

Reagan plans to escalate war; squeeze farmers, Blacks, labor

N.Y. socialist candidate answers State of Union speech

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, blasted President Reagan's February 6 State of the Union speech as "a program for deepening the U.S. war against Nicaragua and for more frontal attacks on workers and farmers at home." The Democrats' reply to the speech, she added, "showed they are in fundamental agreement, as they have been all along, with these anti-working-class policies."

González noted that Reagan tried to mask his program of war and cutbacks in the rhetoric of peace and prosperity. "He said we're 'stronger, freer, and more secure' today. But as a Puerto Rican woman who rides the New York subway," she explained, "confronted by trigger-happy, racist vigilantes on the one side and more killer cops on the other, I'm certainly not 'stronger, freer, and more secure.'"

González denounced Reagan's call for giving millions of dollars to the U.S.-trained terrorists attacking Nicaragua.

"This comes as the U.S. government has broken off talks with the Nicaraguans, pulled out of the World Court to avoid responsibility for its direct assaults against the Sandinistas, and as the U.S. Army is opening extensive new military maneuvers in Honduras."

"Reagan's budget is a war budget," she added. "It increases military spending 13 percent, while slashing social programs. Military aid for El Salvador is rising to \$131 million, and Honduras gets \$87 million. Guatemala's share is jumping from \$300,000 last year to \$35 million. And Israel is slated to get \$1.8 billion to police the Middle East."

"These war coffers are to be financed by massive, across-the-board cuts in social programs that benefit workers and working farmers. Slated for cutbacks are mass transit, school lunch programs, student loans, Medicare and Medicaid, and veterans' benefits."

"A special target of Reagan's budget slashing is the country's working farmers. They are already being ruined by a combination of low prices for their crops and mounting debts to the banks and food monopolies. Now Reagan proposes major cuts in government aid to those farmers

most in need."

González called for "a permanent moratorium on all the debts of working farmers and a government guarantee of their basic right to their land and to a decent income."

Reagan also projected deeper attacks on the industrial unions. "Behind Reagan's talk about 'deregulation' is a declaration of war against the wages and working conditions of Conrail workers and the nation's Teamsters," González pointed out.

She also condemned his racist, union-busting scheme for "enterprise zones" and an end to minimum-wage protection for youth.

"I know what this would mean in New York," González explained. "More non-union garment sweatshops would pop up all over the South Bronx, sucking profits out of the superexploitation of young Puerto Ricans and Blacks."

González debunked Reagan's so-called tax simplification scheme. She said, "It is just another giveaway to the rich at the expense of workers and farmers. It proposes to slash the tax rate for the rich from 50 percent to 35 percent, while increasing taxes on the 22 percent of us who make from \$3-10,000 a year. It lowers corporate tax rates, while it introduces taxes on unemployment benefits and on health insurance."

González explained that "the Socialist Workers Party has a genuine 'simple tax plan' — tax the rich; no taxes on workers

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CIA agent leads a detail of counterrevolutionaries (contras) on Costa Rica-Nicaragua border. In State of Union address, Reagan demanded millions more in aid to the U.S.-organized contra army waging war against workers and farmers in Nicaragua.

Vets, Blacks publicize antiwar rally

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A national office has been opened here to organize the April 20 national march and rally for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. Vietnam veterans, Black leaders, and others are actively getting out the word on the protest.

The march is part of four days of protest activities, called the April Actions, in Washington, D.C., April 19-22. Mobilizations are also planned in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle. The major themes of the protest are: Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; Create jobs, cut the military budget; Freeze and reverse the arms race; Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home.

At a January 31 national steering committee meeting for the April Actions held here, national staff member Damu Smith announced the opening of the national office for the April Actions and reported that an initial staff has been obtained. Volunteers, office equipment, and money are needed immediately. The coalition phone number is (202) 667-9485. The mailing address is April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598.

The steering committee meeting was chaired by Leslie Cagan of Mobilization for Survival and included representatives and observers from SANE, U.S. Peace Council, War Resisters League, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Solidaridad, Nicaragua Network, U.S. Student Association, Young Socialist Alliance, Democratic Socialists of America,

Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party, and others. Also present at the meeting was John Christensen, international representative of the International Affairs Department of the United Auto Workers.

Plans for the April 20 Saturday march and rally were agreed on. Protesters will gather at 12 noon at the Washington Monument. They will then march past the White House to a rally at the Capitol with speakers and cultural presentations. Other activities are planned for after the rally.

On Sunday, April 21, there will be educational and religious activities, and on Monday, April 22, there will be lobbying and organized civil disobedience.

The initial endorsers list of over 80 organizations is growing as the national outreach committee and local coalitions get set up. Joshua Nessim of the American Committee on Africa, who is a national staff person for the April Actions, reported on national outreach at the January 31 meeting.

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Pope's visit to Latin America bolsters imperialist rule

BY PAT GROGAN

As Pope John Paul II made his latest trip to Latin America, 4,500 U.S. troops were engaged in provocative military maneuvers on Nicaragua's northern border in Honduras, and the U.S. government had sent a new shipment of helicopter gunships to the murderous regime of José Napoleón Duarte in El Salvador.

But the pope did not speak out against the aggression of U.S. imperialism against the people of Central America. Nor did he demand that the International Monetary Fund stop sucking the blood of the people of Latin America through the imposition of austerity measures.

Instead, the pope turned his fire against workers and peasants who are struggling to free themselves from poverty and repression, and used his trip to denounce the idea of revolutionary struggle for self-determi-

nation and an end to class exploitation.

The pope began his 12-day trip January 26 in Venezuela. He also traveled to Ecuador, Peru, and the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago, which is off the coast of Venezuela.

Pope John Paul preached his now-familiar message aimed at obscuring the reality of class divisions and urging working people to accept their lot.

In a speech in Lima, the capital of Peru — a country where two-thirds of the workers are unemployed or only partially employed, and where the peasants are desperately poor — the pope said the church had to be concerned with "all the forms of poverty that exist in the world," including the "so many rich men who are terribly poor in spirit."

In a speech in Ecuador, the pope
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Militant
Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY MIKE SHUR

SEATTLE — Over the last four months members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance have been stepping up regular sales of the *Militant* to workers at the Boeing company in Seattle. Boeing employs over 40,000 production workers, organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), in seven plants in the Puget Sound area.

Sales to Boeing workers have expanded from two weekly sales at two plants to five sales a week at three different plants. These include sales to both first and second shift workers.

There have been important changes in the response to the *Militant* as the sales expanded. Boeing laid off over 10,000 workers between 1981 and 1984. Over the last six months most of these workers have been called back. Many who had lost their recall rights have been rehired at lower pay scales under Boeing's two-tier contract.

As these workers returned, we began to see more interest in the *Militant* and the literature of the

Socialist Workers Party election campaigns.

Since the work shifts of the *Militant* sales-team members vary greatly, we needed to organize midnight sales to the second shift at two Boeing plants. We quickly discovered that most Black, women, and young workers called back had been put on this shift.

These sales have had the most success in getting out the *Militant*. At Boeing Plant 2, at least one *Militant* has been sold seven of the last nine weeks.

The day-shift sales team at this plant faced a different situation. The gate the socialists were selling at had 50 or 60 workers entering, along with hundreds of engineers. After scouting around for better locations, the sales team found the answer in front of the company cafeteria. We discovered that the majority of those who patronized the cafeteria are production workers. On its most recent sale, this team distributed 20 leaflets advertising a showing of the Cuban film *Maurice*. This is a movie about Maurice Bishop, the slain leader of the Grenada revolution.

While we have had a lot of suc-

cess in finding the best gates to sell at, the physical set up at Boeing plants makes it difficult to reach the majority of workers in each plant. Most gates are drive-ins to parking lots, just off major streets. At this point the five weekly sales reach only 700 or 800 workers.

Other Boeing workers are reached through sales by *Militant* supporters who work in these plants.

Since the expansion of sales to the five gates began, every sales team has been regularly able to distribute some literature at each gate. Fifteen *Militants* have been sold at the gates and Boeing workers have purchased another nine from friends. As we expand to other plants, and as new workers are hired at the low end of the two-tier wage scale, we will be able to increase our distribution of the *Militant*.

Even though Boeing dominates the employment scene in the Puget Sound area, the Socialist Workers Party also organizes sales to other layers of the working class in Seattle. There are regular sales to IAM members at the Kenworth truck



Workers build cruise missile at Boeing plant near Seattle. *Militant* is sold regularly at plant.

plant, and at Heath-Tech, an aerospace plant that employs 500 workers.

Another sales team sells at a General Electric plant gate to members of the International Union of Electronics workers, and to several hundred garment work-

ers — most of them Chinese, Vietnamese, and Kampuchean — working at Tempco, which is organized by the United Garment Workers.

Mike Shur is a member of IAM Local 1103 in Seattle.

Striking nurses, supporters rally in Newark, N.J.

BY DAVE PRINCE

NEWARK, N.J. — Braving snow and bitter cold, 125 registered nurses (RNs), who are members of Jersey Nurses Economic Security Organization (JNESO), held a spirited picket and rally February 2. The RNs had just entered the second week of a strike against United Hospitals. JNESO local president Muriel Dickens pointed out, "The administration never thought we'd walk — this is the first time we've gone out on strike."

The nurses were forced out on strike when United refused to continue contract negotiations after the 400-member JNESO local rejected United's offer. The nurses are demanding a percentage wage increase on a par with the agreement reached between United and other workers organized by Hospital Workers Union District 1199

in July 1984.

Frank Bikoff, labor representative for JNESO, reported the hospital claims that because it "gave 1199 a good raise, there's no money left." Members of 1199 and the Committee of Interns and Residents at the hospital have refused to work overtime or to perform the work of the RNs during the strike.

JNESO reported that the morning of the rally there were only 115, instead of the normal 450, patients in the hospital. The strike remains solid in the face of management efforts to recruit RNs as strikebreak-

ers. United Hospitals Medical Center ran a large help-wanted ad for registered nurses in the Newark *Star Ledger*.

Father Michael of St. Barnabas Church opened the rally with a prayer for a just settlement. St. Barnabas, across the street from the hospital, is serving as a strike headquarters for the daily picket lines. Also expressing solidarity were representatives from the Committee of Interns and Residents and JNESO locals at St. Michael's Hospital, General Hospital, and Essex County, as well as the statewide president of JNESO.

Several patients entering and leaving the hospital expressed sympathy with the RNs. The nurses link their demands for better wages and working conditions to improving deteriorating health care for patients.

Rally participants sang the civil rights song "We Shall Overcome," as well as a number of other songs included on a United Nurses Song Sheet.

Many of the nurses are Black, Latino, and Asian. Fran Bikoff, addressing the rally, underlined the unity of the strikers: "We see everybody joined together. Togetherness will move mountains."



Nurses rally outside United Hospitals

'Militant' well-received at Minn. farm protest

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A *Militant* sales team got a good reception from working farmers at the giant January 21 "Ground Swell" farm protest here. Some 10,000 farmers and their supporters from around the state gathered at the state capitol to protest farm foreclosures.

Sales-team members introduced themselves as members of the International Association of Machinists, United Steelworkers, and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. They explained to farmers why they think trade unionists should actively support farmers in their fight against the crisis they are facing.

Socialist workers introduced the *Militant* as a pro-farmer, prounion, and antiwar

newspaper. A *Militant* article on the agrarian reform and peasant cooperatives in Nicaragua was useful in explaining to farmers how that country has put an end to farm foreclosures, given the land to farmers who work it, guaranteed commodity prices, and provided low interest loans for farmers. This was made possible, sales people explained, because Nicaragua has a workers and farmers government.

A lot of farmers were interested in the article about striking meatpacking workers in southwest Minnesota. Many of them are from that part of the state and know about the fight of Hormel workers there to defend their union.

Farmers bought 24 copies of the *Militant* and one subscription. Five farmers also bought the pamphlet *The Crisis of Rural*

America, which explains the socialist program for working farmers.

They also gave out leaflets announcing a Militant Labor Forum on how the Nicaraguan revolution defends the rights of farmers and farm workers. The leaflet had a subscription blank on it. One farmer sent for a subscription that same day.

Six *Militants* were bought at a literature table that socialists set up near the front of the demonstration where farmers and their friends could check out books on the Nicaraguan revolution, Black liberation, women's rights, and socialism.

Later, socialists talked to farmers who went inside the capitol building to escape from the bitter cold and to lobby state legislators.

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Castro calls for round of talks with U.S.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

In the wake of the recent agreement on immigration signed by the governments of the United States and Cuba, Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro has called for further talks between Washington and Havana. The immigration accord, concluded in December, was the first agreement of any kind reached between the two countries since 1977.

Castro's proposal is another attempt by the Cuban government to remove the barriers erected by Washington to normal relations between the two countries.

In a recent *Washington Post* interview with Castro, which was summarized in the paper's February 3 issue, Castro emphasized that there are other topics, in addition to immigration, which could be the subject of talks between the two nations. Among them the Cuban leader listed "cooperation between the coast guards for rescue operations," an antihijacking agreement, discussions on ending radio signal interference, and fishing rights in overlapping territorial waters.

Cuba calls for normal relations

The immigration accord provided that Cuba will accept the return of 2,746 exiles who left their homeland in 1980 from the port of Mariel. In return, Washington will permit up to 20,000 Cubans per year to immigrate to the United States. In addition, Washington will accept 3,000 former Cuban prisoners and their families. These are prisoners who were convicted for criminal actions taken against the revolution.

Castro gave a detailed television address to the Cuban people about the accord. The complete text of his speech is reprinted in the February 4 issue of *Intercontinental Press*. (To get a copy, send \$1.25 to *Intercontinental Press*, 408 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.)

Since day one of its 1959 revolution, Cuba has faced unrelenting military, political, and economic hostility from Washington. In response, the Cuban government has consistently called for normal diplomatic and economic relations with Washington. Every effort by the Cuban government to get talks going, however, has been rebuffed by the White House.

U.S. Reps. James Leach (R-Iowa), William Alexander (D-Ark.), and Mickey Leland (D-Texas) went to Havana to meet with Castro in January and brought back a message from Castro, reiterating again the Cuban government's desire to open talks aimed at improving relations with Washington.

Also in January, a five-person delegation from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops met with Cuban government officials — including Castro — in Havana to discuss relations between the Cuban government and the Cuban Catholic church. The visit was initiated by Castro, who took the opportunity of the U.S. clergy's presence to express his desire for a normalization of Cuban-U.S. relations.

The State Department's response was to reject Cuba's initiative out of hand. "This is about the 45th time in the last three years Castro has signaled this kind of thing only to signal the opposite way later on," claimed one State Department official. "We've checked all of them out, and they're not serious. . . . We put no stock in this whatsoever."

Castro told the U.S. bishops' group that he would also like to meet with Pope John Paul II.

U.S. aggression against Cuba

While repeating Cuba's often expressed willingness to "exchange views with the United States on any topic," Castro reminded the editors of the *Washington Post* that U.S. government hostility toward Cuba has increased in the last several years — both in the form of economic sanctions and in the form of military threats and pressures.

To illustrate this fact, Castro pointed to the stepped-up U.S. military maneuvers off Cuba's coast and at the U.S. naval base of Guantánamo, a base that occupies a piece of Cuba's eastern territory against the will of the Cuban people. He also cited increased U.S. spy flights over the island. There were eight such flights in the four-year period from 1977-1980. In the past four years, the number soared to 120.

Castro also pointed to Washington's criminal economic blockade of Cuba and the Reagan administration's "great pressure to obstruct the rescheduling of Cuba's external debt" to capitalist countries. This has negatively affected Cuba's ability to raise the living standard and quality of life for the Cuban workers and peasants, who still suffer the legacy of decades of U.S. imperialist domination.

In response to the Pentagon's military threats, not only against Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador as well, Cuba has "multiplied" its defense forces "many times, to the point where we have become an unconquerable country," Castro told the *Post*.

Castro was referring especially to the development of the Territorial Troop Militias, which have armed and organized hundreds of thousands of Cuban working people. "Every citizen in this country knows what to do in the event of a blockade, a war of attrition, bombings, an invasion, even in case of an occupation of the national territory."

"It would be very costly for us, and it's not a test we would like to go through. But it would be very costly for the aggressors,"



Militant/José G. Pérez

Castro seeks to remove barriers, erected by U.S. government, to normalization of relations.

and it would be a cost they could not bear," warned Castro.

Washington's war in Central America

Castro indicated his willingness — as he has done many times before — to hold talks with Washington about the escalating armed conflicts in Central America. The key to peace in the region, Castro emphasized, is an end to U.S. intervention.

Referring to the CIA-organized mercenary war against Nicaragua, and the economic pressure Washington is exerting on the Sandinistas, Castro said, "I think that the United States at the moment hopes to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution from within."

"I am convinced," he said, "that the U.S. hopes to end the revolution through this combination" of war and economic pressure. "As long as the United States has this hope, it will not seriously express the will to find a solution."

Turning to El Salvador, Castro explained that "as long as there is the idea held by Pres. José Napoleón Duarte and Washington that military victory is possi-

ble, that they can eliminate" the rebel fighters, "then there will be no readiness on the part of the United States, on the part of Duarte or of the Army to negotiate."

Castro pointed out that the struggle of the popular forces in El Salvador, led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, is a difficult one. "Under present conditions," he said, "it doesn't seem easy to score a military victory in the near future. . . . They cannot defeat the Army. But the Army cannot defeat them." The rebels, Castro affirmed, however, can "resist indefinitely."

Castro also reiterated his willingness to abide by the terms of the Contadora pact on Central America, which was formulated by the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela and was agreed to by the Nicaraguan government. Washington and its client regimes in the region refuse to sign the accord.

While making clear that his government is vitally interested in pursuing peace in the Americas, Castro explained, "The improvement of relationships with the United States will never happen if it is on the basis that we give up moral principles."

Marroquín begins tour of California

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

As part of the campaign to force the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to stop its deliberate stalling and grant permanent resident status to Héctor Marroquín, his supporters have organized a three-week speaking tour of California.

Marroquín, a young undocumented worker who has lived in the United States since 1974, faces deportation to Mexico because of his political beliefs.

Marroquín is eligible for a U.S. permanent resident visa — or green card as it is more commonly known. He is married to a U.S. citizen, Priscilla Schenk, and his son is a U.S. citizen.

But the INS continues to try to deport Marroquín because they do not like his opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and to the

government's union-busting campaign. They want to deport him because he outspokenly supports the rights of immigrant workers and undocumented refugees, and is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The Political Rights Defense Fund is coordinating the fight against Marroquín's deportation.

In Los Angeles, where the tour opens, an important meeting will take place February 8 at Los Angeles's Casa Nicaragua. Speaking along with Marroquín will be Marta Alicia Rivera, a member of the National Association of Educators of El Salvador. Rivera, like Marroquín, is a political refugee who has been refused asylum in the United States.

Also scheduled for the Los Angeles area are interviews on two local Spanish-language radio shows, a meeting at Los Angeles Community College, and a meeting with the Christian Base Committees of San Bernardino County.

In San Francisco on February 15 Marroquín is to speak at a rally in defense of refugees rounded up in the government crackdown against the sanctuary movement. In addition, supporters have arranged for an interview on the Spanish-language TV station KDTV, and on Pacifica radio station KPFA.

On February 16 Marroquín will address a rally in San Jose, and on February 17 a rally in Oakland. While in the Bay Area he will attend a conference of family farmers to explain his case and express his support for the plight of small farmers being driven off the land.

Also scheduled are meetings in San Diego and Seaside, California.

In calling the press to notify them of the tour, "I've found that some reporters are already familiar with Héctor's case," says Oakland tour coordinator Adjua Cudjoe. This is a reflection of the fact that in the

course of his seven-year fight against deportation Marroquín has reached millions of people through newspaper and television coverage and won the support of a broad layer of individuals and organizations.

Supporters of Marroquín's fight include 34 members of Congress, United Steelworkers Vice-president Leon Lynch, the Detroit City Council, the Canadian Labor Congress, Operation PUSH, and Coretta Scott King.

The tour of California aims to win new support and to obtain the help of those already backing Marroquín in protesting INS stalling on his permanent residency.

Letters and telegrams of protest should be addressed to INS Commissioner Alan Nelson, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Copies should be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, New York, N.Y. 10003.



Militant/Nancy Boyasko

Marroquín (right) at 1984 Labor Day march in Toledo. His fight against deportation is supported by many unions in United States, Canada.

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N.Y. April 20 coalition set up

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — More than a hundred representatives of local trade unions and solidarity, disarmament, anti-apartheid, Black, and Latino groups met here on January 30 to launch the New York coalition to build participation in the April Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice.

The meeting, called by labor, Black, and antiwar figures in New York, as well as a number of city council members, took place at the offices of the Headwear Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). It was an important beginning in efforts to mobilize broad participation from New York City in the national action slated for April 20 in Washington, D.C.

The meeting was chaired by Ed Ott, vice-president of Local 8-149, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). It was attended by representatives of several other area unions, including Ernesto Jofre, staff member of ACTWU Local 169 and coordinator of the New York Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador; Nick Unger from the New York Joint Board of ACTWU; a representative from American Federation of Teachers Local 3882; representatives of Local 1930, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); and a number of representatives from various other locals in District Council 37 of AFSCME.

Ernesto Jofre reported on efforts that he and other union officials in the area are making to secure additional labor endorsement and active participation in the demonstration. The fact that Henry Foner of Local 1-FLM, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and Sid Bykofsky of the United Hebrew Trades had signed the letter that initiated the January 30 meeting was a product of these efforts. Local 1930 of AFSCME and Local 3882 of the AFT have endorsed.

Dominican activists present representing the Dominican Left Front explained that their organization had decided to reschedule its planned meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of the invasion by U.S. Marines of the Dominican Republic. Instead of April 20, it will be on April 28. This decision was made to allow the group to throw itself into building participation

from the Dominican community in the Washington action.

Leslie Cagan, national facilitator of the Mobilization for Survival and a member of the April Actions National Steering Committee, reported that similar coalitions were being set up across the country. She emphasized the importance of coalition efforts in New York to ensure a significant turnout for the April 20 mass march.

Also present at the meeting were representatives of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Nicaragua Support Project, SANE, Chile Solidarity Secretariat, Salvadoran Solidarity Coordinating Committee, Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, Afro-American Solidarity Network, National Black Independent Political Party, Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and other groups. A number of campus activists from

area colleges and high schools participated.

There was a lively discussion on steps to be taken to draw into the coalition additional forces from New York's Black community, who have played a growing role in anti-intervention demonstrations and actions over the last year.

In addition to efforts already under way to involve labor, the newly founded coalition set up outreach, publicity, and media committees to build New York participation in the march.

The next meeting of the coalition was set for 7 p.m., February 13, at the offices of the Headwear Joint Board of ACTWU, 49 W 37th St., 7th floor.

For more information, and to volunteer to help build the action, the coalition office is located at 19 W 21st St., 2nd floor, New York, N.Y. 10010. Telephone: (212) 242-1040 or 673-1808.



Militant/Lou Howart

Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers staff member Ernesto Jofre told New York meeting about efforts of union officials to broaden support for April 20 action.

L.A. unions endorse antiwar action

BY SUE SKINNER

LOS ANGELES — On January 31, 175 people gathered at Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church in a standing-room-only meeting to discuss the national call for actions on April 20 for Peace, Jobs and Justice. It represented the broadest coalition of forces gathered in L.A. for several years.

The meeting unanimously agreed to have an April 20 antiwar action in Los Angeles.

The L.A. demonstration is being

launched with broad labor endorsement, including Dave Arian, president of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 13; Luisa Gratz, president of ILWU Local 26; Jack Foley, director of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) District 1; Cornelius Wall, southwest regional director of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Sandra Cooper-Morgan, president of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 535; and Jim Cushing-

Murray, president, Local 1222, Amalgamated Transit Union.

The United Teachers of Los Angeles voted to endorse April 20 and sent a representative to the planning meeting. Union members from the ILGWU, United Transportation Union, International Association of Machinists, ILWU, United Auto Workers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Electrical Workers, SEIU, and OCAW also attended.

Representatives of the NAACP, African National Congress, and the National Black Independent Political Party attended, along with a representative from the Free South Africa Movement, which includes prominent civil rights organizations, church leaders, and elected officials in the Black community. Solidarity activists from L.A.'s large Central American communities also were present.

A wide range of organizations that have endorsed nationally were at the meeting. Representatives attended from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Socialist Workers Party, Jobs with Peace, Alliance for Survival, New Jewish Agenda, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, SANE, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Excited about building a broad, united march in Los Angeles on April 20, the group agreed to meet again next week to get down to work on the details of the demonstration.

For more information on the April 20 action in Los Angeles, call (213) 225-6136.



Militant/Lynn Allen

Members of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union during their strike against Davis Pleating Co. in Los Angeles, joined protest against U.S. war in El Salvador.

Vets, Blacks build antiwar rally

Continued from front page

ing. Rev. Ben Chavis of the United Church of Christ and Herbert Daughtry of the National Black United Front have written a letter inviting a broad range of Black organizations to become involved.

A veterans group, Never Again! Vietnam Veteran's Peace Action Network, sent a letter to 30 veterans' organizations signed by their national coordinator, Jim Camilo; Charlie Clements, senior fellow, Center for Development Policy; and Bobby Muller, president, Vietnam Veterans of America. The letter explains that "Once again the United States plays the role it has for the last century in Central America — defending the status quo, the privileged, and the military dictatorship in the name of democracy."

The letter explains that "concerned citizens are responding to both the domestic and international consequences of these events."

It urges active participation in the building of April 20 local coalitions. "We need veterans' and veteran organizations' full support for the mobilization to succeed."

Local coalitions have already been set up and are opening offices in Boston; Chicago; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Minneapolis; New Orleans; New York City; Philadelphia; Wheeling, West Virginia; Richmond, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and other cities.

The steering committee participants expressed enthusiasm on hearing a report on the progress made in San Francisco, where a large number of organizations and individuals, including many unionists, are collaborating on plans for a sister march and rally on April 20 for Peace, Jobs, and Justice.

Antiwar fight: theme of Sandy Pollack meeting

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — More than 500 people gathered at the Riverside Church here on February 2 for a tribute to Sandy Pollack. Pollack, director of international solidarity for the U.S. Peace Council, was a passenger on a Cuban plane which crashed January 19 after taking off from Havana for Nicaragua. Twenty-five Cubans, 10 Nicaraguans — including government and union officials — and several activists from other countries in addition to Pollack died in the tragic accident.

Representatives from the governments of Cuba, Nicaragua, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, and Czechoslovakia attended the meeting, as did spokespeople for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the African National Congress of South Africa, and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador.

In addition, messages were read from dozens more international organizations and figures, including Jesús Montané, head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Cuban Communist Party; Radio Havana; Federation of Cuban Women; Nicaraguan Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce; Commander Doris Tijerino of Nicaragua, whose daughter was also killed in the plane crash; and Julio López,

foreign affairs coordinator for the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Speakers at the meeting included Dr. William Sloane Coffin of Riverside Church; Gus Newport, mayor of Berkeley, California; Helen Winter and Henry Winston of the U.S. Communist Party, of which Pollack was a National Council member; Lynne Chaleff, a family friend; Guadalupe González, representative of the FMLN-FDR of El Salvador; Manuel Cordero, deputy ambassador from Nicaragua to the United States; Michael Myerson, executive director of the U.S. Peace Council; and Eddie Demmings of the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

Leslie Cagan, national facilitator of the Mobilization for Survival and a member of the national steering committee organizing the April 19-22 Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice, spoke. The brochure distributed to all those in attendance at the meeting noted Pollack's plan at the time of her death was to join the staff "organizing for the upcoming April 20th march on Washington."

Cagan touched on the continual toll of the U.S. war against Central America and the Caribbean, and the overall tragedy of the plane crash for the peoples of that region.

Over 200 messages to the meeting were sent, from a wide range of political, anti-

war, Black, Latino, solidarity, women's, and civil liberties organizations. Andrea González, Thabo Ntweng, and Olga Rodríguez, leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, wrote that Pollack's death "comes at the same time that U.S. aggression is killing thousands in Nicaragua, El Salvador and the rest of Central America and the Caribbean."

"We will respond by building the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice — to mobilize the broadest possible antiwar forces, including the labor movement, the Black and Latino communities, and all others who, regardless of their views on other political questions, will join together to march down the streets of Washington, D.C., on April 20."

René Mujica, chargé d'affaires in the Cuban Interest Section in Washington, D.C., explained to the meeting that activists in the solidarity movement in the United States are very important to fighters around the world. He said, "We've suffered 26 years of hostility from each of the successive governments of the United States. But we have learned to distinguish between the government and the people."

He urged the crowd to rededicate itself to participate in antiwar activity, because "today the U.S. people can be decisive in stopping nuclear war and U.S. intervention in Central America."

N.Y. NOW women discuss Central America

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — "U.S. Policy in Central America: A Feminist Perspective" was the topic of an educational program sponsored by the New York City chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) on February 1. The meeting, which was attended by about 40 women and men, was aimed at explaining why fighters for women's rights should oppose the U.S. war in Central America.

The meeting heard representatives in the United States from the women's associations of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The film, "Americas in Transition," narrated by Ed Asner, was shown. It is a short, powerful history of the murderous policies of the U.S. government in Latin America in the last half century.

The meeting was opened by New York City Councilwoman Ruth Messinger, a member of the advisory board of MADRE, a U.S. organization that has sent material aid to Nicaragua. Messinger urged NOW members to travel to Nicaragua to see for themselves "the great strides made in essentially feminist areas." She said it was "extraordinarily fitting for NOW, as feminists, to hold a meeting on Central America," since "women are the particular victims of the U.S. government's policies in Central America."

Messinger talked about the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) attacking Nicaragua. "The first targets of the *contras*," she said, "are public health centers and child-care centers set up by the Sandinista government."

Sylvia Sandoval, the representative of AMES, the Association of Salvadoran Women, said that women are the special victims of abuse and terror from the U.S.-backed regime of José Napoleón Duarte. In Duarte's first months in office, she said, 700 people were murdered by death squads.

Sandoval told of peasant women who work with their children in the fields for pittance, and whose children sleep in the dirt. "That is child care in El Salvador," she said.

In the cities, she said, many women must seek work as domestic servants, where they are virtual slaves and cannot protect themselves from sexual abuse by the men of the wealthy families they work for. In the factories of the "free-trade zones" — zones where no taxes are paid as a special favor to U.S. businesses — only women between the ages of 18 and 25 are hired, because they are able to work harder. Any woman who becomes pregnant is immediately fired.

Many women try to keep themselves and

their children alive by working as street vendors. Many are forced into prostitution.

Of every 1,000 children born, 120 die in infancy. Fifty percent never reach the age of 18. Most women are illiterate.

It is these conditions, Sandoval said, that have led women to struggle against the dictatorship and to join the popular liberation forces, overcoming tremendous obstacles and transforming their consciousness in the process.

Josefina Ellizander was the representative of AMNLAE, the Association of Nicaraguan Women "Luisa Amanda Espinoza" — named after the first woman member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) to fall in combat against the Somoza regime.

Before the triumph of the revolution Ellizander explained, "it was dangerous just to be a woman in Nicaragua. And if you were political, forget it." The Somoza regime used rape as a specially brutal form of sowing terror among the people.

"Many women died," she said. "And many women worked with the FSLN in clandestinity." She gave a brief sketch of the heroic role played by women in the revolution and the FSLN.

"Now," she said, "I am so happy to be Nicaraguan. We have new confidence in ourselves. We have rights. We have a government that protects our rights."

"Today, there is day care, education is free. And despite the hardships, especially the hardships caused by the war, all is different."

Ellizander pointed to measures taken by the government to equalize responsibility for care and support of children between both the mother and the father — "even if they are not married."

She pointed out proudly that a large number of people in the militias are women. She added that "When the U.S. invades — and we know this will come," Washington will find Nicaraguan women in the forefront of defending their country.

Ellizander drew cheers and applause when she said, "In Nicaragua, you will not find women's bodies in bikinis being used



Barricada/Margarita Montealegre



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
Josefina Ellizander, above, told NOW members how women's lives have changed in Nicaragua. At left, Nicaraguan mothers display photos of sons killed by counterrevolutionaries.

to sell Coca-Cola, like here. There is a law against it." The law against sexist advertising was one of the first passed after the revolution triumphed in 1979.

During the discussion period, one NOW member said she had been to Nicaragua and had been struck by the facts that hunger had been eliminated and that "women are really treated as people."

"When you remember that the revolution is only five years old, and that there is a war being waged against them, so much has been done," she said.

Another woman asked if shortages of basic necessities, caused by the U.S. government's economic sanctions and the drain of fighting the U.S.-organized contra army, would result in eroding support for the Sandinista government.

"It has been very hard," Ellizander replied. "But the government does a very good job of explaining. People know it is

not the Sandinista government that is at fault. We know where it is coming from.

"When the *contras* destroy things," Ellizander said, "the people work together to reconstruct. And now, you can see North Americans working with Nicaraguans in volunteer work brigades. They are constructing while the CIA is destroying."

It was clear that many NOW members are interested in and follow the development of the Nicaraguan revolution and the advances being made by women. Some women had been to Nicaragua.

One NOW member at the meeting pointed out that feminists should become active in building support for the April 20 demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America that have been called by a broad coalition. April 20 literature was displayed on a literature table, along with AMES, AMNLAE, and other literature on the Nicaraguan revolution and the struggle in El Salvador.

Nicaragua answers State Dept. charges

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The U.S. government has embarked on a "campaign of lies and deceit in which it callously imputes to Nicaragua its own crimes and arbitrariness," charged Alejandro Bendaña, general secretary of Nicaragua's foreign ministry. He presented a ministry communiqué at a press conference here February 2.

The communiqué was in answer to charges that the U.S. secretaries of state and defense, George Shultz and Caspar Weinberger, made in January before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Shultz and Weinberger claimed that Nicaragua has broken off negotiations with the United States, has caused talks sponsored by the Contadora Group (made up of the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia) to founder, and is responsible for terrorism in Central America.

In fact, as Bendaña pointed out, it is the United States that is "closing off the options of negotiation, of peaceful solutions" in favor of "intensifying recourse to military options."

On January 18 the U.S. government violated its agreement with Nicaragua by unilaterally calling off the negotiations that had been held in Manzanillo, Mexico. The 10th round was scheduled to have taken place during the second half of January.

The U.S. government also decided to withdraw from the case pending in the World Court in which Nicaragua demands that the United States cease its aggression against the Nicaraguan people.

And the U.S. imperialists have put pressure on Honduras and Costa Rica not to appear at the next Contadora meeting scheduled for February 14.

Bendaña noted that the U.S. government, in pulling out of the Manzanillo talks, had cynically tried to use the justification that this would help channel all discussions through Contadora.

Yet, as Bendaña reminded those pre-

sent, only Nicaragua has agreed to sign the Contadora Act for Peace and Cooperation in Central America. In fact, as far back as November, the U.S. government was congratulating itself for having "effectively blocked" Contadora.

As part of its drive to close off all channels of negotiation with Nicaragua, the U.S. government has also moved to prevent talks from continuing with the Miskito group MISURASATA, which has carried out armed actions against Nicaragua.

As for the main charge leveled by Shultz and Weinberger — that the Nicaraguan government is responsible for terrorism throughout the region — Bendaña pointed out that everyone knows it is the United States that has been carrying out the terrorist *contra* war directed mainly against Nicaraguan civilians, including children. (See article on page 10.)

In its campaign to defame the Nicaraguan revolution, Bendaña continued, the Reagan administration has tried to smear the Sandinistas with the charge of drug trafficking. He predicted that this type of defamatory campaign and others like it will increase.

Bendaña explained that the campaign of slanders against Nicaragua is immediately directed toward convincing the U.S. Congress to appropriate more funds for the counterrevolutionary forces. But in general it also aimed at improving the climate with the United States for war with Nicaragua.

Daniel Ortega, recently elected president of Nicaragua, stated on January 18, "If the United States has closed all the instruments of negotiations, then what remains? The military path, greater confrontation, even direct intervention."

On January 13 the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Nimitz* and battleship *Iowa*, along with their support ships, arrived in Caribbean waters off Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. They are still there.

Joint U.S.-Honduran war games, called Big Pine III, are scheduled to begin on February 11. Involving some 4,500 U.S. troops, they will include expanding mili-

tary airports, tank maneuvers along the border with Nicaragua, and counterinsurgency operations in the central and northern zones of Honduras. The maneuvers are scheduled to last until May 3.

The danger exists that Honduras or Costa Rica, Nicaragua's neighbor to the south, will provoke some incident in collaboration with U.S. imperialism to justify troops being sent into action against Nicaragua.

For example, on January 12, Honduran army troops joined the *contra* forces in harassing soldiers of the Sandinista People's Army in Chinandega province. That same day the Nicaraguan foreign ministry charged that "the mercenary groups called FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] and ARDE [Revolutionary Democratic Alliance] are organizing a series of attacks and provocations against Costa Rica, which would be attributed to Nicaragua and would serve as a pretext for that country to break relations with Nicaragua, among other grave consequences."

In addition, the Costa Rican government continues to whip up sentiment around the incident of a Nicaraguan draft dodger who temporarily sought political asylum in the Costa Rican embassy in Managua. He was arrested when he left the embassy of his own accord. Costa Rica claimed its diplomatic rights were violated.

In reply to the charge that Nicaragua was violating international law in the incident, Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's foreign minister, asked, "Hasn't Costa Rica, in a systematic way, violated international law by permitting the use of its territory as a base of aggression against Nicaragua?"

On January 18 Daniel Ortega summed up all these developments saying, "It's a struggle between the U.S. positions of force and Nicaragua's efforts to find a negotiated way out." He called on international public opinion to pressure the U.S. government into renewing the Manzanillo talks and to stop trying to sabotage the Contadora negotiations.

YSA reschedules national convention

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) has enthusiastically endorsed the April actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, and is participating with other organizations in building the April 20 march and rally in Washington, D.C., as well as coordinated demonstrations on the West Coast and other parts of the country.

Since building April 20 will be the number one priority of all local YSA chapters, the YSA has decided to reschedule its national convention to take place after April 20. The convention, the highest decision-making body of the youth group, was to take place April 5-8.

"We're rescheduling our convention to better help in making April 20 a success," said YSA National Secretary Peter Thierjung.

Thierjung said the new dates for the convention would be set soon. "One of the things we will discuss at our convention is how a movement can be built to stop the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and what stage we are at in that process," he explained. "This discussion will be all the more valuable based on the experience of participating in the April actions."

The YSA's national office plans to come out with publicity materials for the convention prior to April 20. Chapters across the country will be organizing to invite young antiwar fighters building April 20 and interested in socialism to attend the convention.

Socialists promote 'New International'

Journal contains SWP political resolution, articles on farmers, Castro speeches

BY JOHN STUDER

The Spring 1985 issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, has just come off the press. Socialist Workers Party branches, Young Socialist Alliance chapters, and *Militant* readers are being urged both to study and to help distribute this special 221-page issue.

The party is planning a special effort to get it into the hands of coworkers, farm activists, solidarity activists and others building the April 20 demonstration against the U.S. war in Central America, members of the National Black Independent Political Party, revolutionaries from Central America and the Caribbean, and all party supporters.

The lead item in this issue of *New International* is an SWP resolution, "The Revolutionary Perspective and Leninist Continuity in the United States." This resolution was adopted in final edited form by a party national convention held in New York in January of this year. The original draft had been submitted to the party membership last summer for discussion. The resolution as printed contains extensive additions that are the product of that discussion.

The resolution has also been published in its entirety in Spanish, in the February 4 issue of the biweekly socialist magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* (see accompanying article).

Wide range of questions

The SWP resolution will be of interest to those who want to get a rounded picture of the revolutionary perspectives and ongoing activities of the Socialist Workers Party. It is also of great value to those who want to deepen their study of a wide range of questions that serve as touchstones for revolutionary fighters.

The SWP resolution begins by outlining the deepening ruling class assault on workers and farmers today. It explains that the blows of this offensive, and the emerging resistance to it, "have moved the industrial working class and its unions to the center of politics in the United States for the first time in almost four decades."

In response to this, the first section of the resolution, "The Turn to the Industrial Unions," describes the decisive importance of basing the party's work in the potentially powerful industrial unions. This was made possible by the party's 1978 decision to have the overwhelming majority of party members get jobs in basic industries organized by key industrial unions.

The next section of the resolution is "War and Revolution in Central America and the Caribbean: the Center of World Politics." It explains that countering the imperialist campaign to roll back the revo-

lutionary gains in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Cuba is the main task for revolutionaries all over the world.

The resolution points to the example set by the workers and farmers governments of Nicaragua and of Grenada, until the latter was overthrown in 1983. It explains the powerful beacon that Cuba represents as the first successful anticapitalist revolution in the Americas, whose leadership marked a turning point in modern history.

One of the central tasks of the SWP is to deepen its study of the Cuban revolution and the revolutions in Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador and to work to advance the political convergence of vanguard fighters all over the world with these revolutionary leaderships in Central America and the Caribbean.

Ruling-class offensive

The resolution's third section is "The Carter-Reagan Takeback Decade: Evolution of the Bipartisan Ruling-Class Offensive Since the 1974-75 Recession." It assesses the deepening of that offensive and the pressure it has brought down on the labor movement, farmer activists, Black, Latino, and women's rights groups, and all political organizations in the workers movement. In particular it looks at the experience of the 1984 elections, and the crucial role played by the SWP presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González in promoting the necessity for a break with capitalist electoralism and the need for independent working-class political action.

The final section of the resolution, "The Turn to the Industrial Unions and the Party's Political Continuity," traces the roots of the SWP's revolutionary outlook. It looks back to the party's founding in 1938 and its international roots in the program developed by the Communist International in its first five years under the leadership of Lenin.

The SWP played a leading role in 1938 in the founding conference of the Fourth International, whose program was based on the revival of genuine Marxism as it was practiced in the early days of the Comintern.

Worker-farmer alliance

In addition to the SWP resolution, *New International* contains five other speeches, articles, and resolutions that discuss the worker-farmer alliance.

The accomplishments of the Cuban socialist revolution and its Marxist leadership are the best example so far in history of the successful development of this alliance. *New International* reprints two speeches by Fidel Castro and excerpts from the theses "On the Agrarian Question and Relations with the Peasantry," adopted by



Militant/John Staggs

January 1984 farm protest in Kansas, which unionists helped to build. *New International* explains centrality of worker-farmer alliance in revolutionary overturn of capitalist class rule.

the Communist Party of Cuba in December 1975.

"Forging a Fighting Worker-Farmer Alliance: The Answer to the Crisis of Working Farmers," by Doug Jenness, draws both on the lessons of the Cuban revolution and the struggles of farmers in the United States. It incorporates the experience and thinking of the party that are the products of its increasing involvement in struggles of working farmers, farm workers, and their organizations.

An article by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, is entitled "The Workers' and Farmers' Government in the United States: An Alliance of the Exploited Producers." It is based on a report adopted by the August 1984 SWP convention, and has been enriched and expanded by developments and discussions since then.

Radical Reconstruction

In a new final section, "Radical Reconstruction," Barnes reviews the powerful struggle of Black agricultural laborers in the South after the Civil War. These toilers fought for the establishment of popular governments of workers and farmers. In South Carolina, for instance, Barnes notes that "the exploited producers, led by Blacks, took big strides for a number of years following 1867 toward establishing a revolutionary dictatorship that advanced the class interests of the freed slaves, small farmers, and other working people."

These advances were overthrown in a protracted and bloody counterrevolution that ultimately led to the imposition of Jim

Crow segregation throughout the South. Barnes explains that this defeat was the worst for the U.S. working class in its history. It occurred because at that time "the U.S. working class and its organizations were as yet still too weak and politically inexperienced to provide leadership" to forge an alliance in struggle with the majority-Black farm laborers of the South and guide it to power.

A century later, this alliance of social forces can be welded, and this task remains central to successfully bring a workers and farmers government to power in the United States.

Getting this issue of *New International* around can help win and educate a new generation of worker and farmer militants to this perspective.

Copies are available for \$4 from *New International*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

SWP document now out in Spanish

Perspectiva Mundial, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*, has just printed a special 48-page issue to make available in Spanish the Socialist Workers Party resolution "The Revolutionary Perspective and Leninist Continuity in the United States."

The new *PM* issue, which also features coverage of the call for the April 20 march on Washington, D.C., against the U.S. war in Central America, should find wide circulation among unionists, farm workers, and solidarity activists whose main language is Spanish. It will be of interest to revolutionaries in Central America and the Caribbean.

Branches of the SWP are already mapping out plans to distribute this issue of *PM*. For instance, in Albany, New York, SWP members are calling and visiting all previous subscribers to the magazine in their area.

The Los Angeles socialists, who have a storefront bookstore in a Latino area, have put together a special display to promote the SWP resolution issue. The branch's sales committee is organizing meetings with leaders of local Salvadoran and Nicaraguan groups to explain the value of studying the resolution as an overview of the SWP's revolutionary perspective.

In other cities similar special sales efforts are being organized to get it out to activists and at plant gates.

There is a special opportunity to use this issue of *PM* to encourage workers to purchase subscriptions. The bimonthly magazine is available for six months for \$8, or \$16 for one year. To facilitate getting the issue out more broadly, *PM* is offering a bundle of five copies for \$.55 each. The normal cover price is \$.75. To order a bundle or a subscription, write to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 408 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

'IP' features S. African strike leader

The wave of demonstrations against South African apartheid now sweeping the United States was inspired in part by a massive strike by one million Black workers in the Transvaal region of South Africa November 5-6. The largest political strike in South African history, it was organized by the Transvaal Regional Stayaway Committee (TRSC).

The February 14 issue of *Intercontinental Press* includes an interview with Thami Mali, chairman of the TRSC. Mali, 26, spent five years in the notorious Robben Island prison and is now facing charges of "subversion" for his role in the November strike.

Mali explains that more strike action will be necessary. He expects that Black unions will continue to support such actions "because we are fighting for a just society that will be ruled by the working class."

"More than ever before," he adds, "people have realized that their struggle at the factory floor will never be solved until the whole

system of government has been changed."

This issue of *IP* also includes a recent communiqué of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) attacking the war moves of the U.S. government and explaining the significance of the Nicaraguan revolution for revolutionaries in the rest of Central America.

Intercontinental Press is a biweekly that 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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El Salvador murder machine: financed by Washington at \$1.2 million a day

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

Two "airborne fire support platforms" and a promise to deliver at least eight more helicopters are the latest U.S. contribution to the Duarte dictatorship in El Salvador.

The "airborne platforms" — propeller-driven gunships similar to those used by the U.S. army in Vietnam — fire 1,500 bullets a minute from three .50-caliber machineguns. Four of the new helicopters are equipped with machineguns capable of firing 5,000 rounds a minute.

The arms shipments are only the most visible part of the more than \$1.2 million a day Washington is already pumping into the war against the people of El Salvador. Furthermore, initial White House budget proposals for 1985 call for upping the figure to more than \$600 million, or nearly \$1.7 million a day.

'Moderate' Duarte

The warmakers of both the Democratic and Republican parties justify stepped-up U.S. intervention by claiming it is necessary to bolster El Salvador's "moderate" new president, José Napoleón Duarte.

Duarte, the leader of the country's Christian Democratic Party, presents an image that is intended to look far more "moderate" than that of the ultraright death squads. The facts tell a different story.

According to the human rights organizations that have the grim task of tallying such figures, 34 percent of the nearly 2,000 civilians gunned down by government forces and private murder squads in 1984 were killed after Duarte took office. The same is true for 43 percent of the 590 kidnapped or "disappeared" last year, and for four of the five civilian massacres carried out by government armed forces in 1984.

Of the 327 bombings of civilian targets by the Salvadoran air force in 1984, half were carried out after Duarte took power. And despite promises to take action against the death squads, in eight months in office Duarte has not put on trial a single death squad member.

In mid-December the United Nations General Assembly condemned the Duarte regime's violations of human rights. The action — sponsored by the governments of Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Greece, Algeria, Mexico, France, Sweden, and Norway — was the UN's fifth such condemnation of governmental terror in El Salvador.

Reflecting international awareness of how little Duarte has lived up to claims of

FMLN urges protest to stop torture of imprisoned leader

Salvadoran National Guardsmen have arrested and are torturing a woman leader of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front's armed forces. This was reported by Radio Venceremos, an FMLN station, on January 21.

Commander Yanet Samour Hasbun, a member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), was arrested December 30. Since then, she and another woman freedom-fighter arrested at the same time, Maximina Reyes Villatoro, have been held and tortured in the National Guard headquarters in the provincial capital of San Miguel.

In addition, in San Salvador, trade-union leader Salvador Escalante was arrested January 8. Escalante, general secretary of the Revolutionary Union Federation, was seized by the National Guard on the eve of his union's national convention.

International protest is needed to help free these political prisoners. Telegrams and letters should be sent to Pres. José Napoleón Duarte, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador.

an improved human rights record, this resolution received more votes than any previous such condemnation.

Talks with FMLN-FDR

Last year Duarte's government held two meetings with leaders of the liberation forces. These were a product of mounting pressure from Salvadoran workers and peasants for an end to the war.

On October 15 and November 30 of 1984, when the dictatorship held talks with leaders of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR), demonstrators surrounded the meetings with placards demanding a genuine dialogue. That is, real steps by the government toward peace.

The FMLN-FDR proposed a three-phase plan of "dialogue and negotiations." Duarte answered with a military offensive into Morazán Province. The offensive, launched October 16, the day after the first meeting, was pulverized by FMLN combatants. When finally called off December 2, the drive by the 2,300 government troops had suffered 259 casualties, including the entire general staff.



Unionists and relatives of political prisoners march in San Salvador last September, demanding end to political repression and restoration of trade union rights.

Duarte eventually announced, on January 24, that he "will not meet with them [FMLN-FDR] again until they change their proposals." Since the main FMLN demand is for "peace with justice" — the same goal they have been fighting for for more than four years — such a change is not likely to occur.

From the point of view of the FMLN, on the other hand, the talks were a political and diplomatic plus. They helped make clear to the working people of El Salvador and the world who really wants peace and who is an obstacle to it.

The FMLN followed up on the talks by unilaterally declaring a cease-fire over the Christmas and New Year holidays, and by releasing 43 prisoners captured in combat

with the government armed forces.

The widespread desire for peace and an end to Duarte's death-squad terror, the success of the freedom fighters in exercising control over about a third of the country, and the deteriorating economy have combined to create a situation in which unions and other mass organizations in the cities have begun to press their demands more openly.

Three thousand demonstrators — including mothers of "disappeared" and workers from many unions — marched in the capital, San Salvador, November 5 demanding a "dignified, durable peace." On November 23, in the provincial capital of San Miguel, 85 miles east of San Salvador,

Continued on Page 13

Oregon: anti-apartheid victory won

BY K.C. ELLIS

PORTLAND, Ore. — Anti-apartheid protesters here won a victory January 18 when they forced Calvin VanPelt to resign his post as honorary consul of South Africa. VanPelt, who has served as the honorary consul of South Africa in Oregon for more than a decade, is the vice-president of Martin Sales International Corp.

Since mid-December, Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF), along with activists from the Black United Front, American Friends Service Committee, and the Rainbow Organizing Committee, conducted twice-weekly picketing outside VanPelt's downtown Portland office.

Twenty-six demonstrators have been arrested since December 12.

In a prepared statement announcing his resignation, VanPelt defended the racist South African government, saying, "The pace of progress in South Africa has been slower than many South Africans would have hoped, just as our civil rights movement has taken more time than many Americans would have hoped. Nevertheless, substantial progress has been made and is being made."

According to POSAF spokeswoman Avel Gordly, anti-apartheid campaigns are under way to help win the release of South African political prisoners Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, as well as other impris-

oned leaders of South Africa's Black majority.

Calls have been issued, also, to halt the sale of Kruggerand gold coins and to bring economic sanctions against South Africa.

One round in the fight to have the state of Oregon divest from South Africa was lost in the courts recently.

Last December 4, an Oregon judge ruled that the State Board of Higher Education violated the law when it passed a resolution in 1977 calling for total divestiture from its endowment fund of stocks in 27 companies making profits in South Africa.

The board's resolution, which came

after a major effort by Oregon students, was immediately challenged by the Oregon Investment Council. In 1978, the state attorney general agreed with the Investment Council that the Board of Education didn't have the right to control its own funds. This led to a lawsuit filed by the students in 1978. The recent ruling against the students declared that the Board of Education had violated the state's "prudent investor rule" by divesting its stock in South Africa.

The board's fund now has about \$7 million invested in South Africa-related businesses. This represents almost a third of the total endowment fund.

700 in Seattle picket offices of South African government

BY BRUCE LESNICK

SEATTLE — Protests against the U.S. government's support to apartheid in South Africa have continued unabated for several months here. The focus of the protests has been a South African consulate office which is operated out of a private residence. Seattle is one of 12 cities nationwide that harbor South African consulates.

On January 20 a special effort was made

to build the protest and some 700 people turned out to picket the consulate. The participation of organized labor, though still modest, was in greater evidence than previously. Officials from the American Postal Workers Union, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Cannery Workers Local, the Carpenters, and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union picketed and spoke.

Civil rights groups turned out in force. Peace groups and Central America solidarity organizations joined in.

As has become the pattern, the picket wound up with several officials and group representatives mounting the steps to the consulate, where they would be arrested. Those participating in the civil disobedience over the weeks have run the gamut from church leaders, labor officials, and community activists to elected officials. So far, arrestees have been given civil citations and released, although city officials have threatened to begin pressing charges.

The next major focus for Seattle anti-apartheid activists will be a teach-in the weekend of March 16.

As a result of the protests, city officials are putting pressure on the honorary South Africa consulate to move out of its location in the residential area of the city. The King County Council has scheduled a hearing to debate the question of divesting county funds from banks that do business in South Africa.



Militant/Janet Post

Several Seattle unions joined January 20 picket of South African consulate

Utah miners blame company for fatal fire

BY SCOTT BREEN

SALT LAKE CITY — Two Utah coal miners spoke out here January 18 about the Wilberg mine fire that killed 19 workers and 8 company executives and foremen last December. The Wilberg mine, managed by Emery Mining Corp., is located outside Orangeville, Utah.

Speaking at a Militant Forum here were Cecelia Moriarity and Joy Huitt, both members of the United Mine Workers union (UMW). "The company decision to go for a world production record was in my opinion unsafe and murderous," said Moriarity, who worked at the Wilberg mine at the time of the fire. She was the 1984 Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Utah.

Huitt, who is laid off from the Price River mine and is president of the Lady Coal Miners of Utah, said, "There was no reason for these deaths. Everything that could have been done was not done."

Both women were active in the rescue and relief efforts for the trapped miners.

Moriarity, who arrived for work at the mine shortly after the fire broke out, recounted the events of that night. "Hours went by, and no rescue teams arrived," she reported. "There was no rescue equipment on hand at all. And it was well over three hours before the water pumps were turned on," so workers could begin fighting the fire.

While rescue teams fought courageously over the next few days to try to save the

miners' lives, said Moriarity, "company press conferences constantly doled out deceptive, self-serving statements designed to make Emery Mining Corp. look good and create false hopes."

Soon, however, the company's lies began to unravel and the truth started to come out.

Two Wilberg miners who discovered the fire reported that it started near an electrical cable, not on the conveyor belt, as the company claims. "What many miners suspect," said Moriarity, "is that Emery overloaded the electrical system. Someone overrode the safety system at the transformers, allowing power to be sent at levels beyond the capacity of the cable. The goal was to increase production and profit."

An investigation by the UMW has already disclosed that the telephone system at the scene of the fire was broken and the fire suppression system was out of order. These had been reported to the company before the disaster, without results.

A third escapeway the trapped miners could have used to get out was blocked by a cave-in. The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) had given the company a permit to keep operating despite this violation. The only other two escapeways available were blocked by the fire.

Contrary to press reports that the accident rate at Wilberg was improving, Moriarity said the pressure was on at the mine

not to report accidents. A bonus plan to boost productivity penalized miners who reported accidents by reducing the amount of bonus received. She cited several examples from her own experience of serious injuries that were not reported.

"This is the truth that coal miners know. Emery killed those 19 miners."

"I don't even call it a disaster — I call it a massacre," she concluded.

Joy Huitt told the audience about her tour of coalfields in the Soviet Union last year, where she said she found a commitment to safety far beyond U.S. mining standards. There were professional rescue teams, "experienced miners whose only job was to be on call 24 hours a day." They were stationed within 20 minutes of coal mines.

She tried on Soviet safety equipment, such as oxygen tanks, and found them superior to those she was familiar with in the United States. She contrasted them to the self-rescue units at the Wilberg mine, which when tested at the union office would not work at all.

"It shows there are ways, there are facilities, to eliminate mine hazards," said Huitt. "They can be prevented."

She also related how the Lady Coal Miners of Utah pitched in and played an important role in the rescue and relief efforts during the Wilberg fire. The women coal miners' group provided hot food for the rescue teams and gave support, aid, and comfort to the victims' families, working with the district union office.

One woman miner, Nannette Wheeler, was killed in the fire. Huitt responded to those who are saying this is "God's way" of telling women to stay out of the coal mines. "What about the dead men?" Huitt asked. "Is God trying to tell us that no one should mine coal?"

"I'm a Christian woman and God cer-

tainly didn't tell me anything about not working in the coal mines."

A lively discussion broke out after the presentations and lasted until 11 p.m. Present at the forum were machinists from a local mine machinery shop, oil workers, miners and former miners, and garment workers. For several it was their first Militant Forum.

A garment worker asked the speakers, "Why couldn't the union just take over the rescue operation?" Moriarity explained that mining companies run rescue operations in conjunction with government representatives of MSHA. The union is allowed to play only a consultative role.

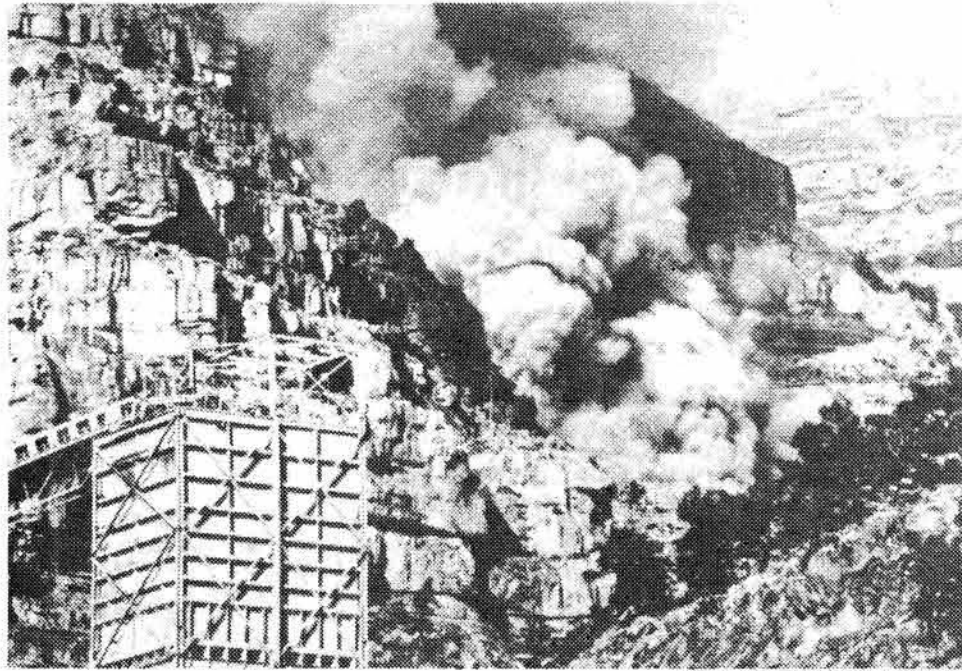
"Then, is the company or the government to blame?" the garment worker asked.

"They are both to blame," said Huitt.

In answer to a question, "What can be done to stop this from happening again?" Moriarity said the first step is to get out the truth about what happened. She urged people to support the UMW in its fight for safety, explaining that many miners expect MSHA and Congress to whitewash the disaster and help the company's cover-up.

What happened at the Wilberg mine "points to the need for a government that acts in the interests of working people, not the companies," said Moriarity. It also underscores the need for "workers to completely control our working conditions, since the company puts production first, last and always ahead of miners' lives."

Huitt encouraged people in the audience to read the *Militant* coverage of the Wilberg fire, which she said was truthful. She urged workers, especially women, to attend the Coal Employment Project's national conference of women miners to be held in Price, Utah, June 21-23. This is one way, she said, to aid the UMW's fight for a safe workplace.



Sun Advocate/Larry Beckner

Wilberg mine on fire last December. Nineteen unionists died in blaze, which was caused by company violations of safety.

UMW on S. Africa miners

"At least 12 times more miners are killed on the job in South Africa than in the U.S.," reports the January 1985 *United Mine Workers Journal*, published by the United Mine Workers union in Washington, D.C.

In a special three-page feature, the paper looks at life for Black miners under the apartheid system. It exposes the primitive safety conditions under which they work that led to the slaughter of 68 miners in the Hlobane explosion of September 1983. The *Journal* also explains the brutal living conditions for Black miners, forced to

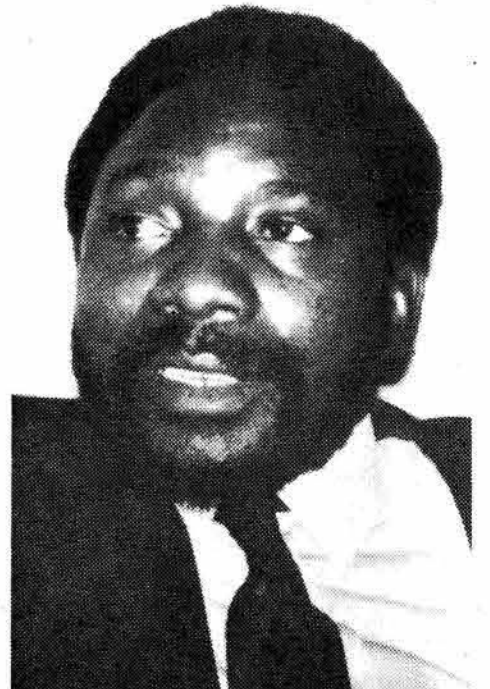
sleep 10 to 20 men to a room, in barbed-wire-surrounded barracks.

These conditions have led to many strikes, the paper reports, which the government has met "by gunning down strikers and jailing miners' leaders."

The feature includes an interview with Cyril Ramaphosa, head of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in South Africa. Asked by the *Journal* about the attitude of U.S. companies in South Africa toward the NUM's organizing efforts, Ramaphosa says, "They come here because the system allows them to make more money. So certainly they are not going to help us change that system."

He cites Union Carbide, which owns a mine in South Africa and has refused to recognize the NUM.

The Black union leader appeals to U.S. miners to "use your influence to give us the chance to decide our own future in South Africa." He also asks for help in publicizing the unsafe working conditions in the South African mines.



UMW Journal

Cyril Ramaphosa, head of Black miners union in South Africa, is interviewed in January issue of the U.S. miners' paper, *UMW Journal*.

Oil workers honor picket slain in '84 strike

BY ANÍBAL YÁÑEZ

RODEO, Calif. — On January 19, Local 1-326 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) here organized a march and rally to commemorate the first anniversary of the killing of OCAW member Greg Goobic during a strike against the Union Oil refinery in 1984. Over 400 unionists, family members, and friends turned out.

Local 1-326 struck Union Oil when the bosses tried to push through major concessions around safety and wages, including an attempt to introduce a two-tier wage system. Goobic, 20 years old, was killed on Jan. 19, 1984, when a truck driven by a scab drove through the legally assembled pickets.

Outrage over the killing led to broader support for Local 1-326. The oil workers

were able to beat back the worst company demands after a 13-day strike. But the anger over Goobic's death remains.

The commemoration events one year later began with the unveiling of a brass plaque honoring Goobic at the offices of Local 1-326. The plaque was made from melted-down Union Oil Safety Award belt buckles turned in by the Local 1-326 membership. Everyone then marched one mile to the entrance of the Union Oil refinery where Goobic was killed. After a brief prayer and message of support from the Alameda Central Labor Council, the marchers went to a local school auditorium for a rally.

Demonstrators came from many unions besides OCAW Local 1-326. OCAW Local 1-5, representing the workers from the nearby Shell, Chevron, and Tosco re-

fineries, had a contingent. Other unions represented included the International Association of Machinists locals 864 and 565; Ironworkers Local 378 of Oakland; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 6, and others. Local 28 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union also had a contingent, made up mostly of *mexicana* and Latina workers who have been on strike for over six months against one of the largest suppliers of tortillas in Northern California, Mission Foods.

The rally featured veterans of Local 1-326 struggles and officials from other unions. The speakers included Joseph Misbrenner, international president of OCAW; Jack Henning, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation; Tony Cannata, secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council; and Chuck Mack, president of the Teamsters Joint Council 7. Al Lannon, president of ILWU Local 6, pointed to the attacks on workers at the picket lines, on their safety conditions on the job, and on California health and safety regulations. He spoke out against the U.S. war of intervention in Central America.

The rally ended with the singing of "Solidarity Forever" and a pledge to make the commemoration an annual event.

Aníbal Yáñez is a member of OCAW Local 1-5.

Labor history — lessons for today

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Prof. Edward Cooperman was active in raising material and scientific aid for Vietnam before he was murdered last fall.

Trial opens in assassination of professor friendly to Vietnam

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The trial of a Vietnamese student who confessed to killing Edward Cooperman, a supporter of scientific cooperation with Vietnam, opened here January 28.

But as the Committee for Justice for Professor Ed Cooperman points out, "the case has been transformed into a trial of Professor Cooperman's political beliefs rather than a trial of his confessed killer.

"Evidence strongly pointing in the direction of a political assassination has been totally ignored," the committee charged.

The murder last fall has attracted international attention, particularly in the scientific community. Cooperman, a professor of physics, headed the Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam, which provided assistance to that country's recovery from the devastation of the long war

waged by the U.S. government.

By the end of the first week of the trial, Orange County Deputy District Attorney Mel Jensen has failed to even suggest a motive for the murder.

Prosecution witnesses have consisted of a routine parade of police officers and a pathologist, in addition to the slain professor's wife, Klaaske Cooperman. She testified that her husband had received several death threats, but the deputy district attorney did not pursue this angle.

Instead, the prosecution case rests entirely on discrepancies between the defendant Minh Van Lam's account of what happened and evidence found in Cooperman's office, where the murder took place.

Lam initially told police he had merely discovered Cooperman's body. But a police witness testified that Lam was told that it would be to his benefit to tell the

truth if "some terrible accident" had happened, and the defendant then said it was an accident.

Minh Van Lam is being defended by attorney Alan May, a former Green Beret who was hired for the defense by Tran Minh Cong, ex-chief of the Saigon Police Academy. Tran Minh Cong was a leader of a 1977 violent attack on a film showing Cooperman did on Vietnam.

Attorney May is trying to turn the proceedings into a trial of the murder victim and his views. May now maintains that the shooting was an accident that happened when Cooperman was showing Lam how to use the gun. May has dropped his earlier contention that the killing was an elaborately staged suicide, in which the professor tricked his former student into taking his life.

In May's opening statement to the jury, he continued his campaign of innuendo and character assassination against Cooperman, which began shortly after the October 13 murder.

May said Cooperman had an unfounded fear of being killed, and for protection he surrounded himself with young Asian men, including Lam.

May, who was given access to Cooperman's office files, also claimed that the professor was illegally shipping computer technology and nuclear testing equipment to Vietnam. At the same time, May stated, the slain professor had cheated the government of Vietnam, shipping them "Pineapple" computers made in Hong Kong in place of authentic Apple computers.

Actually, Cooperman had good reason to take the death threats against him seriously. Last summer two of his associates, Vietnamese friends of the revolution in their homeland, were shot down in San Francisco. A right-wing Vietnamese group claimed credit.

So while the prosecution has refused to explore the possibility of a political assassination, it is not for lack of evidence.

To help get out the truth about the case, contact the Committee for Justice for Professor Ed Cooperman, P.O. Box 753, Venice, Calif. 90291.

Polish gov't slanders slain priest

BY TOM LEONARD

Polish government prosecutor Leszek Pietrasinski has called for the death penalty for former secret police captain Grzegorz Piotrowski in the murder of Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, a Catholic priest. Pietrasinski also called for 25-year jail sentences for three other cops charged with the killing. They are former lieutenants Leszek Pekala and Waldemar Chmielewski, and former colonel Adam Pietruszka.

Three of the cops, Piotrowski, Pekala, and Chmielewski, admitted they participated in the kidnap-murder of the priest, but Pietruszka denied prosecution charges that he helped instigate and direct the killing. All four cops worked for the Ministry of the Interior and were members of the ruling Polish United Workers Party (PUWP) at the time of the killing.

Popieluszko and his driver-bodyguard, Waldemar Chrostowski, were abducted from the priest's car last October. Chrostowski managed to escape and spread the word of the kidnapping. The priest, however, was brutally beaten, stuffed in the trunk of the police car, and later dumped

into a reservoir with stones tied to his feet.

Popieluszko had been an outspoken supporter of the outlawed Polish Solidarity union. He used to attract thousands of people to his monthly sermons.

During the trial, Piotrowski, who was accused of being the ringleader, said he was motivated to kill the priest because he thought the government wasn't aggressive enough in cracking down on Popieluszko's activities. Early in the trial he had testified that high government officials had okayed the killing, but later changed his testimony to say that Pietruszka was the highest ranking official involved.

This point was also stressed by prosecutor Pietrasinski in his January 29 trial summation. He claimed the killing was not sanctioned by the cops' superiors. Instead, he scapegoated the cops with the accusation that they had acted in opposition to the official policies of the government. The prosecutor also accused the killer cops of undermining the state security apparatus by leaving evidence of police involvement at the scene of the killing and by wearing

police uniforms during the kidnap-murder.

In addition to letting the Polish government off the hook, Pietrasinski used his summation to accuse the murdered priest of provoking his own death by taking part in "extremist" activity.

By lumping together the killer cops and their victim as "extremists," Pietrasinski leveled a clear warning at every political worker, farmer, and youth in Poland fighting for their rights against the government bureaucracy. He portrayed critics of the government as extremists deserving of harsh punishment, in the fashion typical of the anti-working-class practices of the bureaucratic misrulers of Poland.

It was also clear that his remarks were directed toward the broad masses of Poland who have been closely following the trial, millions of whom supported the Solidarity union movement that the priest was associated with.

According to press reports, 70 percent of the population of the country has been watching the extensive radio and TV coverage of the trial since it began.

Pope uses trip to bolster imperialist rule

Continued from front page

mouthed platitudes about the dignity of labor, but advised workers not to fight for their rights against their bosses, saying "union demands must not become a kind of group or class 'egoism.'" He said the conflict between capital and labor is not inevitable and called for a "permanent harmonization" of the two.

The pope made it clear that the church's "preferential option for the poor" cannot allow it to support struggles by the oppressed. The pope also made it clear that the church hierarchy cannot tolerate members of the clergy who do not play their assigned role in defusing struggles of workers and peasants.

The most publicized stop in the pope's tour was in Ayacucho, in the Andes Mountains of south-central Peru. It is one of the poorest sections of the country.

In December 1982, the Peruvian government decreed a state of emergency in five districts of Ayacucho Province, and the area was placed under military control. Since then the emergency zone has been extended to include 13 districts in the provinces of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac.

The pretext for the militarization of the zones is to suppress the guerrilla organization, Shining Path. The Shining Path is a middle-class, armed group of Maoist origin. It has nothing to do with Marxism, and its actions run counter to the interests of the workers and peasants.

The military has used the group's existence to justify mass repression in the militarized zones, as well as repression against mobilizations of workers and students in the capital city.

On January 22 — a little more than a

week before the pope's speech in Ayacucho — Amnesty International issued a report charging the Peruvian military with mass murder in the emergency zones.

The report documented 1,005 people who have "disappeared" and are presumed dead at the hands of the military. The report says that the actual number of deaths is probably much higher.

"In most cases of political killings... believed to be carried out by government forces," said the report, "the bodies of the victims, when found, are naked, marked by torture, and with single gunshot wounds to the head." In many cases, the report continued, the fingertips are chopped off and faces mutilated to prevent their being identified. Most of the victims are peasants, local community leaders, teachers, and students. Amnesty International concluded that violations of human rights are taking place on an unprecedented scale in Peru.

Yet the pope had not a word to say against the military's repression.

To the contrary, he praised the "authorities and those responsible for public order" who had "the duty to defend the upright order of society and protect the defenseless."

The pope falsely identified the Shining Path organization with Marxism as a foil for a broadside attack against Marxist ideas and leaderships, and against those who take up arms to overthrow imperialist and capitalist exploitation.

This attack was primarily aimed at the Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Salvadoran revolutions.

The pope lashed out against "those men who have put their trust in armed struggle," falsely accusing revolutionaries of being the source of violence and war in the re-

gion. He urged those "longing for a just society" to seek peaceful reform through "conversion of the heart."

"But do not follow those who say that social injustice can only disappear through the hatred between classes or the resort to violence and other anti-Christian methods," the pope said.

While remaining silent on the mass murders by the Peruvian military taking place under his nose, the pope did not miss an opportunity to push his reactionary "right-to-life" propaganda. "Remember that never is it right to snuff out a human life with abortion or euthanasia," he said in a speech in Venezuela, in which he condemned contraception, sterilization, abortion, and divorce.

Throughout his tour, the pope continued his campaign against the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions.

While in Venezuela, Pope John Paul met with Managua's Archbishop Obando y Bravo. Obando y Bravo has openly backed the CIA-organized *contras* who are waging war against Nicaragua in an attempt to overthrow its workers and farmers government.

Like the pope, Obando y Bravo's main line of attack against the Sandinista leadership is the baseless lie that they are persecuting the church.

Obando y Bravo also reportedly discussed with the pope the hierarchy's demand that four Nicaraguan priests resign their posts in the revolutionary government.

Pope John Paul II has been one of the most politically active popes in recent history. Since he was installed in 1978, he has crisscrossed the globe — from Africa, to Poland, to Latin America — always to bolster the world imperialist system.

Reagan plans to escalate war

Continued from front page and working farmers."

She noted that "the budget cuts go hand in hand with the offensive against our democratic rights that the U.S. government is carrying out. Reagan's speech called for extension of the death penalty and for further attacks on the rights of prisoners and defendants."

González condemned Reagan's demand that a woman's right to abortion "must be stopped." She said it gives "another green light for more fire-bombings of clinics."

"Anyone looking for an alternative to more war and deeper cuts certainly didn't get it from the Democratic Party reply to Reagan's speech," González noted. "The Democrats' message was that they can pump up the war machine and slash social programs better than he can."

She concluded by saying that "to deepen the war in Central America and to carry out the bipartisan attacks on unionists, Blacks and farmers that both Reagan and the Democrats are projecting will require a big battle. For working people to fight effectively, we need to politically organize ourselves independently of the rulers' two parties."

"We can take a step forward in the coming weeks by doing everything possible to build participation in the April 20 march on Washington against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean."

Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$2.50 for 6 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.

Volunteers from U.S. help pick coffee in Nicaragua

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

EL CRUCERO, Nicaragua — "I've been acquainted with what's wrong with U.S. policy in Latin America for years, and for me it goes back to the times when I was 20 and Nicaragua was being occupied by U.S. Marines. For years the Marines were in here occupying this place and preventing the Sandinistas then from changing the situation, and all for the sake of U.S. business interests."

Godfrey Boehm, a 78-year-old retired labor journalist, was taking a break from harvesting coffee at a state farm in the hilly area known as El Crucero, 30 minutes south of Managua. He was answering the obvious question — why did you come? — from a group of foreign correspondents who had come here to interview part of a brigade of U.S. citizens helping to harvest coffee, Nicaragua's most important export crop.

At first sight the work seems simple — using a long stick to pull down the branches to pick only the red berries, letting the green ones stay to ripen more, and being careful not to damage the small branches where more berries will grow next year. But you hike a mile or more from the camp to the coffee groves in the pre-dawn hours, walk up and down the steep hills where the plants grow, all the while hauling a heavy sack of beans under the glaring Nicaraguan sun. By the 2 p.m. quitting time you are bone tired.

Right now there are 68 coffee pickers at the Carlos Espinoza state farm, 26 of them year-round agricultural workers, the rest volunteers from the United States. Of the volunteers, 14 range in age from 53 to 78.

'A real inspiration'

"They are incredible," says Lenore Sheridan, a railroad worker and member of the Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks from San Jose, California, referring to the oldest members of the brigade. "When it gets hot and you get tired, you just look at them and they are a real inspiration."

Most of the U.S. volunteers on this farm are from northern California. They include some college youth who became politicized around protests against the Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory.

Sixty others are on nearby farms. In all, 350 U.S. volunteers are expected to take part in this harvest in three three-week contingents.

The U.S. *brigadistas* pay their own way to Nicaragua. While here, they live in crowded, rudimentary barracks and share the simple food of this country's agricultural laborers. U.S. volunteers receive no remuneration for their work.

This act of solidarity is deeply appreciated, and the participation of older brigadistas has especially moved the Nicaraguan people.

"It is something beautiful," said Ramón Bejarano, who has worked at the Hacienda Las Mercedes — he still calls it by its old name — "all my life." Bejarano, his companion and children, as well as other so-called traditional pickers are resting, using coffee sacks as improvised pillows while waiting for the day's production to be measured and credited to them.

"All these years we have had brigadistas," Bejarano says, "but this is the first time older people from the United States came to help us."

CIA-sponsored counterrevolutionaries claim that "internationalists" have come to Nicaragua to take away the jobs of Nicaraguan peasants.

"It's not true," Bejarano responds. "There's plenty of work for many more coffee pickers, and what you earn is determined by how much you work."

How revolution changed conditions

Traditional workers are paid piece rates, with a guaranteed minimum equivalent to two dollars a day. Usually they earn a little more; on very good days, up to twice as much. In addition, permanent farm work-

ers have free lodgings and some food as part of their pay.

Asked whether he had had stable employment before the 1979 revolution here, Bejarano answered, "Before we had year-round work, but you had to put up with everything from the bosses. Now it's different."

The biggest change, he says, is that "we no longer have those accursed bosses." The old owner fled as soon as the insurrection triumphed in 1979, burning some of the installations for processing the coffee.

"He left someone in his place, but some gentlemen from the revolutionary government came and threw him out. Since then things have been different."

One change, he said, is that before the bosses cheated you on how much you picked, since they, and only they, kept official track of each family's production for each day. Now the accounting is done for every picker above the age of 14, male or female. The whole weighing and recording process is carefully watched by the workers and their elected union representatives.

"Before there was no union. They treated you like a dog." Today farm labor is organized in the Association of Rural Workers (ATC).

Nevertheless, conditions for Bejarano and his family are still poor. All were barefoot and none of the four children, aged six to twelve, attends school.

Two years ago the older son, also named Ramón, had walked several miles to a little one-room school staffed by Cuban teachers in a nearby hacienda. "The Cuban teachers were good," Ramón junior said. "I still know how to read and sign my name."

Following the October 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada — when the Reagan administration used the presence of Cuban construction workers on the island as part of its justification for that aggression — the Nicaraguan government decided to have some of the Cuban teachers here leave.

Roberto Pérez Moraga, head of the state farm, said it was a very difficult decision, but "we decided to try to fill these needs with our own resources, our own teachers, to avoid giving pretexts."

He said it was the same kind of hard choice as that made two months ago by the revolution's leaders, when they decided not to send 20,000 student volunteers from



Militant José G. Pérez

Three-week-long brigades of North American volunteers are helping with Nicaragua's coffee harvest in El Crucero, about 20 miles south of Managua.

Managua to the coffee harvest so that those young people could help strengthen the defense of the city against threatened U.S. attack. He added that the management of the UPE (as state farms are called), the union, and the Ministry of Education are working to get the school reopened.

It was the Nicaraguan government's decision to have the Managua students concentrate on improving the city's defenses that led 77-year-old Morris Wright to come to Nicaragua. He used to be editor of *The Union* — organ of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, which is today part of the Steelworkers union.

"I've been very angry about the way the U.S. government is treating Nicaragua, and I read that the Nicaraguans who had planned to help with the coffee harvest were going to be needed in the military because of the threat of intervention."

"I wanted to come down and pick coffee to replace those people."

Wright said that "I didn't know what poverty was until I got here."

"The people here have explained to us," he continued, "that most of the services the government is able to provide, they're providing in the north, where the war is going on, because it's more needed there."

"So except for the redistribution of land — which means a lot to the small farmer — not a great deal has been done in this area."

U.S. labor should speak out

Asked what message he would send to workers in the United States, Wright responded: "I really resent the way the government of my country is treating Nicaragua. I think it amounts to international gangsterism." He called Anastasio Somoza, the dictator overthrown by the Nicaraguans in 1979, "one of the worst tyrants that can be imagined."

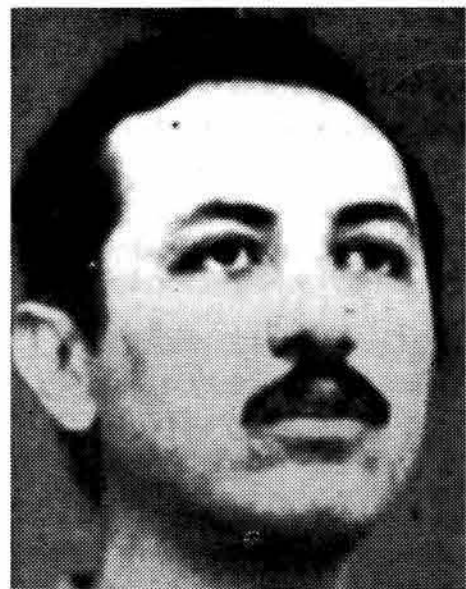
"We've heard from the people here," he continued, "what conditions were like under Somoza, how they were beaten and kept under poverty and how the people who were his soldiers are now the counter-revolutionaries. Why the United States should be supporting those people and destroying schools and hospitals and killing people here in this country is beyond me."

"It's high time the American labor movement spoke out against this policy," he concluded. "Tell American unionists they should do everything to influence the Reagan administration to reverse its course on Nicaragua, to stop interfering here, to let these people have a chance to develop their country without interference."

'Contras' step up attacks on civilians

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Ministry of Defense here has reported that the second half of January saw a "notable increase in counterrevolutionary attacks directed against the Nicaraguan civilian population." The U.S.-armed mercenaries, a defense communiqué said, used "ever more atrocious methods, indiscriminately



Barricada

Sandinista army's Hugo Torres projected stepped-up drive against contra terrorism.

assassinating men, women, children, and old people in the carrying out of ambushes of vehicles, the mining of roads with heavy economic traffic, attacks on economic objectives and social services, and massive and individual kidnapping of peasants." The actions left 59 civilians dead, 28 wounded, and 53 kidnapped.

In this period there were a few especially significant attacks. On January 26, Gustavo Sequeira, the vice-dean of the faculty of medicine at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, was kidnapped along with five other health workers as they were servicing the town of Ramakay, south of Bluefields on the Atlantic Coast. Three in his group were killed. That same day two bridges were blown up and several civilians killed near Río Blanco in Matagalpa province.

And on January 28, two militants who were leaders of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers were killed in an ambush in Jinotega province.

The Ministry of Defense also released casualty figures for the counterrevolutionaries (*contras*). They suffered 133 casualties, with 95 dead in 42 battles during this period. This brings the total for January to 505 contra casualties, including 393 dead in 71 encounters with Sandinista People's Army troops.

Earlier in the month, on January 8, a U.S. nun was kidnapped by the contras for eight hours near San Juan de Limay, Es-

teli. That day 14 civilians were killed and 10 kidnapped. Among the dead were nine construction workers ambushed as they rode in their Construction Ministry jeep.

On January 10, four electricity towers near the city of Jinotega were dynamited. One of them was completely destroyed. And on January 11, a coffee plantation in Madriz was burned down along with a state farm in Jinotega. Ten peasants were kidnapped in the attack on the coffee plantation. The coffee harvest continues to be a major target of the contras.

Hugo Torres, head of the Political Directorate of the Sandinista People's Army, addressed a political-ideological seminar of Nicaraguan teachers on January 22. He commented, "It is true that 1985 will be a difficult year, but it will also be a year of victories." He explained that the National Directorate of the Sandinista Front had established as an objective for the next two years "to break up the mercenary forces, to annihilate them by means of an effort even greater than that made up to this moment."

He pointed out that thousands of youths are being recruited as draftees to build more combat units until together they "constitute a formidable force to strike in a forceful way at that mercenary army."

He asked that the teachers adopt as a fundamental task that of spreading the word about the law on the draft, explaining its content, and clarifying it for young people and their families.

Gov't uranium plant spews deadly waste on Ohio countryside

BY KATHLEEN DENNY
AND MORRIS STARKY

CINCINNATI — The Fernald uranium processing center is a government-owned facility 18 miles northwest of here. At Fernald, uranium is "enriched," that is, made more reactive. It is then fabricated into products used for nuclear reactors and weapons. Enriched uranium is dangerously radioactive.

NLO Inc. has operated Fernald under contracts with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for 31 years. Last December, NLO announced that 275 pounds of radioactive uranium dust had leaked into the air. Fernald workers had known about the leak for some weeks, since they observed it and reported it to management.

A few days later, three more leaks were announced, bringing the total amount of radioactive uranium dust contamination to 350 pounds in less than a month.

No different than pollen?

NLO and DOE officials quickly dismissed the idea that there were potential health hazards from the leaks. Weldon Adams, an NLO executive, claimed that "uranium is hazardous only if you get hit over the head with it," and that "uranium dust is no different from pollen" as a cause of respiratory disease. Dr. William Bibb, a senior DOE official, was quoted as saying, "It's safer to work at a DOE plant than it is to sleep in your bed at night."

NLO and DOE officials suggested that the numerous studies showing uranium to be extremely hazardous should be discounted because they are "preliminary." They said Fernald is safe because the radiation levels are kept "low."

In response, the Fernald Atomic Trade and Labor Council, a coalition of 15 unions representing Fernald workers, issued a background paper on uranium health effects and helped to organize a community meeting. The meeting quickly turned into a confrontation between union members and community residents on one side, and NLO and DOE officials on the other side.

Workers and other residents wanted to know the extent of air and water contamination at Fernald. They attacked DOE supervision of the plant and demanded that the DOE allow investigators from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) inspect the site.

Kathy Meyer, a spokesperson for Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), feared the plant was giving her children cancer and wanted to know "right now" what DOE was going to do. "It's your responsibility, not mine," she said.

Maggie Merritt, who lives in a mobile-home park near the plant, told the *Militant* that she is suspicious of NLO and DOE assurances of safety. "I don't think they know how much radiation our bodies can take. It's not right that we are used as guinea pigs just because we're low- and middle-income people."

A 1983 study of Fernald workers' health records going back 31 years revealed that they are 2.5 to 5 times more likely to suffer from lung diseases as other workers. Another study showed a 12 percent excess death rate from stomach and colon cancer at Fernald.

In 1980, Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment (CARE), a Cincinnati anti-nuclear-power group, obtained documents through the Freedom of Information Act revealing serious health and safety problems at Fernald.

Over the years NLO has routinely released large quantities of radioactive uranium dust into the air. A DOE report now admits that at least 200,000 pounds of uranium dust has been dumped into the air since the plant started operating in 1952.

There is no standard for radioactive air pollution at Fernald. Under current government policy, only the DOE can set radiation standards for government-owned plants. In 1981, the Sierra Club sued the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

under the Clean Air Act for failure to establish radioactive air pollution standards at DOE plants. The EPA proposed some standards, but they were dropped by EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus in defiance of a court order.

DOE standards are worthless. According to Geoffrey Sea, a health and safety consultant for the Fernald unions, "the DOE is essentially the only agency whose officials still maintain that radiation is not hazardous, or that substances like uranium are not hazardous."

"The real question is, are we going to wait to count the corpses, or are we going to do something now to protect people from needless exposure?"

Over a half-million tons of radioactive wastes — containing uranium, radium, and thorium — are buried or stored at the Fernald site.

Effect on farm land

The soil at Fernald is severely contaminated. The plant is surrounded by farm land. Milk cows and beef cattle graze on land adjacent to the plant. Rain and melting snow carry dissolved uranium into a nearby stream which flows into the Great Miami River. Every year NLO dumps wastewater containing 1,000 pounds of radioactive uranium directly into the river.

A 1981 study by the U.S. Geological Survey revealed that three wells near the plant are contaminated with high concentrations of uranium. DOE officials have known about the wells since 1981, but have refused to reveal their locations until now.

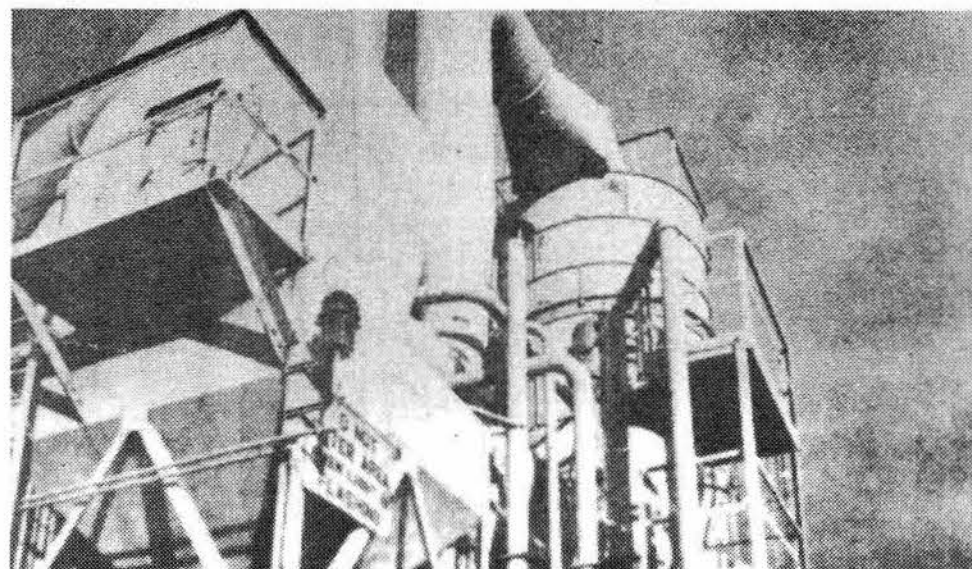
The December community meeting put the government on notice that the Fernald unions were going to lead a fight for an investigation and clean-up at the plant. Subsequent events showed that the unions had put the government on the defensive.

The DOE brought in a mobile radiation monitoring laboratory for free tests. This was done to try to make residents feel they were safe from radiation. DOE officials also said that NIOSH investigators would be allowed to inspect Fernald.

The Ohio attorney general announced that he was filing a pollution lawsuit against DOE. DOE officials announced that NLO's contract would be open for bids instead of automatically renewed as it has been for 31 years. NLO announced that it would not bid for the contract. Rep. Thomas Luken (D-Ohio) announced a congressional Energy and Commerce Committee investigation into the Fernald operation.

Gag order on workers

Eugene Branham, vice-president of the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council, welcomed DOE's decision to allow NIOSH investigators to inspect the plant. However, he discounted assurances by DOE officials that Fernald workers who talked with NIOSH investigators would not lose the "Q" security clearance and then be fired by NLO. He said that NLO and DOE



Fernald uranium-enrichment plant recently blew 350 pounds of radioactive dust into air. In over 30 years of operation, tons of such waste have contaminated air, water wells, and streams near Cincinnati. Inset is cartoon condemning U.S. Department of Energy and NLO Inc.'s handling of investigation.

have a "gag-order" at Fernald and demanded a written document legally protecting workers who talk to NIOSH.

Another community meeting, this one convened by FRESH, was held in January. An estimated 200 Fernald workers and residents listened politely while Representative Luken and others told them that the government is acting to eliminate the potential health hazards at Fernald.

The discussion revealed the deep divisions in the Fernald community. Sea, speaking for the unions, pointed out that without legal protection from dismissal, Fernald workers cannot tell their story to doctors or the news media. "The workers," said Sea, "are the only independent voice you have."

One woman, whose husband had worked in the plant for many years, came to the meeting to defend NLO's safety record. So did a man who currently works in the plant.

Doreen Estes, a young mother who lives near the plant, said, "I'm concerned about the tons of wastes seeping into our water. I feel royally screwed by our government who's known about this for years."

Speaker after speaker came back to the fact that the government knew about the situation at Fernald for many years, but said nothing to the workers or nearby residents.

"They let us go for years without know-

ing about the contaminated wells. Aren't they under a moral obligation?" asked one young woman. "Then you wonder why we don't trust the government and want an independent agency," she added.

Vital to national defense?

Most Fernald workers and residents are grappling with the government's view that the facility is too vital to "national defense" to be shut down. They are at this time demanding safety, rather than conversion of the plant to non-nuclear, non-military production.

But one farm woman who spoke at the January community meeting asked, "Why can't we close down this plant? We're killing ourselves to kill the Russians! Money doesn't mean as much to us as life."

Several Fernald residents have now filed a \$300 million lawsuit against NLO for property damage, potential health damage, and emotional distress. It is a class-action lawsuit on behalf of everyone who lives within 10 miles of the plant.

Attorney Stanley Chesley, representing the residents, said, "I want to open up the whole plant to public scrutiny." Commenting on the rural location of the plant, he said, "People live out here because it is peaceful, and the next thing you know, they are in the middle of nuclear waste and uranium dust."

Alabama Blacks victims in toxic dumping

BY MARTY BOYERS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Black workers and farmers in impoverished rural areas of Alabama and Mississippi are becoming the prime victims of the largest toxic waste dump in the United States.

Their fight was described at the Militant Labor Forum here January 12 by Wendell Paris, chairman of the Minority Peoples' Council on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (MPC).

Emelle, Alabama, site of the dump, is being turned into "the nation's outhouse," Paris said. He explained that more than 300 different toxic chemicals from 45 states and 6 foreign countries were included in the 288,000 tons of waste buried at Emelle in 1983.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) admitted Dec. 12, 1984,

that preliminary tests show the dump contains dioxin in concentrations of 12 parts per billion. Dioxin is a deadly chemical linked to cancer, birth defects, and nerve, liver, kidney, and bladder diseases. It is considered dangerous in concentrations as low as 1 part per billion.

In an Oct. 17, 1984, memo, EPA analyst William Sanjour wrote, "It is clear that the Emelle site is leaking." He later charged EPA officials with hindering safety monitoring.

Blacks victimized

The EPA views Emelle as the solution to protests against toxic waste contamination in other parts of the country. Wendell Paris charged. He said poisons from such infamous sites as Times Beach, Missouri, and Love Canal, New York, have been or will

be shipped to Emelle.

Paris accused the EPA of encouraging waste dumping in areas that are Black and poor. The small town of Emelle is 90 percent Black.

The Minority Peoples' Council grew out of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, an organization of farmers in the Black Belt section of Alabama and Mississippi. The Black Belt, originally named for its rich black cotton-growing soil, also has a predominately Black population.

The Minority Peoples' Council was formed in 1974, Paris explained, to demand that the giant \$2 billion Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway project pay adequate prices for Black-owned land and institute affirmative action in employment.

The MPC became involved in the waste

Continued on Page 13

Pleased to meet your soup — Trendy New York restaurants are becoming noisier and more crowded. Owner greed? Non-



Harry Ring

sense. "Don't forget," reminded one operator, "people who have grown up with a lot of noise ... think of these restaurants as one big party." Added another, "The

trend is for customers to communicate with one another, to introduce themselves, so we like to have them close together."

The chic carcinogen — R.J. Reynolds, the coffin-nail folk, are test marketing Ritz. "The first luxury class cigarette designed by Yves St. Laurent."

A Big Mac à la bourgeois — In Portland, Ore., sign up the youngsters for "Manners and Etiquette." "20 young ladies and 20 young gentlemen between the ages of 7 and 14 will receive expert instruction in the manners, ceremonies and customs associated with fine dining.... During the three-ses-

sion course, children learn how to speak with adults; greet a maitre d'; order from a menu, summon a waiter ... enrollment, \$50 per child."

2-for-1 sale — A new designer has hit the Big Apple with reversible custom-made clothing, featuring different patterns inside and out. A vest with square armholes, \$300. A coat, taupe on the outside, red inside, \$700.

Cover-your-rump dep't — Discussing the question of companies being nipped by employees, Robert Courtney, a security consultant, says the likelihood of prosecution is inversely propor-

tional to the amount of money involved. He cited the case of an insurance company that was taken for \$38.1 million by a senior exec and never reported it to the gendarmes. "Who the hell," Courtney enquired, "wants to display their managerial shortcomings to their constituents?"

Subway crime — We recently reported that five top execs of the New York Transit Authority knock down over \$100,000 a year for the way they run the subways. A TA spokesperson now says the number of those in the \$100,000 plus category is actually eight. "No one told me they got raises," he explained.



Conrad

"We make money the old-fashioned way — we steal it!"

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

South Africa: The Freedom Struggle Today. Speaker: Sifiso Makathini, representative of the African National Congress. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Lessons of the Phelps Dodge Copper Strike. Video presentation of *High Stakes in Morenci*. Speakers: Jeannie López, Morenci Miners Women's Auxiliary; Clifford Hicks, striking copper miner; Karen Kopperud, Socialist Workers Party, *Militant* correspondent on copper strike. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell Rd. room 3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

How to Stop Racist Violence in Atlanta. Speakers: Jeff Rogers, Socialist Workers Party, member International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2127; Gary Washington, union activist. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

Malcolm X Speaks. A film and discussion. Sun., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Revolutionary Legacy of Malcolm X. A panel discussion on the ideas of Malcolm X on the 20th anniversary of his assassination. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

South Africa: The Struggle Against Apartheid Today. A panel discussion. Sat., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Famine in Ethiopia: Who Is Responsible? Speaker: Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 809 Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor

Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Malcolm X: Sandino of the United States. Fri., Feb. 22, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

U.S. Hands Off Central America: Stop U.S. Government Attacks on Antiwar Movement! Demonstrate April 20! Speakers: Prof. Charles Tontar, Greater Lawrence Central American Solidarity Ass'n; Bev Treumann, NICA; Jim Wallace, Old Cambridge and Baptist Church Sanctuary Group; Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201. Sun., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The War in Central America: What's at Stake for Working People. Speakers: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. Casa de Unidad, 1906 25 St. (corner of Vernor). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Hunger in Ethiopia — Who is Responsible? Speaker: Michael Maggi, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers union. Sun., Feb. 17, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Toward Independent Black Political Action — Malcolm X's Contribution. Speakers: August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party; Janice Payne-Dorlaie, National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., Feb. 24, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

El Salvador — Current Stage of the Revolutionary Struggle. Sun., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.

3109 S Grand, #22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

El-Haj Malik el-Shabazz. A film on Malcolm X followed by discussion on his relevance today, led by Mohammed Oliver, National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 15, pre-forum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner Raymond, 1 block from Broad). Donation: forum, \$2; dinner, \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Why Workers and Young People Should Oppose the Bosses' War on Crime. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: New York Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

The Famine in Africa — Who is to Blame? Speakers: Representative of Ethiopian Mission to the United Nations; Lee Martindale, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea. Speaker: Diane Wang, coauthor, *Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea*. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm, Suite 522. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON

Portland

New York Subway Shooting: Racist Vigilantism or Self-defense? Speaker: Chris Brandon, Young Socialist Alliance, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1005. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

End Apartheid in South Africa. Panel discussion with Godfrey Sithole, representative of African National Congress of South Africa and

other speakers. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

In Defense of Democratic Rights. Against Police, Court, and Vigilante Attacks on Union Activists, Immigrant Workers, Political Refugees, Blacks, and Political Activists. A panel discussion. Speakers: Representative of Interfaith Sanctuary Movement; Neil Price, National Lawyers Guild; others. Sun., Feb. 17, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Tribute to Malcolm X. Sat., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Price

Profit vs. Safety — from India to Utah. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., room 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Vigilantes and "Law and Order": A Socialist Perspective. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Celebration of Black History Month. Two film showings.

1. *Maurice*. Tidewater premiere of Cuban film on Maurice Bishop and the Grenada revolution 1979-83. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

2. *Malcolm X, the Struggle for Freedom*. Sat., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2 each film. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt. Why the U.S. Government Supports Apartheid. Speaker: Mike Shur, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1103. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

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

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

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. **Seaside:** SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1645. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-1018.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat

Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

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

INDIANA: Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

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

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

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

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

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

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-

0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

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

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

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

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Road. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 826-4711. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0655.

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

Ala. Blacks framed up in 'vote-fraud' case

BY MARTY BOYERS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The U.S. Justice Department has opened a new attack on Black voting rights with the indictment of three Black political activists from rural Perry County, Alabama.

On January 25 a federal grand jury in Mobile issued a 29-count charge against Albert Turner, Evelyn Turner, and Spencer Hogue, Jr. The three, officials of the Perry County Civic League, are accused of election law violations, mail fraud, and conspiracy in connection with absentee balloting in the Sept. 4, 1984, Democratic Party primary election. If convicted they face a combine total of 265 years in prison.

Albert Turner has been a prominent civil rights leader in Alabama for decades. He was an organizer of the historic 1965 Selma to Montgomery march and was Alabama director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1965 to 1972.

Turner later worked with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, an organization of small farmers in the Black Belt of Alabama and Mississippi. He is currently president of the Perry County Civic League.

The real purpose of the indictments is "to stop the political progress of Black people in the Alabama Black Belt," Albert Turner charged. "The power structure wants to turn back the hands of time in Perry County and throughout west Alabama."

In the late 1970s and early '80s, Black voters turned out in record numbers to sweep out white racist politicians who had been able to dominate majority-Black counties through gerrymandering and intimidation.

Turner helped lead a victorious fight to redraw state legislative districts so Blacks would have a better chance to elect representatives.

Attorney Henry Sanders will be defending Turner in court. "This is a purely political trial to weaken the voting strength of Black people," Sanders said. "It has nothing to do with a criminal act."

J.L. Chestnut, a prominent civil rights attorney from Selma, is also on the legal defense team. He stated: "When we get to court, all of the people — especially the Uncle Toms who have been giving secret testimony to the FBI and the federal grand jury — will have to make their statements in open court subject to cross-examination. Then the real truth will come out about this case."

El Salvador war

Continued from Page 7

more than 4,000 marched for "peace with justice."

And as inflation accelerated and unemployment rose to an official figure of 40 percent, more than 350,000 workers took part in 112 strikes during 1984.

According to a year-end report by the FMLN, 46 of the strikes were for solely economic demands. But, as an indicator of growing class consciousness, 14 of the strikes were for economic and political demands (such as the release of political prisoners); 9 were for both economic reasons and in solidarity with other strikes; and 12 were called solely in solidarity with other strikes.

Despite the infusion of U.S. dollars, El Salvador's economic growth declined in 1984, by about 1.7 percent. Four out of 10 acres planted in coffee have been abandoned by growers, either because of the war or lack of funds. Textile mills are closing because they cannot afford to buy cotton. Cotton growers, now four years behind on repaying government loans, are having difficulty raising money to plant.

The buying power of the minimum wage in the cities has dropped by 65 percent in the last four years of war. Farm workers, in demanding a wage increase, point out that the pittance they are paid "is not sufficient to purchase even the most indispensable goods needed to survive."

The Duarte regime offers no hope to anyone except the richest capitalists and bankers. Out of nearly a billion dollars for government spending in 1985, more than 27 percent is earmarked for the war — nearly three and a half times as much as will be spent on public health.

More victimizations of Black political activists are expected. Right now there are at least three federal grand jury investigations aimed at Blacks from rural Alabama.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives, with strong links to the civil rights movement, was the target of an unsuccessful attempt by the Internal Revenue Service to revoke its tax-exempt status and of a 22-month grand jury investigation that failed to produce any indictments.

The precedent for using trumped-up "vote fraud" charges in this witch-hunt was set with the 1979 convictions of Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder, Black women from Pickens County, Alabama, on similar accusations involving absentee ballots. Their convictions were eventually overturned after national protests.

The Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee has been organized to support the "Perry County Three" and any others who fall victim to grand jury frame-ups. Rev. John Nettles, Alabama SCLC president, joined other civil rights supporters in a protest at the federal courthouse in Mobile at the arraignment January 31.

To find out more information, contact the Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee, PO Box 5, Gainesville, Alabama 34564, or call (205) 652-6298.

Blacks are victims of Ala. toxic dump

Continued from Page 11

dump when 15 workers walked off the job to protest the firing of a truck driver. The driver had refused to drive a vehicle without brakes, carrying hazardous wastes, down a steep grade into a pit at night.

Workers who become aware of the health dangers posed by what they are handling, or who complain of illnesses that might be caused by the dump, continue to be fired.

Last year the EPA cited Chemical Waste Management, owner of the dump, for storing 2 million gallons of PCBs — a known cancer-causing substance — for more than a year, in violation of federal regulations.

Management officials tell dump employees that the PCBs are safe enough to take a shower in. Yet the Black workers handling the wastes are supervised by managers who watch from far away, using binoculars, Paris said.

Leukemia, rashes

Although it takes 15 years or more for some PCB effects to show up, health problems have already arisen in the four years that PCBs have been dumped. Three dump workers have leukemia, while others have developed chronic rashes and headaches.

Shortly after a cloud of gas escaped from a dump pit, three babies died from mysterious complications of what seemed to be simple infections. One effect of PCBs is to reduce the body's ability to resist infections. Some farm animals have also been killed by fumes.

Chemical Waste Management preys on the poverty and dependence of local residents. The dump is the largest employer in Sumter County. Its 350 workers are paid up to \$8.50 an hour, far above average in that area.

In addition, a \$2-per-barrel dump tax finances the county's schools and several local governments. In this way, Paris explained, Chemical Waste Management and the Democratic Party officials who have promoted the dump try to get the area "addicted" to the alleged economic benefits.

When candidates who were Black swept the Sumter County elections to the state legislature in 1983, they tried to change the tax structure to reduce dependence on the dump. But the local legislators' authority over the issue was removed by the Alabama legislature, in a violation of its established procedures.

This reduction of the powers of Black elected officials violates the Voting Rights Act, the federal Justice Department at first ruled. But Paris said that under pressure from Jeremiah Denton, Republican senator from Alabama, the ruling was reversed.

Paris believes the answer to the problem of the dump must be related to economic development of the area. He proposes dras-



Albert Turner, lower left, leading Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral march in Atlanta, April 1968. Today he is one of victims of drive to deny Blacks a political voice.

tically increasing the tax on wastes brought to the dump, so that the companies that produce the wastes would no longer find it profitable to ship them there. He pointed out that it is technically feasible to incinerate PCBs to break down the toxins — but today it's far cheaper for companies to just dump the stuff at Emelle.

Paris also explained that those who have profited from producing and storing the poisons at Emelle should be forced to pay into an economic development fund so that residents can find safe and productive jobs once the fight to close the dump is successful.

200 truckloads a day

The scope of the disaster that is being created at Emelle is nearly incomprehensible. While the average waste dump in the United States is about 20 acres, the Emelle site is 2,400 acres. And new pits are being dug continually to accommodate the estimated 200 truckloads a day of poisons ar-

iving there. Under the dump are three major aquifers, or underground streams, which could carry contamination as far as Mobile and Birmingham.

Environmentalists have visited the area to help educate residents on the effects of toxic wastes. National civil rights groups, such as the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, have also taken up the cause. Rev. Ben Chavis from the commission joined local protesters in a candlelight vigil in Emelle last fall. The Minority Peoples' Council plans to continue public protests.

The MPC has invited a biochemist to do an independent study of the dump's effects. Paris expects that a class-action suit against Chemical Waste Management and federal and state agencies will result.

For more information about MPC's activities, contact the Minority Peoples' Council, Post Office Box 5, Gainesville, Alabama 35464, or call 205-652-9843 or 652-9676.

Life at new GM-Toyota plant

Continued from back page

After all this a former GM employee might be given a start date to return to the same factory where he or she had already worked 10, 15, or 20 years.

The plant is currently only doing small test runs of cars, so the relations between management and workers appear very easygoing and relaxed. Making 10 cars a week is quite different than full production.

Workers at the plant are happy to have a job and are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

'Team' concept

One of the ways the plant is organized is by the "team" concept. Every NUMMI worker is part of the team. Everyone eats in the same cafeteria and parks in the same parking lot. Each department is a team headed by a manager. Each department is divided into groups headed by a group leader. Each group is divided into more teams with a team leader.

All of these teams and groups have lots of meetings. So far most of the meetings are on work time but the idea has been raised that voluntary meetings could be scheduled after or before work.

NUMMI has a 90-day "evaluation period." Probation is a more accurate word. Virtually everyone working there now is in their first 90 days, or is management.

The company has a voluntary uniform, voluntary 4 minute exercises before work, and a short voluntary meeting before work. Virtually everyone volunteers.

All the management, from group leaders up, are salaried and not in the union. Team leaders are hourly and are in the union. Production workers start at \$10.63 an hour, not counting cost-of-living adjustments.

The union doesn't have a contract with NUMMI, just the letter of intent.

The old UAW Local 1364 was dissolved by the UAW International. It has been replaced with Local 2244.

Bruce Lee, director of UAW Region 6, has appointed a temporary shop committee made up of NUMMI employees. Most of the committeemen and alternates are team leaders.

No grievance procedure

There is no grievance procedure in effect. The company says none is needed. Problems are supposed to be resolved through discussions in the teams and with the group and team leaders. In extreme cases the union committeeman can also be talked to. The question has been raised of what happens if your problem is your team leader and he's also your committeeman. Workers are waiting to see what management and especially what the UAW will do.

Elections for union office in the local are scheduled for February.

Negotiations for a contract are scheduled to begin in April and a contract must be signed no later than June 30, 1985, which is the expiration of the letter of intent.

The next year will be an important experience and challenge for UAW members working at NUMMI.

Death row slaughter steps up

Whether it's death by lethal injection, hanging, electrocution, poisonous gas, or firing squad, government executions are still murder. And on January 21 the Supreme Court made it a lot easier for the courts to step up the slaughter.

The high court ruled that jurors who expressed even the slightest doubt about capital punishment could be removed from juries where such a sentence could be given.

Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, one of the two who dissented on the decision, pointed out the ruling would result in juries predisposed to hand down the death penalty.

Brennan also noted that the Supreme Court has increasingly aided the government "and its prosecutors in facilitating efficient and expedient conviction and execution irrespective of the Constitution's fundamental guarantees." Death row inmates are finding their rights to appeal being restricted, or, if they're lucky enough to have their cases heard, their appeals are denied.

Protests by the civil rights and student movements forced the Supreme Court to bar these state-ordered killings in 1972. But now the U.S. rulers' murderous campaign against working people is escalating.

The legal bloodbath began with a 1976 Supreme Court decision allowing states to restore the death penalty. Thirty-eight states have since authorized this form of legal murder. The death penalty is a weapon of terror wielded by the ruling rich against workers and farmers — only working people are its victims.

And the pace of these executions is stepping up: in 1977, the capitalist executioners murdered one worker. In 1979, they killed two more. They killed another in 1981, and two more in 1982. In 1983, the rulers executed five workers. In 1984, they murdered 21. They've already killed five in 1985 — a rate that, if it holds, will mean 60 workers will fall victim to the capitalist death penalty this year.

Blacks are especially victimized by this legal lynching — a fact the rulers have tried to cover up in their recent wave of bloodletting. The first five people executed, from 1977 to 1982, were white. Since then, 11 of the 30 people executed were Black. That's more than a third.

With some 40 percent of death-row inmates being Black, this ratio will increase.

Roosevelt Green, a 28-year-old Black migrant worker, was murdered in Georgia's electric chair on January 9. "What you people are about to witness," Green told those gathered to observe his execution, "is a grave injustice. I'm about to die for a murder I did not commit."

In addition to pleading his innocence, Green also explained the racist nature of the death penalty. While being held in a county jail during his trial, Green said, a cop told him, "Two nigger lives are not worth one of a white."

Normalize relations with Cuba!

The Cuban government has taken advantage of recent visits to Cuba by U.S. congresspeople and clergy to call for negotiations between Havana and Washington on areas of mutual concern, including the escalating war in Central America (see news story on page 3).

The U.S. government's response? No deal.

First, a State Department spokesman simply dismissed the proposal for talks, saying, "We put no stock in this whatsoever."

Then the White House, while claiming that the "lines of communication, for our part, remain open," issued a series of preconditions Cuba would have to meet before Washington would talk. These were: an end to Cuban support for liberation struggles in Latin America; withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and Ethiopia; an end to Cuba's links with the Soviet Union; and an end to the alleged "violation of human rights in Cuba."

In other words, the arrogant imperialist rulers of the United States are demanding that the Cuban people reverse their domestic and international policies to accommodate the wishes of the White House before Washington will cease treating Cuba as an enemy nation.

The capitalist politicians who went to Cuba say that Castro's call for talks is a brand new policy for the Cuban government. "Clearly Cuba is in a new mood for accommodation," declared Rep. James Leach.

The fact is, however, that Cuba's revolutionary government has *always* favored normalization of relations with the United States. It is Washington that has always rejected the idea.

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

Castro had pointed out in another interview, earlier that year, that the deep political differences between Cuba and Washington "should not mean that there might

Green's lawyer, August Siemon, cited a study showing that Blacks who were convicted of killing whites were 33 times more likely to get the death sentence in Georgia than whites convicted of killing Blacks.

Through their backing of this legal murder, the employers, their government, and their two parties — the Republicans and Democrats — have emboldened the most extreme reactionary, racist, and antilabor elements. When James Raulerson was executed in Florida on January 30, more than 60 Jacksonville cops waited outside the prison in a bloodthirsty vigil. Raulerson was accused of killing a cop, although he asserted his innocence until the very end.

Some of the cops outside the prison wore T-shirts with a drawing of the electric chair and the words "Crank up Old Sparky." The cops cheered when the execution was complete.

Government and prison officials have recently been encouraging people to observe the executions, both relatives of the accused and families of those the accused allegedly killed. The rulers hope in this way to make the death penalty seem more acceptable.

The purpose of the death penalty is to terrorize and discipline workers and farmers. It plays a similar role as that of the cops, who are blowing away increasing numbers of working-class and, especially, Black youth. The death penalty is part of the capitalist "law and order" campaign designed to beat working people into submission and keep us there.

The legal terror of the capitalist government inspires the extra-legal violence of racist vigilantes such as Bernhard Goetz in New York City. It also encourages the rightist antiabortion bombing campaign aimed at denying women the constitutional right to control their own bodies.

The rulers also intend to use the death penalty to directly intimidate combative workers and farmers who fight back against the capitalist drive against our lives and livelihood. Moves to make "conspiracies" against "national security" punishable by death — as the U.S. Senate voted to do last year — enhance the rulers' ability to do this. They hope to frame up trade union militants, as well as fighters for Black rights, antiwar activists, socialists, and other political activists on just such charges.

Capital punishment is immoral, unconstitutional, and barbaric. Moreover, it's a capitalist cudgel with which to beat working people. The entire labor movement has a stake in fighting to abolish the death penalty and putting an end to this racist, anti-working class slaughter.

We should heed the advice of Joseph Shaw, killed in South Carolina's electric chair on January 11: "To those who oppose the death penalty in South Carolina, I say continue the fight against the hatred, violence, and revenge of this punitive form of punishment."

not be major areas in which both countries and governments could work constructively."

The wealthy ruling families of the United States have good reason, for their part, to oppose any warming of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Washington's diplomatic deep-freeze of Cuba is a key part of the 26-year-long U.S. campaign of economic warfare, political slander, and military aggression against Cuba.

By portraying Cuba as international outlaw number one — a country so "subversive" that even basic diplomacy is impossible — Washington tries to justify its criminal record of economic blockade, invasion, assassinations and other acts of terror against Cubans abroad, internal sabotage, biological warfare, destabilization efforts organized and inspired by the CIA, and constant military provocations and pressures.

Washington's policy has become more belligerent in the past several years as U.S. intervention in the region, directed at the revolutions in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Grenada, as well as Cuba, has increased.

U.S. working people have every interest in demanding an end to Washington's anti-Cuba campaign and supporting Cuba's call for normal relations.

This means an immediate end to the military threats and economic blockade. There should be no restraints on allowing Cuban citizens — including government officials, scientific and technical personnel, and artists — into the United States.

The current restrictions on the right of Cuban diplomats living here to travel freely should be lifted.

The Supreme Court-backed travel ban, which prevents U.S. working people from visiting Cuba and seeing the truth about the revolution for themselves, should be struck down.

The Pentagon should immediately dismantle its naval base at Cuba's Guantánamo Bay.

Cuba is also directly endangered by Washington's war against Nicaragua and El Salvador. That's why building the largest possible antiwar demonstrations in Washington, Los Angeles, and San Francisco on April 20 is the most important thing opponents of Washington's anti-Cuba campaign can do.

Cuban Communist Party thesis on women's equality

From 1959 on, the Cuban revolution has charted an exemplary course in the fight to overcome women's oppression.

The leadership of the revolution has consciously advanced this fight from the very beginning. It has waged a three-sided campaign.

First, it encouraged the establishment of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) in 1960 to mobilize and involve the masses of women in the revolutionary process. This included helping to lead the "revolution within the revolution," as Cuban president Fidel Castro described the fight for women's liberation in Cuba.

Second, the Cuban communists campaigned against sexist prejudice, which remains as a legacy of centuries of class rule and imperialist domination.

The third aspect of this campaign has been a relentless drive to create both the material and political conditions for a historic expansion of Cuban women's participation in social production. This is summarized by Elizabeth Stone in her introduction to *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, a book reprinting key speeches and resolutions documenting this entire process.

Stone explains: "The Cuban leadership understood — as Marxists have long explained — that women's oppres-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

sion stems from their being confined to the home, isolated from broader social life, economically dependent upon their husbands. It was understood that to be fully free, Cuban women not only had to be capable of financially supporting themselves, but also had to take full part in the social, cultural, political, and economic life of the country."

Reprinted below is a selection from "Thesis: On the Full Exercise of Women's Equality," adopted by the First Congress of the Cuban Communist Party in 1975, the full text of which is in *Women and the Cuban Revolution*.

This book is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014, for \$4.95 plus \$0.75 for postage and handling.

* * *

The socialist revolution has laid the foundations that guarantee the rights of women, placing them on a footing of full equality with men. But do women really exercise all these rights? What are the factors that prevent this from being so?

As was exhaustively examined at the Second Congress of the FMC, situations of inequality persist not only as a consequence of material difficulties, which will be eliminated in the process of economic development, but also because views and attitudes are frequently held that are out of keeping with the postulates and laws of our socialist society.

A fundamental battle must be waged in the field of consciousness, because backward ideas that we have dragged with us from the past continue to exist here.

Discrimination against women goes back many centuries — since, with the disintegration of the primitive community and the establishment of private property and the division of society into classes, men attained economic supremacy, and with it, social predominance.

Through the different regimes based on the exploitation of man by man, women were relegated to the narrow framework of the household. They were discriminated against and had limited possibilities for participating in social production, or were mercilessly exploited.

These ideas, which prevailed in our country until the overthrow of the capitalist system, have no place in the stage of building the new society.

Both in their integration as a permanent labor force and in the countless voluntary tasks that have been carried out over the years, women have unquestionably demonstrated their sense of responsibility, their intellectual capacity, their potential for leadership, their determination, steadfastness, and dynamism.

Hundreds of thousands of *compañeras* have overcome real difficulties in order to become fully integrated into revolutionary tasks and to make their contribution to socialist construction.

They have shown that they are able to lead, to develop economic plans, to carry out party tasks.

They have shared the same battle trenches in the face of enemy aggression, ready to give their lives for the revolution.

Cuban women have fully demonstrated that they are able to successfully carry out whatever tasks are assigned to them.

Therefore, it is necessary for the party, state bodies, enterprises, and political and mass organizations to see to it that unjust criteria or decisions are not applied that run counter to the revolution's intention of ending women's inequality.

Gov't opens new attack on affirmative action

U.S. employers and their government in Washington are on a concerted drive against affirmative action for Blacks, other oppressed nationalities, and women. The latest attack comes from the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. This body was set up 28 years ago under the pressure of the civil rights movement, which was demanding government action to advance Black rights. The commission is being used today to attack civil rights.

On January 31 commission chairman Clarence Pendleton and vice-chairman Morris Abram held a news conference



**BY ANY MEANS
NECESSARY**
Mohammed Oliver

ence to release the panel's report, "Toward an Understanding of Stotts." Carl Stotts is a Black fire fighter in Memphis, Tennessee. The 64-page report is the government body's analysis of the June 1984 Supreme Court decision concerning the Memphis, Tennessee, fire department. Pendleton and Abram said the ruling "is a nail in the coffin of discriminatory affirmative action such as quotas."

Under an affirmative action consent decree, the Memphis fire department made progress in correcting the effects of racist hiring practices. Prior to the decree, Memphis, which is 37 percent Black, had a fire department that was only 3 percent Black. The affirmative-action plan boosted that figure to 10 percent.

In 1981, however, slated cutbacks threatened to wipe out these gains. A district judge ruled that the layoff take place in such a way that the percentage of Blacks in the fire department not be reduced. As a result, three white workers were laid off outside of strict seniority. They were out of work for a month.

The city government and fire-fighters union appealed the lower court's ruling all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court ruled that the union seniority lists couldn't be altered to meet affirmative-action quotas. This decision was a blow to affirmative action, upholding the "last hired, first fired" policy that has victimized Blacks, Latinos, and women.

It's this ruling that Pendleton hailed at the January 31 news conference.

Pendleton, who is Black, said that civil rights progress couldn't be measured in terms of percentages. "There's nothing in the laws that I read that talks about a percentage of anything," said Pendleton. "Every civil rights law that I read talks about opportunity being available equally and that there will be no special preferences."

But special preferences *do* exist — for white men. There's no way to end unequal employment of Blacks, Latinos, and women without taking affirmative action. That means *giving preferential treatment* to the victims of race and sex discrimination.

Pendleton, however, said such preferences "constitute another form of unjustified discrimination." Here, Pendleton echoes his ruling-class masters, who claim that Blacks who fight for their equality are "racists in reverse." Affirmative action isn't racist. It's a necessary step to begin eliminating centuries of job discrimination against oppressed nationalities and women.

Moreover, the only way for such affirmative-action programs to have any teeth is for them to include quotas. The government attacks quotas precisely because they are the heart of affirmative action.

Blacks, Latinos, and women waged hard-fought battles to win affirmative action. These struggles forced employers to hire more of these workers. Now the bosses are trying to use layoffs to get rid of as many of these newer employees as they can.

The June 1984 Supreme Court decision ratified this process. In holding their January 31 news conference, Pendleton and Abram were essentially announcing the administration's intention to further step up its attacks on affirmative action.

Just two days before the news conference, Pendleton and other commission members met with President Reagan. After the meeting Pendleton told reporters that "We believe that quotas are a dead issue and we want to keep on course and make certain that . . . there is equality of opportunity and not a mandate for positive results."

But positive results is what we want. We want jobs — not merely the "opportunity" to seek employment. Quotas are *not* "dead" as far as we're concerned. The laws Pendleton referred to say we're all equal, but the reality is that white men are more equal than others. Without affirmative-action programs with quotas, Blacks, Latinos, and women will continue to be the last hired and first fired.

The entire labor movement should join in fighting to protect affirmative-action gains. By demanding seniority agreements that safeguard affirmative action during layoffs, the unions will be forging the sort of solidarity so urgently needed against the current employer attacks.

LETTERS

Central America

On behalf of everyone here that has the opportunity to read your paper, we hope that for the coming new year you will provide even more coverage of world events, especially the war that's going on in Central America.

I would like to read Maurice Bishop's speeches and in this way I can understand more about his position in Grenada. All that I know was made available through reading your paper, which has broadened my scope a great deal. Thank you for making this possible.

*A prisoner
Bedford Hills, New York*

Abortion vigil

I participated in a vigil at the Feminist Women's Health Center in Los Angeles the weekend of January 18-21. The National Organization for Women (NOW) had initiated the call for such vigils.

During the weekend, there were two bomb threats. Somebody had called the clinic and asked, "Is this where they kill babies? We will do anything to stop the killing."

On Monday night at a few minutes past 2:00 a.m. a caller said that the Westside Women's Clinic would blow up at 3:30 a.m. and the Feminist Women's Health Center at 4:00 a.m. The clinics were evacuated, but no bombs were found.

Standing on the line outside the clinic throughout the vigil, we held signs that said, "Abortion is a woman's right to choose," "NOW is here to defend your rights," "We won't go back to the alleys," and "Antiabortion is Antiwomen." A hand-painted sign above the door said, "Terrorism must stop!"

Passersby stopped and asked us in English and Spanish what was going on. They were usually friendly. "Sure, it's up to a woman what she wants to do" was a typical response. Some said they opposed abortion, but thought it was wrong to bomb the clinics. Most were supportive, but unsure of the issues involved. Many thanked us for informing them on the issues.

This made so clear not only that we have to organize actions to defend abortion rights, but how important it is to educate on the issue. We must explain that abortion is a woman's right; how safe, legal abortion saves the lives of

women; what it meant in suffering for women before abortion was legal.

About 50 people, united by the urgent need to defend abortion rights, held a meeting and decided to plan an action to support the local clinic, call an action for abortion rights on March 8, and organize a variety of educational activities.

*Sarah Matthews
Los Angeles, California*

Still picketing

Thank you for the *Militant* all these 18 months. We are still picketing with the copper strikers. We are retired people, age 69 and 70. We have enjoyed your paper immensely.

We have also had the pleasure of having your people in our home to partake of food and drink, as well as spending the night with us.

Mel Mason has also been here in our home. In fact, he helped prepare a breakfast for eight of us.

Thank you so much again for your informative publication.
*Mr. and Mrs. Ed Burchfield
Ajo, Arizona*

Defend gay rights

I've been reading about the defeat in Houston of measures that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians. A recent experience here in Maine drives home why we all have a stake in defending gay and lesbian rights.

A state Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which was on the ballot here last November was defeated. It had been passed overwhelmingly in the state legislature, endorsed and publicly supported repeatedly by all Republican and Democratic members of the Maine delegation in Congress and most statewide officeholders and candidates.

The antiabortion forces predictably organized serious opposition, and were bolstered when the Catholic Church withdrew its endorsement of the ERA and began to campaign against it, saying that the impact of the ERA on abortion was at best uncertain, and urging parishioners to vote against.

But the surprising element in the campaign, which has persisted and appears to be the larger reason for the defeat, was an incredible barrage of antigay propaganda,

much like the publicity campaign organized in Houston. Antigay ads attacking the ERA were carried in every newspaper in the state, from those which have refused to carry ads announcing meetings of gay civil rights groups, to those which editorially strongly supported the ERA.

Unfortunately, most pro-ERA campaign forces, instead of a forthright defense of the rights of gays and lesbians, limited their response to doggedly repeating that the ERA had nothing to do with homosexual rights.

The issue will be a live one around here for quite some time. In the wake of the murder last summer of a gay man who was thrown into a river in Bangor, civil rights and gay rights groups will be introducing a homosexual-rights bill in this year's legislature. We should learn a lesson from the defeat of the state ERA and all stand together to support this bill.

*Barbara West
Bath, Maine*

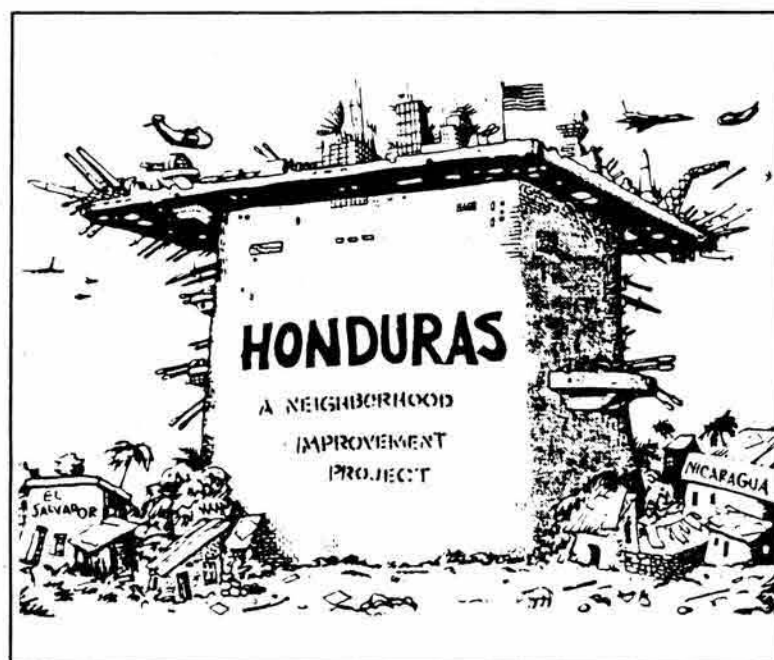
'Maurice'

A total of fifty people attended two film showings of the documentary, *Maurice*, held at the Militant Bookstore here in Seattle. This was the Seattle premiere of the film, made by Estela Bravos, a well-known Cuban filmmaker.

The film is a series of interviews interspersed with clips of the U.S. invading forces, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and of course, Maurice Bishop.

The opening interview is with George Louison, a former minister in the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) headed by Maurice Bishop, and now a leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Louison explains that the assassination of Bishop and other leaders by the clique around Bernard Coard was a counterrevolutionary coup that had succeeded in disarming the Grenadian people, paving the way for the subsequent U.S. invasion.

In my opinion, this film — with its interviews with students, with a soldier who refused to shoot into the massive crowd of demonstrators that had gathered to free Bishop from house arrest, and with the families of the slain PRG leaders — is incredibly powerful. It shows clearly that Maurice



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Bishop was a popular leader who had the full support of the people of Grenada.

A master stroke of irony is achieved with a clip of George Shultz on American TV, assuring the public that "we will not be an occupying force. The people of Grenada are entitled to a government of their choosing."

In another interview, the widow of slain PRG leader Unison White-man says that the airport at Port Salines, while it was being built by the PRG, was open to all Grenadian citizens at any time. This was while the U.S. was claiming it was a military installation. It is ironic, she says, that now that the U.S. calls it an "international airport," no one but military personnel can go there.

The film ends with Kendrick Radix, also a former minister in the PRG, pointing to the formation of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and the ongoing struggle of Grenadians to free themselves once more from the grip of imperialism.

The film can be rented from: The Cinema Guild, 1697 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10019 (212) 246-5522.

*Kaethejean Bleicher
Seattle, Washington*

Political prisoners

I would like for all readers of the *Militant* to remember that there are political prisoners and prison-

ers of war in the U.S. who need your strong support.

We have to remember that they, too, were fighting for a better future for the people, and still are. They sacrificed their lives to fight to stop the suffering of poor people in the U.S.

If we think back to the times when if any of our brothers and sisters were put in prison, the people would go out as one body to support these brothers and sisters. So let us not forget that we haven't won yet, and keep up the fight for the people.

*A prisoner
Auburn, New York*

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.

N.Y. cops defend 'right' to kill Blacks

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

NEW YORK — On February 1, New York City police commissioner Benjamin Ward reinstated the cop who murdered Eleanor Bumpurs here last October. Stephen Sullivan, who shotgunned Bumpurs to death, had been suspended for one day after being indicted on manslaughter charges. Ward put Sullivan back on the job at full pay.

"I'm damn mad about it," said Mary Bumpurs, daughter of the slain 66-year-old Black woman. "As far as I'm concerned, Ben Ward is the biggest fool in the world. He is just saying that he doesn't give a damn about a Black woman being killed."

Sullivan and several other Emergency Service Unit cops burst into Eleanor Bumpurs' apartment on October 29 and tried to evict her for being four months behind in rent. The cops claim that Sullivan killed Bumpurs because she threatened them with a kitchen knife.

"I'm surprised that something did take place, but I'm not satisfied," Mary Bumpurs said of the manslaughter charge. "I feel Sullivan should be sitting in jail for the rest of his life. I'm not satisfied ... I'm going to fight for more. I don't want him back out on the streets."

Outrage over the Bumpurs killing runs deep in the Black community. City officials hope that the Sullivan indictment will appease Blacks, who are increasingly concerned about cop and other racist violence.

But the cops are bitterly protesting the indictment. On February 4, Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Phil Caruso announced that all 252 Emergency Service Unit cops were asking to switch

jobs because of the treatment of Sullivan. "Our own elite troops of Emergency Service, who perform beyond the call of duty — all have requested a transfer," said Caruso.

"There will be no police officers volunteering to replace these officers," Caruso added. In addition, the cop outfit is organizing a "work" slowdown.

Mayor Edward Koch, whose sympathy for killer cops is well known, said he was sure his "elite troops" wouldn't desert their "duty."

But some liberals demanded the mayor take action to stop the cops' threatened actions. New Yorkers, these liberals claim, won't be safe without police "protection."

"Cops don't make the streets safe," said Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in New York City. "They're a danger to working people, especially Blacks and Latinos. Legal police terror encourages racist vigilantes like Bernhard Goetz."

"And now we have the spectacle of reactionary cops — who have nothing to do with the labor movement — calling a 'job action' to defend their 'right' to gun down a 66-year-old Black woman!"

"Liberal supporters of the capitalist 'law and order' campaign are also hailing Koch's recent move to place a cop on every subway train, and demand that more cops be put on the streets as well. But more cops will mean only one thing — more murders of working people like Eleanor Bumpurs."

"As far as I'm concerned," said González, "the first step in making New York's streets safe is to get the Sullivans, the rest of the cops, and the Goetz vigilantes off our streets and out of our communities!"



Cartoon from recent issue of *Barricada*, newspaper of Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua. Cartoon accompanied article protesting cop murder of Eleanor Bumpurs in New York City.

Life inside new GM-Toyota plant in Calif.

BY FRED NEUGENT

FREMONT, Calif. — General Motors and Toyota have created New United Motors Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI). The company will build cars at the old GM plant in Fremont, California, about 10 miles north of San Jose.

Top-speed, two-shift production at NUMMI is scheduled to be reached by January 1986, when 2,500 workers will be employed. Currently about 800 people have been hired. Almost all of the production workers and most of the maintenance

workers are former employees of the Fremont plant.

Socialists from San Jose have been selling the *Militant* at the plant gate and talking with these workers almost every week for three months.

GM had closed the plant in March 1982. In early 1983, when GM and Toyota announced the plan to jointly reopen the plant, a big question was whether members of the union would get their jobs back with seniority rights. The workers, who at one time numbered 6,000, were organized by United Auto Workers Local 1364.

UAW Local 1364 members had many meetings and rallies to demand their jobs back. This included a major appeal for solidarity at the last UAW international convention.

Letter of intent

GM, Toyota, and the UAW signed a letter of intent in September 1983 which says "a majority" of UAW members will be rehired. There is no provision for call backs in order of seniority. There are several pages of descriptions of the companies' intent to hire by experience. The international union says this will be like seniority.

The union has also agreed to a "committee for review," which will include the UAW, NUMMI, and a "neutral" third party. This committee is supposed to resolve any problems that arise.

Workers in the plant report problems have arisen already and haven't been resolved.

Over 3,000 former workers have applied for jobs at NUMMI. Workers already back on the job report the hiring does not respect seniority call-back rights. Some workers called back have 20 years, some 10, and some 4.

The company claims that part of this is due to affirmative-action hiring of women out of seniority. That would be a progressive step if true, but it's really just a coverup for the company selecting who

they want and who they don't.

There is a lot of speculation and discussion in the plant about who hasn't been called back and why. About 50 or 60 workers a week are being hired now. As each new group is hired it is like old home week in the plant. Workers rush up to old friends and express congratulations for overcoming the big difficulties of the last few years.

First these workers suffered the devastation of their plant shutting down in 1982. At least four workers committed suicide.

This was followed by unemployment and looking for another job, during which time many lost their homes.

Beginning in 1983 there was a year of uncertainty as GM and Toyota first said they wouldn't rehire any former workers, then said maybe some, and finally signed the letter of intent.

While this was going on, GM confronted hundreds of workers with an ultimatum. Either move to another part of the country to work for GM or lose your benefits. This was a very difficult thing to do. Many workers in the plant did move and have bitter feelings about it.

Applying for a job

The process of applying for and maybe getting a job at NUMMI is also hard.

There are only four job classifications at NUMMI: production, general maintenance, tool and die, and power plant. To be hired as a production worker, you must do the following:

First, mail an application to NUMMI which requires a detailed report on how many days you missed at work for the last 10 years and why. Then, there is the first of two physicals. There are also a couple of hours of assembly tests.

There is a nine-hour workshop and evaluation, which involves a series of slideshows and lectures on how NUMMI will be operated. It includes a lot of promises that NUMMI will be based on "mutual trust" — not confrontation — between

labor and management.

The workshops include breaking down into groups of four or five workers monitored by management. These small groups are presented with problems to solve. It is very important to participate in the discussion or you are marked down. It is very important to "get along" with your group.

Crucial to getting a job is using the vocabulary and approach taught in the workshop. You learn Japanese words to describe ideas. While the terms are Japanese, the ideas originated in the 1950s from U.S. management consultants sent to Japan.

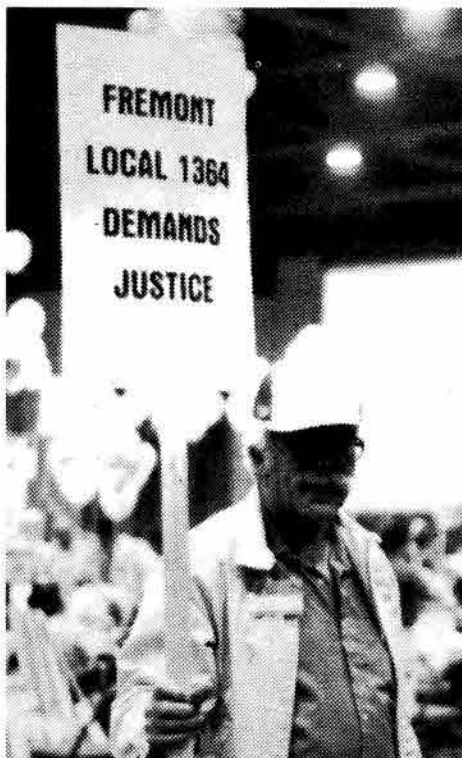
"Kaizen" means the continual process of eliminating waste, overburden, unevenness, and safety hazards. "Muda" is the Japanese word for waste. One example of "muda," by the company's definition, is "any human or machine movement that does not add value to the product." One definition of unevenness is, "unevenness of uniformity; do all operators perform the same operation the same way?" Kaizen is the elimination of muda.

In one of the exercises the group is confronted with a board and some movable pieces as in a table game. The pieces represent two workers, some spot welding and punch press machines, and parts bins. The group also has a list of the cycle times for the machines, the time needed to load the separate parts, and what the final part looks like. The "exercise" is to set up the shop to maximize kaizen, minimize muda, and to work it all out in a friendly discussion.

To make a long story short, it is possible to run the shop at maximum efficiency (read profit) by setting up the machines right next to each other in a semicircle and having only one worker work very fast loading and unloading them. Yes, one worker.

Following the workshops there are interviews with the department that might hire you. If you get a job offer there is a very difficult second physical.

Continued on Page 13



At May 1983 United Auto Workers convention, Fremont Local 1364 urged fight to defend rights of workers laid off from plant. With plant reopened under new GM-Toyota management, union faces new challenges.