: "Look, I have a job. I am a producer for my country. I am a builder of Grenada, I am a constructor of a new land of courage, love, hope, and productive achievement. I am a part of the new society we are all trying to build."

Long live the people of Grenada!
Long live the Grenada revolution!
Forward ever, backward never!



Militant/Harry Ring

While Cuba welcomes U.S. journalists, who are free to interview anyone there, U.S. Treasury Department gave a witch-hunt grilling to a reporter doing radio show on her experiences in Cuba.

The U.S. government's war in Central America and the Caribbean is not only directed against the workers and peasants of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the people of Grenada. The workers and peasants and revolutionary government of Cuba have been a target of U.S. imperialism's aggression for 25 years.

An aspect of this reactionary campaign is denying U.S. working people and other citizens the right to freely travel to Cuba and learn firsthand about the revolution. Travel is now restricted to Cuban-Americans visiting families and reporters and professionals involved in research.

An article entitled, "A hair-raising scheme to bar Cuban travel," was recently published in the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*. It was written by Karen Branan, a freelance writer, who traveled to Cuba in 1983. Upon returning to Minneapolis, Branan was harassed by the Treasury Department. They asked her all types of questions, implying she had broken the law.

While Branan only points the finger at the Reagan administration for the government's bipartisan policies toward Cuba, her description of what happened after her trip should be of interest to our readers. The article is reprinted below.

Our World War II-vintage aircraft pitched and shuddered in the high winds over Havana as it descended toward Martí Airport. But, before touching down, we were knocked off course by the turbulence. The pilot took us up and over and down again. Again, we could not land. Prayers could be heard all over the plane. Seated behind the pilot, I watched his neck, dripping sweat, muscles distended. Undaunted, he wrestled the airplane to earth.

That hair-raising entry into Havana was nothing, however, compared to the phone call I received on return in Minneapolis.

"Call Marilyn Muench at the Treasury Department," read the note on my desk.

This was early 1983. The Reagan administration's ban on travel to Cuba was in effect. As remains the case, only reporters, professionals engaged in research, and Cuban-Americans visiting families were allowed to go. I wanted to produce a documentary and write articles about ordinary U.S. citizens seeing Cuba for the first time. This meant going with people otherwise "unqualified."

To prevent future problems, I had writ-

ten the Treasury Department in advance, asking if such a trip would be permitted. I was told to ask the Federal Reserve. I did, and was assured that we qualified as a news-gathering group.

I returned Muench's call. She was cordial. Just wondering if we'd made our trip to Cuba to make a TV documentary. I told her we had and that, due to costs, the documentary would be for radio. That disturbed her. "I'm not sure that qualifies." We debated the fine points and, frustrated, she moved on to other things. "Castro often says bellicose things, attacks the U.S." Did we hear a lot of that?

I told her we were treated warmly and detected no hostility toward Americans. She was interested in many things. Did we speak Spanish? Whom did we talk to? Did Cubatur, a government travel agency, go everywhere with us?

I told her we made many of our own arrangements and spent the majority of our time on our own, visiting people in their homes or at work. She expressed surprise that we had so much freedom.

She told me that I should send her the names and addresses of everyone who went. She wanted to know the jobs of the people producing the documentary and an explanation for why we had switched from TV to radio. I said I didn't think this was necessary.

Treasury Dept. harasses Minneapolis reporter for her visit to Cuba

"You should realize," replied Muench, "that under the regulations we have very broad powers of follow-up."

Soon afterward, I received a letter from the Federal Reserve reminding me to send Treasury the information.

The travel agency that helped arrange our trip hired a lawyer to deal with Treasury and the Federal Reserve. We did not hear from them again — until recently and less directly.

Our agency worked with Marazul Tours, recently subpoenaed by the Treasury Department to turn over all its Cuba travel records. Muench's "very broad powers of follow-up" have become broad indeed.

Anthony Lewis, in a recent *New York Times* column (*Star and Tribune*, Sept. 18), wrote, "The real purpose of the Cuban travel restriction is exposed by this nasty episode. It is to prevent contact between Americans and Cuba: to isolate us from the Castro virus and, by doing so, to irritate Cuba."

I would agree and add a third possible purpose: to gather small shreds of intelligence unavailable through spies and satellites.

Treasury says it wants to learn whether professionals traveling to Cuba under Marazul's auspices really went for research purposes. How can they determine that except by asking them where they went, with

whom they spoke, what they talked about? There is another possibility: that such information will be used to defame people not friendly to this administration.

But the key purpose, as Lewis said, is "to prevent contact." This is crucial for an administration with so much invested in building hatred, fear and distrust between Cubans and Americans.

It must have galled administration officials when prominent Minnesota Republicans and businessmen, including then-state Sen. George Pillsbury, traveled to Cuba in 1981 and returned calling for increased contacts between the two countries.

Nor could they have been happy with a letter President Reagan received from Catholic and Lutheran clergy and lay people after a Cuban visit in 1982. They asked for a policy to encourage "mutual understanding and respect" between Cubans and Americans.

The success of Reagan's plans for Cuba and Central America depends on the American people's belief in his Cold War propaganda. It will not do to have us go and see for ourselves.

Those of us who believe that citizens have a right to travel where they please without a "follow-up" by Big Brother would do well to ask this "get-government-off-our-backs" administration exactly what is going on.

Radix hits U.S. domination of Grenada



Militant/Lou Howort

Kendrick Radix, former minister in Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government and now leader of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

For the information of our readers we're reprinting below an article on Grenada that appeared in the October 7 issue of the weekly *Granma*, the official newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, under the title, "Elections under Occupation?"

The article was datelined Paramaribo, Suriname, and was off the wires of *Prensa Latina*.

"No free, just elections can be held in a Grenada occupied by the United States," said Kendrick Radix, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), at a press conference held here.

Radix is visiting this capital at the invitation of the February 25 Movement led by Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse.

In his meeting with Bouterse, the Grenadian leader gave a detailed account of events leading up to the invasion and of the current situation in his country, now oc-

cupied by U.S. forces and military contingents from the Eastern Caribbean, Barbados and Jamaica.

At the press conference, he spoke of the planned elections in Grenada, saying that the MBPM will be taking part despite the occupation forces' hostile propaganda against progressive ideas.

Grenada, he said, is no longer an independent state due to the presence of U.S. forces and the establishment of a neocolonial regime obedient to Washington's dictates.

Some 350 U.S. military police are patrolling Grenada's streets, coast and sky in jeeps, armored vehicles and helicopters, he said, adding that the occupation forces also control the security apparatus, carry out certain functions and advise Governor-General Paul Scoon on internal policy matters.

He charged that the CIA has infiltrated the churches, the trade unions and other sectors of national life.

He illustrated his charges by drawing attention to the presence in St. George's of CIA agents who contributed to Michael Manley's defeat in the 1980 [Jamaican] elections. Those agents hold very important posts in the U.S. embassy in Grenada, he said.

CIA officials in Grenada, he explained, foster acts of provocation, harassment, and false accusations against the MBPM in order to discredit it. The occupation forces fear a revival of revolutionary ideas and the political legacy of Maurice Bishop that they wish to remove once and for all.

Regarding the trial proceedings against those accused of having murdered Bishop and his colleagues last October, Radix said Washington is trying to use the trial as a means to discredit the revolution and lessen its projection throughout the rest of the area.

He went on to say that the trial will be used by Washington through its press propaganda to present the Grenada crisis of last October as a setback for the progressive movement in the area.

The United States took advantage of the Grenadian tragedy, he said, to arm several of the Eastern Caribbean countries and thus militarize the entire area.

Lung tester donated to Nicaragua miners

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Gold and silver miners in Nicaragua recently received a valued gift from the coalfields of West Virginia. Dr. Dan Doyle, a Fayette County physician, traveled to the embattled Central American nation to deliver a spirometer, a pulmonary function testing unit that is a vital aid in detecting lung problems in miners.

Doyle brought the gift on behalf of the Appalachian Pulmonary Laboratory in Beckley, West Virginia, which is headed by Dr. Donald Rasmussen. Rasmussen is widely known and respected among U.S. coal miners for his years of work with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in the fight against the dreaded black lung disease.

While in Nicaragua Doyle joined some 200 other health care workers from the United States and Canada in a conference sponsored by the Nicaraguan Health Workers Federation and the Nicaraguan Physicians' Association.

"The mine I visited when I was in Nicaragua last year," said Doyle, a supporter of

the Nicaraguan revolution, "had annual physical exams for all the miners, including health histories, TB cultures and X-rays. But the region I visited was not doing any pulmonary function screening because they didn't have a spirometer. The teaching hospital of one of the two major medical schools didn't even have one."

Doyle brought more than the spirometer itself. He also took spare parts, cleaning fluids and "anything else he could think of that hospital personnel might need," according to the *Charleston Gazette*.

"We wanted to give them something that wouldn't end up on the shelf because there was a 5-cent piece missing," Doyle explained. Doyle will also teach Nicaraguan health workers how to operate the machine.

"Most of my work here in West Virginia has been with miners," said Rasmussen, one of the foremost experts on black lung. "I'm glad to be able to help the Nicaraguan people in any small way in their efforts for a better way of life."



Dan Doyle, who treats U.S. miners for black lung, organized gift of spirometer.

British miners are determined to win

British striker: 'solidarity makes me proud I'm working class'

Continued from Page 3

porting the NUM. She told of feeding 150 people in one day from facilities lacking hot water and kitchen equipment.

"This has been a very frustrating strike for me. I work part time in a hospital and not a day goes by without someone saying something about the miners. I can't go home and tell my husband because he's either on the picket line or in jail. If it wasn't for the women, it would be impossible."

Yet Francis expressed a sentiment I find pervasive among miners, their families, and their supporters. "We will never back down. After all this we have nothing to lose."

The widespread organizations of miners' wives have helped the women keep up morale as things have gotten harder, she explained. While they were first formed to find ways for the women to "help our men," they have grown into critical centers for feeding the strikers and their families, and organizing wide-ranging support activities.

Francis summed up her message: "Women have been a backbone to the strike. We've proven Mrs. Thatcher wrong. She has been known as the Iron Lady. Well, by god, there are thousands of Iron Ladies out there!"

Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, told that same London meeting that the striking miners "remain determined, united, and resolved. They recognize their fight is about trade unionism in this country of ours."

Indeed, as the ruling class here intensifies its attack on the miners, workers across the country have stepped up their support efforts. The headline on the October 12 issue of the NUM's paper, *The Miner*, sums it up: "It's war."

Both sides here are preparing for bigger battles in that war. The ruling class has unleashed cops throughout the coalfields to harass the picket lines and mining communities. It has recruited scabs to truck out the coal the rail workers refuse to move. It has levied a £200,000 [about \$250,000]

fine against the NUM, and turned its media loose to spread lies about NUM violence and "unreasonableness." These are not small problems, and they have been discussed seriously at all the support meetings and informal gatherings that I've attended around the country.

But miners know that their fight has begun to pull together potentially stronger forces on their side, and this process, what it means, and how to build on it are the themes that dominate the discussions I've been able to participate in.

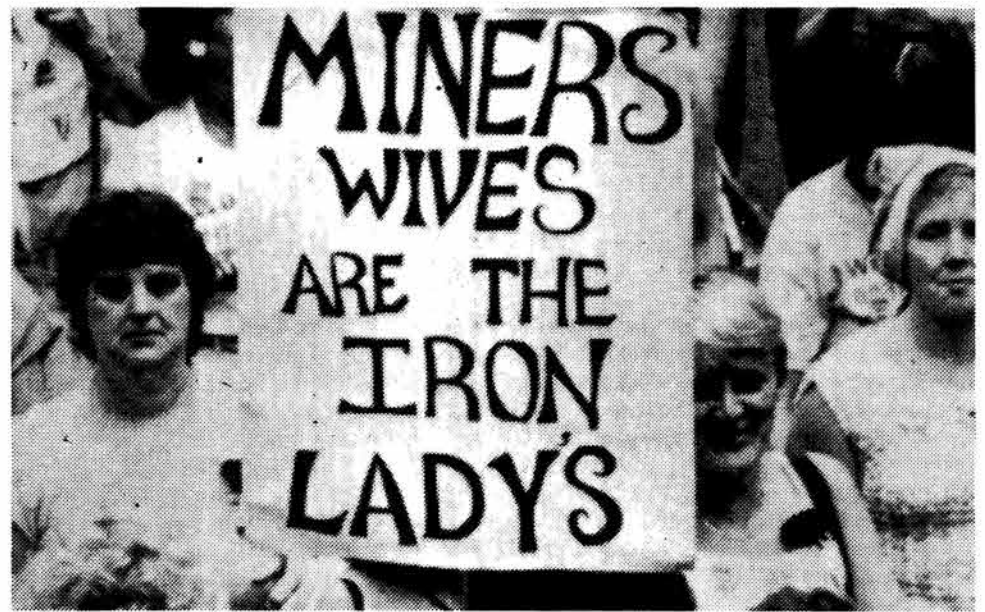
Malcolm Pinnegar, a striking miner from Leicestershire, put it this way in his address to the London meeting: "The only way they can break this strike is to starve us out, and that's where your lot comes in. We've met people we didn't think existed in this country. And we're not going to back down."

As Brian Todd, a striking miner from Nottinghamshire, told an international solidarity rally on October 20: "The solidarity we've gotten makes me know we will win. I was always proud I'm a miner. Now I am proud I'm working class."

Sue Bence, representing the Kent Miners' Wives Strike Action Committee at that rally, said "We women, unlike Mrs. Thatcher, know how other women think. She and her class can't understand our national and international solidarity. We are as strong in our class as she is in hers."

I have had the opportunity to speak at a number of support meetings. Each time, the response to the presence of a socialist woman miner from the United States has been enthusiastic. And in each case, miners and their supporters have heartily cheered calls for solidarity also with our working-class brothers and sisters of Nicaragua in their fight to defend their country against the U.S. war.

The front-page article in the October 12 *Miner* puts it this way: "Our concern is for the magnificent men and women in this strike who have shown guts in abundance — enough to inspire the current inhabitants of this planet and the generations to come."



Organization of miners' wives has been a big strength of strike.

"Rich people, with their plummy [good] accent, might try to use you. Others, with their clever comments, might try to con you."

"But we speak to you openly and directly when we say you are the most noble and morally responsible class on earth."

"Every aspect of real justice is on your

side... Your courage will see us all through to victory. *Of that there is not the slightest doubt.*"

Kipp Dawson is a laid-off United Mine Workers of America member at Bethlehem's 84-Complex mine in Pennsylvania.

Canadian UAW on strike

Continued from Page 3

would be better served by having a contract pegged to Canada's economic situation. They argue a better contract is possible since the Canadian dollar is worth about 76 cents in U.S. currency. This means bigger profits for GM, which pays its Canadian workers at similar wage levels as in the United States, but does so in Canadian dollars. Thus many of GM's bigger cars are built here and exported to the U.S.

However, splitting up the union's bargaining strength in the face of GM's attacks was unpopular with Canadian workers, who felt it weakened their position.

As a spot-welder in GM's Scarborough plant near Toronto said, "White was wrong not to have taken us out in September. It did us no good, and it did the Americans no good."

The struggle will be an uphill one for the strikers. GM has drawn the line — it intends to considerably weaken the union by forcing new concessions, it if can.

The strikers will have to reach out for solidarity. One important source will be U.S. auto workers. A rash of reporters from the major media in Canada descended on GM workers in the U.S. who face layoffs because the Canadian plants supply parts to U.S. operations.

None of the workers interviewed expressed any resentment against their fellow UAW members in Canada. As one put it, "Just because we got stuck with a crummy contract is no reason why the Canadians should have to take it."

Building on this sense of solidarity will be crucial for the strike. "We are thinking of the employees of the future, not just ourselves," said a 23-year-old member of Local 222.

Grant Elgaard is a member of UAW Local 222, at the General Motors plant in Oshawa, Ontario.

Disneyland strike settled — bosses back down on some demands

Workers at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, voted 696 to 292 on October 16 to accept a new contract, ending their three-week-old strike. Five unions — the United Food and Commercial Workers, Teamsters, Service Employees, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, and Bakery and Confectionery Workers — representing 1,800 of Disneyland's 5,000 employees, had been on strike since September 25.

Workers were forced to accept management's demands for a two-year wage freeze, but beat back other demands by Disneyland. Disneyland dropped its demand that the unions accept cuts in fringe benefits, especially in health care.

In addition, part-time employees who work 20 hours in a calendar week will now receive health and welfare benefits. This was a major issue, since 45 percent of the strikers were part-time employees. The union had also rejected management's demand that the 20 hours be spread over a five-day work week.

Disneyland agreed to reinstate all the strikers whose jobs had been filled, but has won the right to contract out up to 10 percent of the work.

Detroit workers back Canadian UAW strikers

BY MEL FREEMAN

DETROIT — Canadian auto workers are on strike at two General Motors plants in Windsor, Canada, just across the border from Detroit. They are among the 36,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) union members who shut down all GM plants in Canada on October 17.

Picket lines were up at all gates at the Windsor Transmission plant that employs some 2,800 members of UAW Local 1973. Cars going by the picketers regularly honked or waved to show support for the strikers.

A group of about a dozen picketers gathered around a picnic table and fire barrel at one entrance gate explained some of the strike issues. A young striker said that the main goal is to reverse the concessions imposed on UAW members in the 1982

contract. Opposition to the proposed wage package is strong.

A second striker pointed to the need for an improvement in monthly pension benefits, which reach only \$900 Canadian for retirees. (\$1 Canada = \$.76 U.S.) Another demand is for the return of the paid personal holidays taken away in 1982.

These Canadian auto workers said they want no part of the profit-sharing plan included in the U.S. contract.

The strike against GM in Canada has already idled 13,000 auto workers in nine U.S. assembly plants, the majority in southeastern Michigan. Picketers at the Windsor GM facility, only 10 minutes from downtown Detroit, were eager to discuss the implications of their contract fight for UAW members in the United States. A

number of picketers had strong views opposing the new U.S. contract. One picketer felt that UAW president Owen Bieber had sold out U.S. auto workers. Some expressed the false idea that North American workers ought to unite to fight imports from Japan, Germany and Latin America to protect jobs.

Picketers reported that as soon as the strike began, their local received a message of solidarity from a sister UAW local at a GM plant in Youngstown, Ohio. Many of the workers at this gate agreed with the sentiment of one striker who said, "The hell with GM. We should have all gone out together."

Detroit television and newspapers reported widespread support for the Canadian strikers from their brothers and sisters in Michigan.

Workers being laid off at the GM plant in Orion township and Chevy Gear and Axle in Detroit were interviewed on television and expressed support for the Canadian strike.

Militant correspondents at Chevy Gear and Axle in Detroit say that support for the Canadian strike is widespread in their plant.

Members of Local 1973 say they are prepared for a long strike and that their battle with GM will be a tough one. A lot of heads nodded when a picket captain said, "We will stay out as long as necessary to win our demands." Acts of solidarity from U.S. UAW members and all U.S. labor will be needed to help win this battle.

Meanwhile in Detroit, the UAW's 200 member Ford Council approved by over 80 percent the contract worked out between Ford and the top union officials. The Ford agreement is similar to the GM contract in most respects. The contract will be voted on by the 114,000 UAW members employed by Ford in the U.S. Voting will end October 28.

Mason pledges support to strikers

The following letter of solidarity to the Canadian United Auto Workers union was sent on October 24 by Mel Mason and Andrea González, 1984 Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president.

On behalf of the Socialist Workers Campaign and the Young Socialist Alliance, we wish to extend our solidarity with your strike against General Motors. Your fight against the takeback drive of the auto barons deserves the active support of workers, farmers, and the oppressed across Canada and in the United States.

Just as with your fight against the 1982 concession contract, Canadian auto workers are providing an example of the kind of united action by the union movement and its allies that is needed to take on the union-busting offensive of the auto companies and other employers internationally.

Your strike action is welcomed by thousands of U.S. auto workers who were forced to accept yet another concession contract despite the super profits that the auto companies openly boasted of. U.S. auto workers know that the failure of their leadership to mobilize the ranks for a fight against the concession contract only emboldens the auto corporations and the entire employing class.

We repudiate any attempt to turn U.S. workers against our Canadian brothers and sisters. In fact, the millions of workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos and women in the U.S. who are suffering as a result of the U.S. corporations' and banks' war in the U.S. and in Central America and the Caribbean will be eager to hear the truth about your fight.

We pledge to use our campaign to publicize and win solidarity for your fight for a decent contract.

Lane Kirkland's 'solidarity van' is a fraud

BY TOM LEONARD

In a last minute effort to drum up labor support for capitalist politicians, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland has been touring industrial states in the East and Midwest. He is traveling in a rented camper misnamed the "solidarity van."

Kirkland is masquerading support for Democrats Mondale and Ferraro under the name of union solidarity. He, along with most top union officials, have been preoccupied with getting out the vote for Mondale ever since the October, 1983, AFL-CIO convention when they endorsed Mondale in the presidential primaries.

AS I SEE IT

Since then massive union resources have been poured into this campaign. They include millions of dollars, tens of thousands of work hours, political meetings, phone banks by the hundreds, voter registration, and political campaigning on the shop floor.

In addition, unions have provided TV and radio time, newspapers, brochures, stickers, buttons and buttonholing union leaders from shop stewards to presidents to get involved.

All this for Mondale and Ferraro, two pro-war capitalist politicians who haven't lifted a finger to defend workers hit by cutbacks and concessions. In fact, both put forward and defend the union-busting, war-making policies of the employers.

Every union convention he's spoken at, Mondale pre-



Militant/Lou Howort
AFL-CIO's President Kirkland didn't see fit to take his "solidarity van" to join embattled Toledo auto worker picket line. Instead he has been drumming up support among unionists for prowar Democratic ticket.

sents the same theme: workers' problems are a result of foreign competition — in other words, working people abroad. Mondale is a fervent backer of the bosses' "Buy American" campaign.

The top union officialdom agrees. That's why the real problems of workers — racism, sexism, war — are never discussed.

It's not surprising then to hear union officials complain

about rank-and-file apathy towards their efforts to sell Mondale as Kirkland tours through their areas. Kirkland's meetings have been organized to be small — 200 in Toledo, 300 in Cleveland — with smiling union officials wearing Mondale buttons. He passed through Toledo without bothering to join the picket line of striking AP Parts workers.

Even some pro-Mondale union officials were upset by this low key approach. They wanted bigger meetings, but Kirkland refused to present his rap to rank-and-file workers.

After a small Akron, Ohio, meeting, Les Johnson, president of UAW Local 1714 at the General Motors Fisher Body plant, observed that the two-week selective strike at some General Motors plants had overshadowed the presidential campaign.

There is a lot of truth in Johnson's observation. Many workers are more concerned with finding answers to the attacks they are facing than listening to empty promises from capitalist politicians. That's the beginning of political wisdom.

It is precisely this wisdom — signs of growing class consciousness — that Kirkland has gone out of his way to avoid confronting while on tour.

In contrast, the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, has been on the picket lines in Toledo, Chicago, and Morenci, Arizona.

Their campaign has also practiced international solidarity, by actively opposing the U.S. war in Central America and supporting the eight-month strike of British coal miners.

How to defeat antiabortion initiative discussed

BY MAUREEN McDOUGALL

DENVER — "Proposition 3: Attack on Abortion Rights" was the title of a well-attended Militant Labor Forum held here October 12. Speaking at the forum were Carol Dovi, the Colorado state organizer for the National Abortion Rights Action League and a member of Colorado Taxpayers for Choice, a coalition of groups opposing Proposition 3; and Sally Goodman of the Socialist Workers Party.

Proposition 3, a referendum that will appear on the Colorado ballot in November, would cut off state funding for abortions.

Calif. voting rights attacked in referendum

Continued from back page

voiced clear opposition to the measure. In early October, César Chávez, president of the United Farm Workers union, reported to a meeting of more than 70 Latino leaders in Salinas, California, on his union's involvement in a statewide drive against four ballot initiatives, including Proposition 38.

Chávez is urging public meetings and mass mailings to get out the vote to defeat the racist measure.

Also condemning Proposition 38 is the Socialist Workers campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president. Proposition 38, the socialists explain, is part of a national campaign directed against immigrant workers. It is aimed particularly at working people from Central America and the Caribbean.

Socialists explain this measure is tied to other attacks on the working class, including the anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, war preparations, and the bosses' and top labor bureaucracy's "Buy American" campaigns.

The socialist candidates explain that the measure is a direct attack on the growing Spanish-speaking population in California, as well as Asians and other oppressed nationalities.

They point out that voting rights are an important, hard-won gain of the working class that, like other gains, is under attack by the rulers.

It was the massive civil rights struggle of the 1960s that won the 1965 Voting Rights Act. And it was additional fights by Latinos and Asians demanding full equality that led Congress to extend the act to require bilingual ballots where more than five percent of the voters are Latinos, Asian-Pacific, or Native Americans.

If bilingual rights are rolled back, the socialist campaign explains, it will embolden the employers to further whip up racist prejudice against all oppressed nationalities and deepen divisions in the working class.

For these reasons, an aggressive campaign to defeat Proposition 38 is needed.

Colorado is one of the few states that still provides abortions for women eligible for Medicaid.

Dovi explained the far-reaching implications of this vaguely worded amendment to the state constitution. Prohibiting the use of state funds to "reimburse directly or indirectly, any person, agency, or facility for any induced abortion" would not only outlaw Medicaid abortions, but could prevent a hospital that receives any state funds from performing abortions. For example, state funds could not be used to pay a hospital's electric bill if hospital lighting had been used during an abortion.

Goodman reminded the audience that it was the seventh anniversary of the death of Rosie Jiménez, who died as a result of a botched illegal abortion. Jiménez was denied a legal abortion after Congress passed the Hyde amendment in 1977. This amendment cut off federal funds for abortion, forcing many poor women, like Jiménez, to turn to perilous back-street or do-it-yourself abortions.

Goodman explained that the referendum is part of a broadside attack on the right of all women to abortion, and is aimed particularly at Black, Chicana, and working women.

Dovi described the harassment that patients at the local Planned Parenthood clinic are subjected to by antichoice picketers. Both speakers pointed to the dramatic increase in violent attacks on abortion clinics in recent months.

The forum became a lively exchange of views on how best to defend the right to abortion. While Dovi felt that "bringing women out in numbers was how we first won the right to abortion," she argued that the best way to defend that right was to develop lobbying skills and work to "elect prochoice candidates." She saw the defeat of Reagan in the upcoming elections as key to turning back congressional and Supreme Court attacks on the right to choose.

Goodman differed with this strategy. "We can't rely on politicians to defend our rights for us," she said. "It has little to do with who's in office and more to do with the existence of a visible, vocal, independent women's movement." She pointed out that the Hyde Amendment was passed under the Democratic Carter-Mondale administration, and that Reagan was pressured into signing a liberal abortion law when he was governor of California.

Literature distributed by Taxpayers for Choice stresses that forcing a woman on welfare to bear a child is far more costly to the taxpayer than providing an abortion. "This is a dangerous argument," warned Goodman, because "it encourages those racists who favor forced sterilization of women on welfare — particularly Blacks and Chicanas."

Among those participating in the forum were Cathy Emminizer, the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 1st

C.D.; and David Martin, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. They have made opposition to the referendum a theme of their campaigns, utilizing campaign appearances to explain the meaning of the attacks on abortion rights and to urge people to vote no on the referendum.

Martin and Emminizer's opponents, in contrast, have studiously avoided the issue. This includes Democrats Pat Schroeder, the incumbent congresswoman,

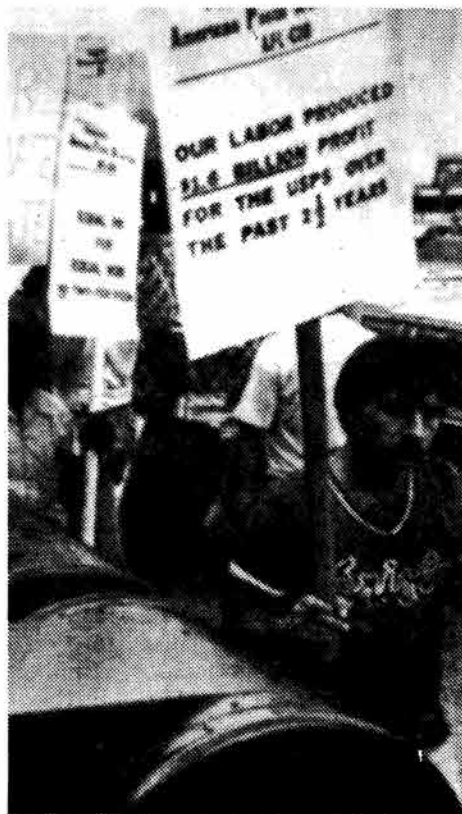
Postal unions forced into arbitration

Four postal workers' unions representing some 600,000 members were forced to submit to binding arbitration October 19 after failing to reach an agreement on a new contract with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). The arbitration board will have 45 days to come up with a new contract.

The old contracts of the four unions — the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and the Mail Handlers — expired on July 21.

The USPS is demanding major concessions. These include a two-tier wage structure that would establish a permanent wage differential between workers performing the same work. The USPS is also demanding a three-year wage freeze, and other concessions.

Being forced to binding arbitration is a



Informational pickets were called by postal unions last August following July 21 expiration of contracts.

and Nancy Dick, who is running for Senate, both of whom are receiving active support from women's rights organizations.

A statement released by the socialist candidates condemns Proposition 3 as a violation of "the most fundamental right of every woman — the right to control her own body. . . . No politician, no priest or minister, no judge has the right to take such a personal decision out of the hands of the woman herself!"

blow to the right to bargain — a right the unions won after a bitter strike in 1970. Before that the unions were forced to lobby Congress for wage increases.

As a result of the 1970 victory, postal workers were able to win wage increases double the rate of other government workers.

Hess Oil locks out St. Croix workers

Steelworkers international president Lynn Williams recently visited St. Croix, Virgin Islands — a U.S. colony — to address a support rally for 379 locked-out Hess Oil refinery workers. His trip was reported in the September issue of *Steelworker*.

This was the first time an international president of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) visited this Caribbean island on union business.

The union was locked-out six months ago after it refused to make major concessions to Hess Oil on job security provisions in the contract.

Hess had insisted on the right to contract out any job it wished. It also demanded workers take tests on promotions, demotions, and even on the jobs they currently perform — without being able to file a grievance against the company.

Williams pledged the locked-out workers full support from the international. After his trip he announced a national boycott of Hess Oil products which was approved by the AFL-CIO. The USWA also filed unfair labor charges against Hess with the National Labor Relations Board.

In a letter to Virgin Islands Governor Juan Luis, Williams wrote, "Hess Oil suffers from the arrogance of many multinational corporations. It believes it is accountable to no country, government, or people. We must demonstrate that it is accountable."

Subscribe to the Militant

Oh, that's different — Sparked by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.), the Senate Intelligence



Harry Ring

Committee made a six-month study of possible links between U.S. officials and Salvadoran death squads. It concluded, hap-

pily, that while there were definite links, "United States government officials did not themselves become involved in extralegal activity." Which proves it's always better to hire someone.

The big-time heists — a congressional study found that from 1980 to mid-1983, about half the bank failures and a quarter of savings and loan failures could be attributed to criminal activity by bank officers. The FBI estimates that in 1982, \$401.6 million was lifted through bank fraud and embezzlement — eight times the amount credited to bank holdups.

Note to bargain freaks — National Content Liquidators, which specializes in peddling stuff companies no longer want — furniture, etc. — is developing an inventory of nuclear equipment. Like, a multimillion-dollar GE reactor can be snapped up for \$350,000. They're also offering two reactors TVA cancelled in 1982. TVA sunk about \$50 million in them and hopes to get back about 5 percent of that.

Well, that's nice. — "We will begin paying taxes next year." W.B. Jones, a Grumman exec responding to revelations that his company and four other top war

contractors either paid no taxes or got refunds over the past three years despite combined profits of \$10.5 billion.

Society note — The *New York Times* reported that a Carolina Somoza was wed in New York. It advises that, "Her father was a former president of Nicaragua and had succeeded her grandfather..." Neglecting to mention they were "elected" by the U.S. Marines, with her father discredited in 1979 by the Nicaraguan people.

They caught one! — A City Hall press release boasts they fi-

nally captured a fugitive slumlord in New York. With one of the longest violation lists in the city, Jack Ferranti had been wanted ever since he was sentenced over a year ago. Recently, spotted by two cops, he led them on a high-speed car chase before they nailed him trying to climb the wall of one of his buildings.

Kind of like fertilizer — The EPA says it's weighing standards to curb the emission of pollutants by heavy-duty trucks. However, it's also considering permitting more pollution by trucks used mainly in rural areas.

Socialists campaign at Chicago nuclear freeze rally

BY JIM LITTLE

CHICAGO — On October 13 10,000 people attended a "nuclear freeze now," "vote for peace" march and rally here. While the official slogans of the action did not raise demands against the U.S. war in Central America, many of the banners and placards carried by the marchers referred to that war. One march contingent's central slogan said "Stop the U.S. war in Central America."

The speakers at the rally included Jesse Jackson, Chicago's Mayor Harold Washington, and physician Dr. Helen Caldicott. The chairpeople were author Studs Terkel and Monica Faith Stewart.

While the rally endorsed no candidate, the overriding message of nearly all the speakers was that Pres. Ronald Reagan should be dumped on November 6 to make the world safe from nuclear war.

Guadalupe González spoke as the representative of the rebel forces in El Salvador. She read a moving passage that depicted a family being bombed in a Salvadoran village by U.S. planes. When she said "I think that we need better relations between the U.S. and El Salvador because the FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) is going to win," the entire crowd roared approval.

The Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential and Illinois campaigns attended the rally to discuss the major issues facing working people, particularly the U.S. war in Central America. Nelson González, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, and Ed Warren, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in southside Chicago's 1st Congressional District, along with dozens of their supporters sold 210 copies of the *Militant*, *Young Socialist*, and *Perspectiva Mundial*

newspapers.

Many socialist campaigners sported Young Socialist Alliance T-shirts with the slogans "Solidarity with Nicaragua" and "Stop the U.S. war on Central America and the Caribbean." The T-shirts, buttons, and books sold briskly from a large socialist campaign table. Thousands of the new Socialist Workers Party campaign tabloid were distributed.

After the march and rally socialist-campaign supporters held an open house at the Maurice Bishop Bookstore on the south side of Chicago. There Stuart Crome, a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, explained the socialist view on the war in Central America.

"Is it more realistic to support Mondale-Ferraro if you want to stop the war, or even if you want to slow down the war?" Crome asked.

"No. We must think about what real politics is," he said. "Real politics is the fight between classes. What the Sandinistas are doing in leading the workers and peasants in Nicaragua is real politics. What the Salvadoran rebels are doing to win self-determination is real politics."

Crome also discussed the demand for a nuclear freeze. He said, "Support for the freeze is premised on what the best defense of U.S. imperialism is. Many supporters of the freeze argue for beefing up conventional weapons. But that's what U.S. imperialism is using in the war in Central America. We must be for the total elimination of all U.S. weapons — nuclear and conventional."

"The main way to prevent nuclear war," he continued, "is to aggressively fight against Washington's war in Central America."



Militant/Jim Little

Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate Ed Warren, campaigning at Chicago "nuclear freeze" march and rally.

N.Y. cop raid blow to rights

Continued from front page

curred without violence" on the part of the victims of the raids.

The nine are not charged with committing any crime, but with "plotting" and "conspiring" to free one of the Brink's defendants and to rob another armored car. The police claim to have seized weapons at the sites and to have made wiretaps and other recordings of "plotting."

The capitalist press sensationalized the raids, with headlines about "urban guerrillas." To back up the police charges the *Daily News* said, "The suspects include an attorney [Roger Wareham] in the office of Leonard Boudin, father of convicted terrorist Kathy Boudin..." Leonard Boudin is one of the most eminent civil liberties attorneys in the country.

On October 24 Boudin sent a telegram to the *Daily News* correcting their story: "I do not know Mr. Wareham, although I am advised that he was recently employed temporarily to do legal research in one of our commercial lawsuits and that after three and a half months he was replaced by another attorney."

Using a new "anticrime" measure, which Pres. Reagan signed into law on October 12 after winning overwhelming bipartisan support by Congress, prosecutors are pressing to hold the nine without bail. The new law allows judges to detain indefinitely defendants they deem "dangerous."

Nan Bailey, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from New York's 16th district, condemned the arrests and police and court tactics "as an attack on democratic rights."

"The ink was hardly dry on this new law when it was put to use denying the fundamental right to bail and due process," Bailey charged.

"Just as in the case of the Brinks defendants, the press has portrayed them as

dangerous criminals not deserving of their rights, and has convicted them before trial.

"The aim of the massive police show of force and the sensational treatment in the press is to intimidate everyone opposed to racism and Washington's escalating war in Central America and the Caribbean. The same law used now to hold these defendants without bail will be used to imprison indefinitely workers framed up on charges of 'picket-line violence' with little or no proof."

"We must also not forget the treatment the Brinks defendants received, which amounted to a legal lynching," the socialist candidate warned. "They were denied the most elementary human rights or even humane treatment by prison authorities."

"Everyone who believes in democracy has a stake in protesting this new attack on democratic rights, and in demanding fair treatment for those arrested, including their right to bail and protection of all their democratic rights."

Those arrested are Coltrane Chimerenga (also known as Randolph Simms) described by the *Daily News* as the "leader of the gang" who is "working on his doctorate at Harvard University"; William Clay and Viola Plummer, both Housing Preservation and Development employees; Roger Wareham, "a Harvard and Columbia Law School graduate who practices with Leonard Boudin"; Yvette Kelly, "a paralegal in the Newark public defenders office who was allegedly using her job to set up group meetings"; Ruth Carter, Paulette Jackson, Howard Bonds, and Robert Taylor.

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

INS agents storm 'El Diario' office

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) cops raided the offices of the country's largest-circulation Spanish-language newspaper, *El Diario*, on October 9 and 11. The New York City paper's editor, Manuel de Dios Unanue, denounced the raids as "militaristic and fascist."

James Jasey, the INS's deputy regional director, said the raids were a "routine operation." The INS agents were acting on an anonymous phone tip that some *El Diario* staff members were undocumented.

"I don't accept their excuse for coming here," said de Dios Unanue. "It was too much of a coincidence that three of the people they wanted to talk to wrote the articles on Hispanics confined by the INS."

In an October 12 *El Diario* editorial, de Dios Unanue wrote that "Despite the excuse that 'we are acting on anonymous charges made by telephone,' the agents insisted in wanting to look through personnel files and the papers of each one of our employees. This request was rejected because it's completely illegal."

De Dios Unanue charged that the raid was in retaliation for his paper's coverage of INS treatment of Latinos in the cop agency's Immigration Detention Center. "Three of the persons they wanted to interrogate," wrote de Dios Unanue, "have been investigating and writing about the subhuman conditions in which Hispanics find themselves confined in the Immigration Detention Center, and the constant raids that agents of that department carry out against all those who 'have Hispanic

faces."

One such victim of INS attack is Héctor Marroquín, an undocumented worker who the INS is trying to deport because of his socialist and antiwar views. Marroquín is currently on a national tour of the United States to win support for the rights of immigrant workers and his case in particular.

"The attack against your newspaper," wrote Marroquín to de Dios Unanue in an October 17 letter, "... merits the repudiation of all Latinos, other working people, and every person interested in preserving the most basic constitutional rights in the United States — in particular the right to freedom of expression, of the press, and of political association."

Marroquín, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, explained that "*El Diario* reporters wrote various articles on my case several months ago when I faced imminent danger of being deported."

"Despite the fact that my wife and my son are North Americans by birth; my father was a legal resident; and that I have lived in this country for more than 10 years, the INS was trying — and is still trying — to throw me out of the country. The reasons are simple: my defense of immigrant workers and Salvadoran political refugees, my opposition to the North American war against Nicaragua and the people of El Salvador, and my socialist ideas."

"It's for this reason that I see the attacks against your newspaper as nothing less than attacks against the democratic rights of those who struggle for political freedoms and social justice."

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Political Choices for Blacks in the '80s. Speaker: Kevin Jones, chairperson, Phoenix Young Socialist Alliance. Sat. Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell Rd. #3. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

Nicaragua: Democratic Elections vs. U.S. Sabotage. Panel of speakers who have recently visited Nicaragua: Gustavo Gutierrez, director, Maricopa County Organizing Project; Dr. Michael Gray, director Department of Occupational Health, Kino Hospital; Ada El-Khahi, Causa; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell Rd. #3. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Elections and Education in the New Nicaragua. Speakers: Tom Tomasco, recently returned from four-month stay in Nicaragua; Miguel Angel, professor, Chicano studies, Laney College; Froben Lozado, professor, Chicano studies, Merritt College. Both recently returned from educators tour of Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14 St. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Jose

United Farm Workers Fight Back Against Growers' Union-busting Attacks. Speaker: Lynda Joyce, representative, Socialist Workers Party and member, Millwrights and Machine Erectors Local 102. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Democrat Andy Jacobs vs. Republican Joe Watkins: No Matter Who Wins, Working People Lose. Speaker: Dave Ellis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 10th C.D. Sat., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Coal Miners Under Attack: Report On British Coal Strike and Recent U.S. Mine Workers Settlement. Speaker: Bruce Kimball, member, United Mine Workers and Socialist Workers Party. Visited British coalfields. Sat., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

There Is an Alternative to the Reagan-Mondale Deadend. A socialist campaign rally. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president; Chris Gauvreau, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 27. Social hour, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. Donation requested. Aup: Massachusetts 1984 SWP Campaign. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Free American Indian Political Prisoners! Speaker: Ruth Voights, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. Sun., Oct. 28, 4 p.m. 508 N

Grenada: forums mark one year after invasion

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Film: Grenada — The Spirit Lives. Film produced March 1984. Interviews with George Louison, Maurice Bishop's mother, and other survivors of coup and U.S. invasion. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Grenada: One Year After the U.S. Invasion. A panel of speakers. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Maurice Bishop Memorial Bookstore, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Grenada: One Year After U.S. Invasion. Speakers: Roger "Billy" Jones, member Socialist Workers Party and United Steelworkers Union; Tim Clark, member, TransAfrica. Sun., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Grenada Invasion Anniversary Gathering. Sat., Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Boston Common, Park St. Station. Aup: Boston-Grenada Solidarity Committee. For more information call (617) 442-0588.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

U.S. Out of Grenada! No U.S. Intervention

Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

South Africa: the Fight for Black Majority Rule. Film, *Generations of Resistance*. Speakers: South African activist; Osborne Hart, representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm St. #522. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Freedom Struggle in South Africa. Two classes with Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sun., Oct. 28, noon and 1:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. (Bond Hill). Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Black Independent Political Action vs. the Two Parties of Racism. Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sun., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Women and the 1984 Elections: A Socialist View. Speaker: Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Ohio's 1st C.D. Sun., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant

in El Salvador, Nicaragua, or Cuba! March and rally to demand U.S. troops out of Grenada. Assemble at Dexter and Grand Blvd. Sat., Oct. 27, 11 a.m. March to Dexter and Davison; noon rally.

Aup: Detroit Organizing Committee for the Grenada Foundation. For more information call (313) 577-4649.

NEW YORK

New York City

"Grenada Since the Invasion." A series of live and taped interviews, discussions, and presentations featuring Richard Hart, Samori Marksman, Jonathan Friedland, Ernest Harsch, and Joaquim Mark, among others. Sat., Oct. 27, WBAI 99.5 FM 7:30-10:00 p.m.

OHIO

Cleveland

In the Spirit of Maurice Bishop: A Discussion of the Grenada Revolution, 1979-83. Speakers: Mohammed Oliver, staff writer for *Militant*, traveled to Grenada; Paul Hill, instructor of behavioral sciences, Cuyahoga Community College. Sat., Oct. 27, 4 p.m. McGowan's Party Center, 14402 Kinsman Rd. Donation: \$3. Aup: Pathfinder Press. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

OREGON

Portland

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. Aup: Pathfinder Press and

Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Toledo

GM Pact Passes But Canadian United Auto Workers Strike. Featuring two Canadian strikers: Grant Elgaard, UAW Local 222, GM Oshawa plant; Gayle Hurmuses, Local 303, GM Scarborough plant. Sat., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St., Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 530-0383.

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

A Socialist View of the U.S. Elections. Speaker: Fred Feldman, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sat., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Defend Abortion Rights! A panel discussion on Initiative 471 with representatives from Seattle Reproductive Rights, Taxpayers for

Militant Bookstore. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

U.S. Out of Grenada! — Grenada One Year Later. Speakers: Richard Blackett, professor of Black studies, University of Pittsburgh; Chako Bendela, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Grenada One Year After the Invasion. Videotape and panel. Speakers: Omo Wale (Dwight Allen), chair of international affairs, Houston chapter of National Black United Front; representative of All African Peoples Revolutionary Party; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. 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 Nov. 2. Translation to Spanish. 4806 Alameda. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Lessons of Grenada One Year Later. Louis Wolf, coeditor, *Covert Action*; Daphne Northington, professor at UDC; Fred Stanton, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Choice, Everett Feminist Women's Health Center, National Lawyers Guild, and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Black Revolt in South Africa. Speaker: Stuart Crome, member National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

High Stakes in Morenci. Film of Arizona copper strike. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. New York: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

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

Phony civil war in Nicaragua

The brouhaha over the CIA's terror manual for Nicaraguan *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) is reaching new heights of hypocrisy. Democratic Party liberals, with their presidential candidate Walter Mondale leading the pack, are all bemoaning the existence of the manual. They claim the U.S. government hasn't sponsored state terrorism in the past and, therefore, the document reflects a shift in U.S. policy.

Pres. Reagan is trying to blame lower echelon CIA agents for publishing the terrorist guidebook.

But the truth is that terror, assassination, and sabotage are standard operating procedures for the U.S. rulers everywhere in the world where they seek to maintain or reestablish their power.

What's the purpose of the contra primer? It sets out guidelines for the armed "propaganda teams" of U.S.-financed mercenaries, explaining how they can "move about within the population, encouraging the people to support the guerrillas and put up resistance to the enemy." The manual urges the contras to organize a campaign of lies about the Sandinista government and the international solidarity it enjoys. It calls for "neutralizing" government officials, teachers, internationalist workers, and others. The book encourages "Infiltration of guerrilla cadres . . . in workers unions, student groups, peasant organizations, etc." to disrupt these groups and foster conflict between them and the revolutionary government.

Why do the U.S. imperialists and their contra puppets rely on terror? Reagan, Mondale, and the other capitalist politicians claim there's a civil war going on in Nicaragua. They assert that the mercenaries are actually "freedom fighters" with a social base among the peasants and urban and agricultural workers.

But that's a lie. If it were true, the mercenaries wouldn't depend on the measures urged by the CIA manual.

Nicaraguan Government Coordinator Daniel Ortega explained who these forces are when he answered Reagan's challenge to sit down and talk with the Nicaraguan "rebels." Ortega explained that "following the defeat of the [Somoza] dictatorship, the U.S. government came and created an artificial force with *Somocista* guards, sponsoring a permanent war against the people.

Those mercenary forces exist to the degree that the United States supports them; if the U.S. support were to end, they would disappear because they are artificial, they have no social base."

The Nicaraguan "civil war" is a fraud. It's a U.S. war against Nicaragua with an army of *Somocista* mercenaries paid, trained, and supplied by the U.S. imperialists. The contra terrorism against Nicaraguan workers and farmers shows they have no social base.

The Nicaraguan toilers know who the mercenaries are: the same beasts who raped and murdered the people, pillaged the villages, and repressed the workers under the Somoza regime. Even those poor peasants and workers who have genuine disagreements with the Sandinista government reject these *Somocista* guards. The mercenaries haven't been able to take and hold a single town.

In Washington, however, U.S. rulers continue to hatch terrorist schemes against Nicaragua. Sandinista security forces have foiled 28 plots against the life of Ortega and 30 against Tomás Borge, the Minister of the Interior. If successful, the CIA-guided agents would have blamed other Nicaraguan leaders for the assassinations.

Another CIA-directed disruption program was revealed in August when so-called "Committees of Friends of Tomás Borge" surfaced throughout Latin America. They promoted a phony presidential campaign by Borge. While these committees did their dirty work, imperialist lies increased about a supposed bitter power struggle between Borge and Ortega.

The truth is the U.S. imperialists and their hired-hands have failed to create a social base. The contras are being beaten militarily. And the victory of the Sandinistas in the November 4 elections will further strengthen and institutionalize the political rule of the workers and peasants.

The U.S. rulers will not accept this defeat. At some point they will have to intervene directly with their armed forces in Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan workers and peasants are determined to defend the gains of their revolution arms in hand. Workers and farmers in this country should join with our class brothers and sisters in Nicaragua in demanding: U.S. hands off Nicaragua!

U.S. backs South African attacks

By abstaining on a United Nations Security Council motion condemning the South African regime and its current cop attacks on Blacks, the U.S. government gave its stamp of approval to the apartheid system. The UN motion followed South Africa's massive October 23 anti-Black crackdown in Sebokeng and other Black townships, where at least 7,000 cops and soldiers swept the Black areas in house-to-house searches.

In Sebokeng, a town of 162,000 Blacks, cops griled 120,000 people and arrested 349. This new terror campaign, in which South African troops have been used for the first time, is aimed at quashing an upsurge in Black opposition to the apartheid regime.

Worldwide support to the antiapartheid struggle is growing. The award of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Desmond Tutu of the South African Council of Churches reflects this fact. South Africa's rulers recently initiated "reforms" in the apartheid regime aimed at mollifying international opposition to their rule and sowing divisions within South Africa's Black population.

But massive mobilizations against the new "reform" constitution showed the Black majority's rejection of the apartheid hoax.

Especially important in the current upsurge has been the participation of the Black working class and its unions. Trade unions representing hundreds of thousands of Blacks called on their members to boycott elections held under the new constitution.

The constitutional "reform" set up three houses of parliament — one each for whites, Indians, and Coloureds

(those of mixed heritage). Whites have the decisive vote. Africans, who are the overwhelming majority of the population, couldn't vote in the parliamentary elections — a move designed not only to create divisions within the Black population, but to develop a layer of Black misleaders.

The Black population — comprised of Africans, Indians, and Coloureds — rejected the fraudulent elections. Most Indians and Coloureds stayed away from the polls. The government response was a brutal crackdown on its opposition.

When six activists from the United Democratic Front, which organized the successful boycott, sought refuge from government repression in the British consulate in Durban, they were told to leave. The U.S. government also refused to grant them asylum.

"It is precisely the overt support of the United States for the apartheid regime which has thwarted a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the question of Namibia and which is the main reason for the climate of tension and aggression prevailing in the southern part of the African continent," noted Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Cuba's representative to the United Nations, before the UN General Assembly.

As U.S. working people fight against the employers' war in Central America, we must protest every measure the government takes to shore up the apartheid regime in South Africa. The entire labor movement has a stake in demanding divestment from South Africa and in building solidarity with those fighting for Black majority rule.

Grenada under Washington's heel

Continued from front page

challenged the coup on October 19, Coard's gang of government functionaries and military officers ordered the army to drown the rebellion in blood.

Bishop, Unison Whiteman, Fitzroy Bain, Jacqueline Creft, Vincent Noel, and Norris Bain were executed. Many other Grenadian workers fell in the attack by Coard's troops. The military regime then cracked down on Grenada's people in a short but fierce reign of terror. This overturn of Grenada's revolutionary government gave the U.S. employers and their government the pretext they needed to invade the island.

Coard and his cohorts should be brought to justice for their treacherous betrayal of the Grenada revolution. Their current trial, however, has a different purpose. The U.S. capitalists and their lackeys hope to sully the memory of Bishop and smear the entire Grenada revolution.

Revolutionary justice can only be meted out by Grenada's workers and farmers. This task isn't possible as long as Grenada is occupied by the United States and its hirelings.

Grenada's workers and farmers must once again struggle to gain political power. Here Bishop's legacy takes on extreme importance. Bishop often explained that only the revolutionary struggle of Grenadian working people could end imperialist domination and win their demands. Grenada's workers and farmers took power in 1979 not through elections, but through a popular insurrection, which Bishop led. This lesson is true not only for Grenada, but throughout Central America and the Caribbean — and here in the United States.

To best aid this struggle today, supporters of the Grenada revolution in this country should join with the MBPM in demanding that U.S. and other foreign troops get out of Grenada now.

Unison Whiteman: stalwart fighter and revolutionary

October 25 marks the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada. In fighting the U.S. occupation of the Caribbean island it's important to learn from the legacy left by the central leaders of the Grenada revolution, who were murdered in a counterrevolutionary coup that paved the way for the U.S. invasion.

One such leader was Unison Whiteman, Grenada's foreign minister in the workers and farmers government headed by Maurice Bishop. Whiteman helped lead the fight against the imperialist-backed Gairy dictatorship as the central figure in the Joint Endeavor for Welfare, Education, and Liberation (JEWEL). In 1973 the JEWEL fused with the Movement for Assemblies of the People (MAP), whose best-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

known leader was Bishop. That same year, the new group, the New Jewel Movement (NJM), organized two mass rallies of more than 10,000 people, showing its popular support.

Whiteman and Bishop spent the next decade leading repeated struggles for democratic rights, improved conditions for Grenadian working people, and against imperialist domination.

Following are excerpts from Whiteman's Oct. 13, 1983, address to the United Nations General Assembly in which he outlined the main features of the anti-imperialist foreign policy of the Bishop-led government. The full speech was printed in the November 1983 issue of *International Socialist Review*.

Mr. President, although the struggle for jobs and equitable economic relations is urgent, by far the most burning issue facing the international community is the struggle for peace. Of immense concern to the government and people of Grenada are the increasing warlike policies of the United States administration, evidenced by the numerous military maneuvers and deployment of its troops in almost every corner of the globe.

Mr. President, the foreign policy of my government is premised on the cardinal principles of the promotion of world peace, good neighborliness, and international cooperation. Since the beginning of our process of revolutionary change in March 1979, we have proceeded on the basis of a clear understanding that, without peace and cooperation, there can be no progressive development. Mankind shan't exist; scarce resources are often diverted to military purposes. The resources being spent on armaments can be better utilized in the provision of goods and services for the upliftment of society and improvement of material conditions of peace. . . .

[T]he peoples of Central America, neighbors and brothers of the Caribbean peoples, are today particularly and very painfully aware of the real meaning of the world struggle for peace and development. The peoples of Central America have waged a long and bitter struggle for genuine independence. They too have a sovereign right to peace and development. It is an unfortunate fact of history that whenever Central America has tried to develop its own resources independently, to work for the benefit and advancement of its peoples, these efforts have been thwarted by a powerful neighbor, whose own overriding interests do not allow for the independent development of states it regards as backyard colonies and banana republics.

Today the sovereign independent government of Nicaragua and its valiant people are bullied and subverted for adhering to their independence.

The People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada vociferously condemns . . . the United States government and its puppets who, in defiance of several United Nations resolutions, continue to perpetrate overt and covert acts of aggression against Nicaragua, or allow their territory to be used as staging points for sabotage, subversion, and murder of innocent civilians.

Grenada's position on El Salvador is crystal clear. There we see a valiant people struggling against the might of imperialism and the callous and genocidal oligarchy. Mr. President, a regime which descends to the depths of barbarity, where it orders indiscriminate bombings of its own civilian population, has surrendered all claims to moral authority. My government has consistently supported the right of the Salvadoran people to establish a government reflective of their just aspirations.

From its very inception in 1981, we have supported the French-Mexican accords, which recognize the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front] as a responsible and representative political force. . . . We continue to support the commitment to a negotiated political settlement in which all forces, including the FMLN-FDR, will participate fully and on equal footing in order to bring a just and honorable peace to this war-torn nation.

Detroit socialist fights for her job and wins

BY KATE KAKU

DETROIT — Recently, a victory was gained here when a probationary worker, Angel Lariscy, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, won her job back with

UNION TALK

the help of the union at a United Auto Workers-organized auto parts plant, Aetna Industries, Inc.

Management claimed Lariscy had missed too many days and proceeded to "terminate" her, two days prior to being off probation.

Aetna Industries, like other companies, uses probation and probationary employees to weaken the union. Companies use this time to weed out workers.

At Aetna there is a continuous flow of probationary employees, so that up to 40 percent of the work force at a given time is nonunion, creating an open shop atmosphere. Workers are pitted against each other to keep

production at a high rate. Probationary employees are too intimidated to speak out against unsafe working conditions, harassment, as well as racist and sexist discrimination. Inadequate training of a younger workforce coming into an industrial worksite for the first time leads to innumerable accidents and injuries.

Like many other companies today, Aetna Industries reflects the growing trend towards driving down working conditions and wages while increasing production quotas. Workers here come under tremendous pressure to make production or be fired. Furthermore, Aetna uses race and sex to divide the work force, even discouraging conversation between Black and white workers.

Lariscy had been making production and was known as a very good worker. Many of her coworkers liked and respected her. She was even liked by her supervisor at first until the supervisor noticed that Lariscy was friendly with all of her coworkers, including the Blacks. Her supervisor had warned her not to associate with Blacks. After she continued to talk with both Black and white workers, Lariscy's supervisor began harassing her about

her work, saying she had to go even faster than she was already doing. Finally, with only two days remaining on probation, she was fired on trumped-up charges.

Even though a probationary employee, Lariscy was in the union according to the contract, which states that "an employee is a member of the union after thirty continuous days." She was able to use this to fight for her job. She, along with the union, started the grievance procedure. Many of her coworkers were supportive and helpful, bringing up her case with the shop stewards and making it known to the union that they wanted her back on the job.

Other socialists at the plant were able to discuss out with workers how Aetna used Lariscy's firing to frighten other workers and to set an example.

After several meetings between the union and the company, Aetna was forced to back down and hire Lariscy back. This victory showed that even at a sweatshop like Aetna, workers can use the union to defend their rights.

Kate Kaku works at Aetna Industries, Inc., and is a member of UAW Local 189.

LETTERS

Vietnam vets

Thank you for your article on the Agent Orange settlement. I hope the *Militant* covers as many of the hearings on the proposed Agent Orange settlement as possible. These hearings are scheduled in several cities across the country.

I made sure to get the Sept. 21 *Militant* to a coworker of mine at the oil refinery where I work. He is a Black Vietnam vet fighting to make the government and chemical companies pay for the medical treatment of G.I. Agent Orange victims and their families. His wife is a General Motors worker and United Auto Workers member.

Right now there is a war going on for the "hearts and minds" of Vietnam vets. As the U.S. government heads toward a new Vietnam in Central America, its apologists are trying to change the way working people — and especially Vietnam vets — remember Vietnam.

Vietnam vets are an important group of people in the plants where *Militant* readers work. Their opinions on Central America carry a lot of weight because they've "been there." The *Militant* needs to be part of the discussion on the proposed Agent Orange settlement these vets are participating in.

The series of articles on Vietnam by Steve Clark and Diane Wang provided another opportunity to reach Vietnam vets with the *Militant*. Another Black coworker was a "tunnel rat" in Vietnam. His job was to crawl through National Liberation Front-built tunnels, armed with a knife and a pistol, looking for "enemy" supplies and troops. As a result of his experience, he developed a healthy respect for the Vietnamese fighters.

Before the company fired him under the pretext of "absenteeism," he read a lot of what the *Militant* printed on Vietnam's reconstruction. "There's got to be something good about communism," he would tell me, "because there sure was a bunch of Vietnamese who fought like hell for it."

Bill Warrick
Indianapolis, Indiana

Where the money goes

Yesterday, we heard that Texaco in Port Arthur, Texas, will lay off 1,400 workers by December — one-half the workforce.

I work in an oil refinery in Houston. I brought in the *Houston Chronicle* to read at work last night, when I found a little ad announcing Part II of an auction of the estate of Eddins Willard McNealy, executive vice-president of Texaco International.

The ad listed some of the items up for auction: paintings, antique furniture, sterling silver, vintage attire, European and American

porcelain, fine estate jewelry, oriental rugs and carpets, ancient world and tribal art, and Russian works of art. Among the paintings up for auction were works by Raphael, Dali, Rembrandt, Sargent, Remington, Whistler, Calder, to name just a few.

Notice that this was just Part II of the auction. Half his personal wealth was in Part I and the family probably got the best before the auction.

It started a real good discussion on the bankruptcy of Texaco, and what really causes layoffs.

P.S.
Houston, Texas

Fill 'em up

About a year ago I was working at a self-service gas station, and one evening a member of your party happened by, coming back from a convention somewhere up north to fill up for his trip home to Florida. He had on a t-shirt that tipped me off he was with the SWP [Socialist Workers Party]. So, I started a conversation with him that ended with him giving me a copy of the *Militant*. I realize it has been some time, but I am interested in receiving a subscription to the *Militant*.

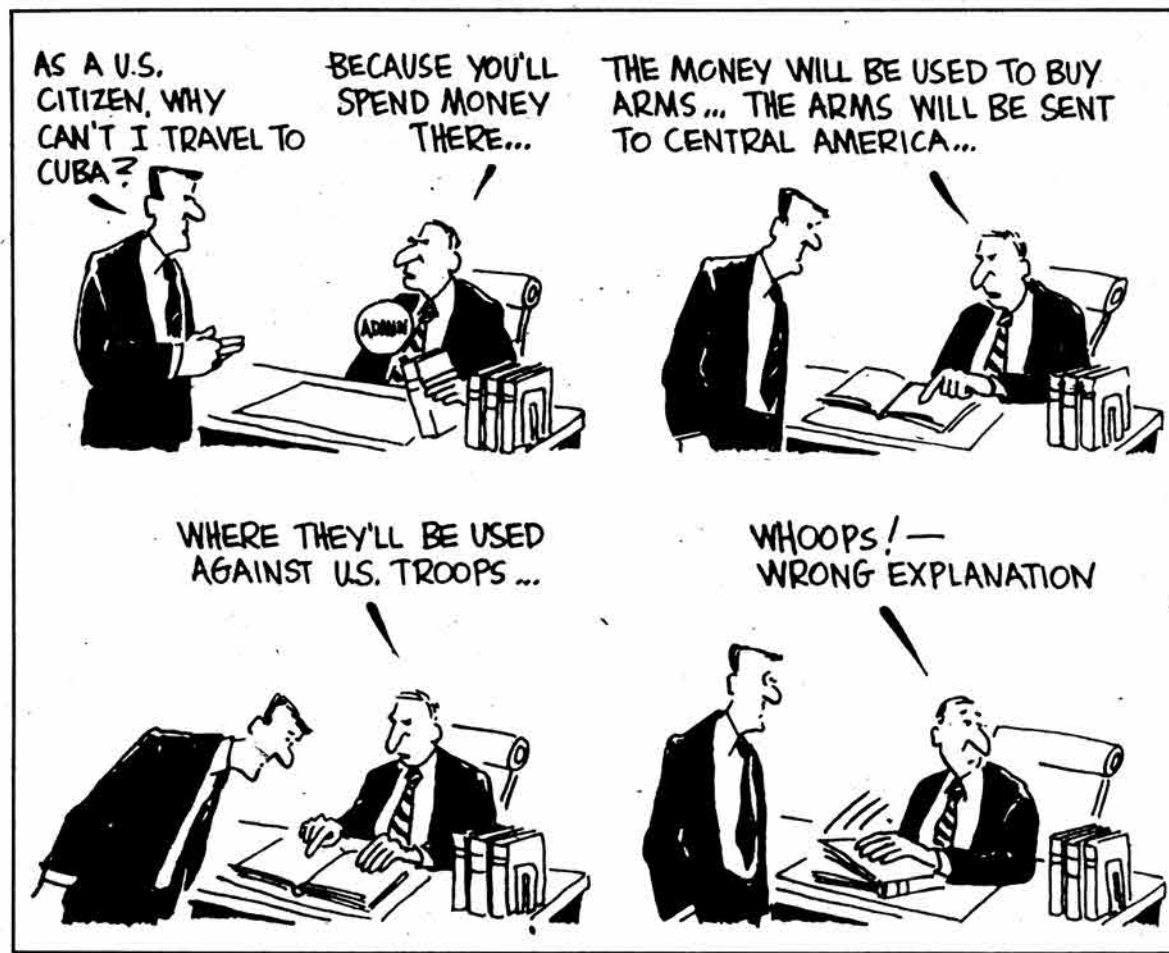
Ashley E. Shelton
Columbia, South Carolina

Injustice

In 1977 my son was arrested and convicted for an alleged rape and assault charge at the state Industry School in Rochester, New York. At the time of his arrest he was but 15 years of age. I was not informed of any of these proceedings until after he was convicted and sentenced to up to 25 years in Elmira.

My son had been previously remanded to the psychiatric center in Trion in 1976 for running away from home. He was then transferred to Industry School for better rehabilitation, and surroundings that would suit him. In the course of the two days after he arrived at Industry, the alleged crime took place.

I believe my son's rights were cruelly violated due to the following facts: 1. He was a minor at the time of arrest and conviction, and when I sent proof of his age to them it was overlooked. 2. The judge who ruled on the case — there was no jury — was the uncle through marriage to the alleged victim. 3. My son has been unreasonably transferred in and out of prisons every six months over the past seven years. 4. My son had at the time the mentality of a 9 or 10 year old and his IQ was established by the court as around 80. But no psychiatric report was introduced at his trial, nor in the complete court minutes, to help determine that my son was mentally unstable and therefore unable to understand the proceedings



Wasserman

going on around him. 5. A public defender told my son that he would receive 18 months if he pleaded guilty, but was in fact sentenced to 25 years when he faced the judge.

My son may or may not be guilty of committing a crime in 1977, but it is my contention that with the available facts, his rights were cruelly violated since he didn't fully comprehend what was going on.

Joann Jones
Central Islip, New York

'Stealing Fire'

Bruce Cockburn's latest album, *Stealing Fire*, will be of much interest to *Militant* readers.

Those who have been fortunate enough to travel to Nicaragua will particularly find moving his reflections on his visit there. His lyrics from the song "Nicaragua" speak for themselves:

Breakfast woodsmoke on the breeze
On the cliff the U.S. embassy
Frowns out over Managua like Dracula's tower.
One kid who guards Fonseca's tomb
Cradles a beat-up submachine gun—
At age 15 he's a veteran of 4 years of war.
Proud to pay his dues
He knows who turns the screws.

In the flash of this moment
You're the best of what we are
Don't let them stop you now
Nicaragua.

In his song, "If I Had a Rocket Launcher," inspired by his visit to Chiapas, Mexico, where he wit-

nessed the plight of Guatemalan refugees, Cockburn expresses his own anger and desire to fight back. He states:

On the Rio Lacantum one
hundred thousand wait
To fall down from starvation —
or some less humane fate.
Cry for Guatemala, with a
corpse in every gate.
If I had a rocket launcher, I
would not hesitate.

This comes as a welcome relief from much of the music coming out of North America today, and is an inspiration as well.

Kirk Fowler
Kansas City, Missouri

'Humane' execution

On Friday night, October 12, the Commonwealth of Virginia executed Linwood Briley by electrocution.

The killing was done in the basement of the prison in the center of Richmond. The mayor of Richmond was one of six witnesses required by law. He described the execution as "very humane."

The facts of Briley's case are painfully familiar. He was Black, young, and uneducated. He had maintained that he was innocent of the murder of Johnny Gallaher — a Richmond disc-jockey — for which he was executed.

Hundreds of death penalty supporters demonstrated outside the prison. They held signs reading, "Fry-em," and, "Burn, Baby, Burn." At the moment of execution, many shouted, "Let us pull the switch."

Demonstrators against the death penalty stood silently in front of the prison. Some carried burning

candles, and others signs protesting the execution. One sign read, "Why do we kill people, who kill people, in order to stop people from killing people."

After the execution, pro-death penalty supporters jeered, hooted, and shouted obscenities as one of Briley's relatives left the prison. (Justice was done.)

Jack Brisée
Richmond, Va.

Correction

Last week's *Militant* reprinted the document presented by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front to the El Salvador Peace talks held on October 15. Point number 10 of the document was inadvertently left out. It is: Increase of the National University budget.

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.

Va. Blacks hit U.S. role in Grenada

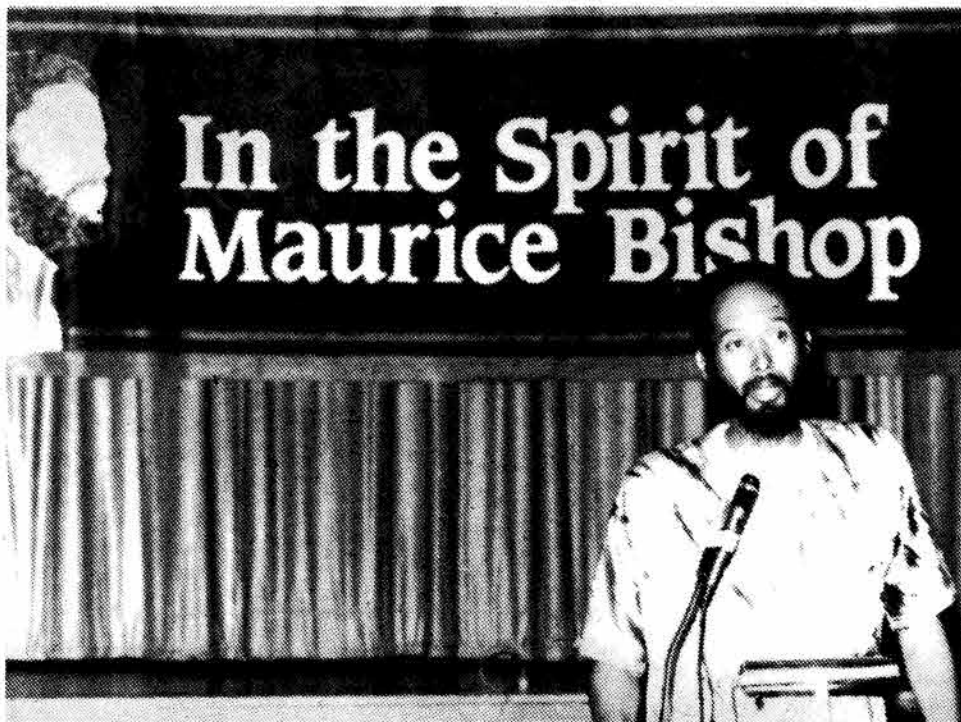
BY ELIZABETH WHITTAKER

HAMPTON, Va. — Urging Tidewater students and community activists to organize activities to "demand removal of all U.S. and other foreign troops from Grenada now" was a major theme of a three-day tour by Adeyemi Bandle in this area. From October 4-6 Bandle, the national vice-chairperson for international affairs of the National Black United Front, spoke at Norfolk State University, Hampton Institute, and was the featured speaker at a reception sponsored by Pathfinder Press and the *Journal and Guide* newspaper. The paper is one of the oldest Black periodicals in the country. Pathfinder is the publisher of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, a collection of interviews with and speeches by the slain prime minister of Grenada.

Hailing the book as "required reading on the same par as *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*," Bandle addressed a wide range of questions. At predominantly Black Norfolk State University, the meeting was built by the Black Vanguard Resource Center. Questions centered around what happened during Grenada's revolutionary period from 1979-1983.

The Hampton Institute meeting, organized by the political science department, sparked a lively discussion on the Bishop-led workers and farmers government and the counterrevolutionary coup that toppled it in October 1983. Several of those who participated are from the Caribbean and have been following the current debate about the events leading up to the assassination of Bishop and the subsequent U.S. invasion.

Bandle explained the development of the secret faction organized through the group Organization for Research, Education and Liberation (OREL), which was led



Adeyemi Bandle, of National Black United Front, speaking at June event celebrating publication of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Bandle toured Newport News area to promote book.

by the deputy prime minister, Bernard Coard, and pointed out that in the 1960s Cuba's leadership faced a similar crisis (in what is now called the Escalante affair). Had the U.S. not seized this opportunity to invade, explained Bandle, the New Jewel Movement would also have had the opportunity to solve the crisis and move on to deepen the revolution as Cuba has done.

The highlight of the tour was a reception hosted by Rev. Leon Hall, pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Hampton, Virginia. Brenda Andrews, civil rights activist

and executive publisher of the *Journal and Guide*, told the audience that it was important for her newspaper to cosponsor the meeting because working with "a social and civil rights-activists' newspaper" she could "appreciate the obstacles faced by Maurice Bishop's government." She urged people to buy the book and drew connections between the gains of the Grenadian revolution and those of the Nicaraguan revolution which, she said, is "hardly five years old and has brought phenomenal changes to its people, including a health

care program, literacy program, reduction of infant mortality, and the abolition of the death penalty."

Speaking of his most recent trip to Grenada in March of this year, Bandle focused his remarks at the reception on the current situation in Grenada and the need to build a movement in this country to free Grenada from its status of "occupied state." He pointed out that while it is true that Grenadians largely welcomed the invading forces in October of last year, they did so because of the terror they faced under the four-day house arrest by Coard's forces following the death of Bishop.

However, the intentions of the U.S. government have become more clear as programs such as the one of free milk distribution have been discontinued, mass organizations have been shut down, and the racist attitudes of many U.S. soldiers have surfaced. The spirit of resistance is coming more to the fore, said Bandle.

The biggest evidence of this spirit is the newly formed party, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, established to carry on Bishop's legacy. He emphasized this "breakthrough" would help orient the resistance and provide a means to organize it. The party is fielding candidates in the upcoming December elections.

Bandle is a leading member of the coalition building the October 27 demonstration in Brooklyn, New York. The 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. He urged Tidewater residents to organize more meetings, teach-ins, and rallies to protest the continued occupation, and invited participation in the New York demonstration.

Throughout the tour, *Maurice Bishop Speaks* was received enthusiastically, with 33 copies of the book being sold.

Grenada rally commemorates Bishop

BY KEITH ALLISON

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — On Friday, October 19 more than 2,000 Grenadians converged on the capital here for a church service and rally to mark one year since the assassination of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and five other leaders in a bloody coup that overthrew his four and a half year old People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

The rally, sponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), was described as the biggest, most lively political

meeting since last October's crisis.

People cheered militantly as MBPM leaders Kendrick Radix and George Louison proclaimed that the spirit of Maurice Bishop lives and blasted the current occupation of this 123 square mile island by U.S. and Caribbean military forces one year after the U.S. invasion. Radix and Louison were the two loyal ministers in Bishop's PRG who survived the October 1983 coup.

"Maurice Bishop was a courageous leader of a conscious effort," Radix de-

clared to blustering applause from the crowd. "Today we bestow upon Maurice Bishop the order of hero and martyr of the Grenada revolution."

In recognition of Bishop's personal efforts in the construction of the new international airport at Point Salines, he said they could have only one name for it, the Maurice Bishop International Airport.

The U.S.-backed interim administration here has already named the airport Point Salines International Airport. It will be officially opened on October 28.

The MBPM leader condemned the current occupation of Grenada by a total of some 600 U.S. and Caribbean military personnel. "They say that they have restored democracy," noted Radix, "but they closed down the adult literacy program and threw out the doctors and dentists."

"So," continued Radix, "people now have the freedom to have toothaches, the freedom to be illiterate, and the freedom to die."

Speaking for the Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983, Martyrs Foundation, George Louison bestowed the Maurice Bishop Award to Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro for his contributions to the Grenada revolution. The award was also given to the prime ministers of other Caribbean governments that opposed the U.S. invasion.

A plaque honoring Bishop and all those killed on October 19, 1983, along with a bust of the late prime minister, were unveiled in the cemetery in St. George's after the service.

Meanwhile, with the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion approaching, the overall economic deterioration continues. Expectations among people of a substantial inflow of Yankee dollars and other opportunities have failed to materialize.

The financial assistance the United States has granted since the invasion has done little to reduce the unemployment situation, which stands at about 30 percent.

Cuban magazine reviews 'Maurice Bishop Speaks'

The following review of *Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution 1979-1983*, appeared in the May-June 1984 issue of *Casa de las Americas*, a magazine published in Havana, Cuba. Translation is by the Militant.

This very valuable book, edited in the belly of the beast last December, brings together a selection of speeches and interviews given by Maurice Bishop between August 1977 and June 1983. Coupled with these are two introductory works: "Grenada's Workers' and Farmers' Government — Its Achievements and Its Overthrow" by the North American journalist Steve Clark, and "The Long Road to Freedom" by Arnaldo Hutchinson, a Cuban journalist who was the Prensa Latina correspondent in Grenada until October 1983.

In addition, as appendixes the book contains the statements of the Cuban government and Communist Party of Cuba released October 20 and 25, and the speech by our Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro in his mourning farewell to the Cuban construction workers who fell on the sister island. In this way, the book offers the reader not only a sample of the thought of one of the greatest revolutionary leaders of the Caribbean, but also those documents that provide the insights and the truth — in the midst of so much distorted propaganda — that reveal what happened in Grenada: from the divisions and errors that led to the events before October 25 to the principled position of the Cuban government and party and the heroic attitude of our workers before the Yankee invasion, which, as Fidel affirmed, will not destroy the magnificent symbol of the Grenada revolution and Maurice Bishop.

Calif. voting rights attacked

BY PEDRO VÁSQUEZ

SEASIDE, Calif. — In November a ballot measure that strikes a sharp blow against bilingual ballot rights will be voted on in California. This initiative, Proposition 38, calls on state officials to demand that all voting materials, including ballots, be printed in English.

An opponent of the ballot measure, Henry Der, director of Chinese Affirmative Action in San Francisco, characterized the measure as a "vicious, hateful attack against citizens and residents of this country who face language barriers."

The effort to place the initiative on the California ballot was spearheaded by a group called the California Committee for Ballots in English, based in San Francisco. Its central leader is a former United States colonel, Stanley Diamond. He claims his group's main objective is to help minorities join the mainstream of America.

The California committee is affiliated to a national organization, U.S. ENGLISH, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Former California senator, S. I. Hayakawa, serves as honorary chairman for both the state and national organizations.

Explaining why restricting ballot and election materials only to English is neces-

sary, Hayakawa says bilingual ballots slow the process of assimilation into American society. He says that people are generally "lazy" and if, "we give people a chance to duck out of learning English they will."

Opponents of the initiative are quick to point out that in spite of the stated purpose of U.S. ENGLISH, the group has not made a single effort to promote more English classes and programs for "language minorities."

U.S. ENGLISH advertises that it actively works to reverse the spread of foreign language usage in the nation's life and to seek control of immigration so that it does not reinforce trends toward language segregation.

Backers of the ballot measure also claim bilingual ballots cost too much money.

The sponsors of this reactionary ballot proposal are confident the measure will pass. A similar proposition was approved in San Francisco in April 1983.

However, opposition to Proposition 38 is spreading as labor organizations and groups that support the rights of oppressed nationalities take a stand against it. The California state AFL-CIO and the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund have

Continued on Page 19